

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

# Heavenly Minded

Vol 6 Iss 2



## In this issue...

It Is Written

Principle People of the Scripture – Part 2

Phased Plan of Destruction

Hooks and Crescent Moons

See [www.heavenlyminded.com](http://www.heavenlyminded.com) for this issue and much more!

### Dear Friends,

Again, we have included some notes for your use in an interactive Bible study discussion. In addition, our daughter in law, sent us the lyrics below which very much touched our hearts as well. Coming home is perhaps the climax of our Christian experience. We do have a home with a perfect Father, a perfect Lord/Brother/Bridegroom/Lamb, a splendidly loving family, a paradise in which to live, a new sinless body and character, in fact, far, far more than can even be imagined, and all eternity to enjoy them. Home. It's there already and it won't be long until we embrace.

Along the way, we must hold to the dear Word of the Lord with fervency and humble submission. May each of you know Jesus Christ as both Lord and Savior, as the Son of God and as Friend. May you grow in grace and forgiveness, love and faith. And may God bless you richly in Him!

*In Christ's Love,  
John and Darlene*

### **I'm Coming Home**

*(Caedmon's Call)*

You say you want a living sacrifice  
Well, I am a burnt offering,  
Crawling off the altar  
And back into the fire

And with my smoke filled lungs I cry  
out for freedom  
While locking and chaining myself  
To my rotting desires  
And I hate the stench  
Still I swallow the key  
And with it stuck in my throat,  
Can you hear me?  
Can hear me?

I'm coming home,  
I'm coming home...  
I'm still a long way off

I am shell-shocked  
And I have walked through the  
Trenches full of tears  
With the moat of memory  
Exploding in my burning ears

You strip the trees of love  
And you're stripping me here  
Of the bark of false morality  
And the bite of selfish greed

Lord, can you hear me?  
I'm coming home, I'm coming home

Will you run to me?  
Will you come to me?  
Will you meet me?  
Will you greet me?  
Will you drag me home,  
'cause I'm still a long way off...

**Heavenly Minded** is distributed free of charge. To add a name to our distribution list for either the hardcopy or electronic PDF version, simply contact us at : [jdickey@heavenlyminded.com](mailto:jdickey@heavenlyminded.com).

The goal of HM is to encourage our readers to "Set your affection on things above..." and thereby to be the greater and more effective witness to Christ. Articles may be shared freely and reproduced but only in their entirety. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. GBY!

# *It Is Written...*

You've been tempted today, haven't you.

Some of you are thinking about this and some are nodding your heads rather emphatically. Being tempted does not make you a sinner – you were already born that way. What you do with temptation, however, is critical.

In researching for this topic, it's just amazing how many methods, gimmicks and sure-fire ways of overcoming myriad temptations have been espoused over the years. And overcoming is indeed so important that Jesus mentioned it to all seven of the churches of Revelation chapters two and three. Confessing your faults, accountability partners, boundaries and safeguards are all good, but interestingly enough, there is little attention by comparison given to a key point and one that Jesus Himself illustrated for us in Matt 4:1-11. Let's study it.

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.* (v1) When you consider this, it's really radical. Jesus, the Son of God, had to be tested. And it was the Holy Spirit who led Him into the desert. Our first observation here is that if Christ Himself had to deal with temptation, you and I should not think we're exempt.

The scripture says, *For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.* (Heb 2:18) And,

*though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.* (Heb 5:8) *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.* (Heb 4:15) Because He went through it, He learned obedience to our Father and He can now help us.

Unlike Jesus, however, the Holy Spirit doesn't lead us into temptation. The Word of God tells us, *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.* (Jam 1:13,14) Jesus had no sin nature. We do.

Indeed we do. And it is that same nature that can not only lead us by the nose so to speak to that dark den of temptation but also leads us to think we've got to get ourselves out. As if Jesus will just shake His head and turn away until we 'clean up our act', we can hang our heads in defeat, because we eventually know we can't overcome on our own. So many have believed the lie of condemnation and have not recognized the loving, forgiving arms of our Savior outstretched and within our grasp if we will only look up to Him, not ourselves.

Temptation is humbling, isn't it. Just when you're thinking how 'well' you're doing spiritually (ha) along comes the tempter. And even when you do the right thing, you realize you're vulnerable. Whether it's lust or anger or selfishness, we've all got 'buttons' and he knows how to push them.

Temptation is also a bitter learning experience. Yielding to it brings both immediate and sometimes longer term consequences. Praise God, Jesus never yielded.

*After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."* (v2,3)

If you've fasted, you know the first three days are brutal – you get really hungry. Then, it seems to taper off. The next time you start getting real hungry, it's because you are starving to death literally. The body starts cannibalizing itself. If you don't eat soon, you will die. This is the point at which Jesus faced this temptation.

Now, Jesus could have easily done exactly what the devil suggested but He chose to put His trust in God's provision. He rejected the devil's advice to take matters into His own hands, 'to look out for No. 1' so to speak. It would have been logical – He had the power and the need. Most counselors would have told Him not to be so fanatical, so extreme about trusting God. Nevertheless, it was the Holy Spirit who led Him into the wilderness to face the danger and hunger; so He chose to wait on the Lord God. Yet, the basis of His decision wasn't a matter of stubbornness – it was based upon something He knew to be a rock solid fact.

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"* (v4)

End of the temptation. However, noting His reference to the Word, the enemy tried something else.

*Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:*

*'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'*" (v5,6)

The apostle John summarized for us the essence of sin in man (what is "in the world") when he wrote that it was associated with the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). You see that the devil appealed to the first one in his first temptation. Here, in this second attempt he appealed to pride.

Again, it was 'logical' for Jesus to make a display of His power. He had it, why not use it? He was the Messiah, after all. And implied was the devil's trying to twist Christ's obvious trust in God. It was like he was daring, "OK, you have a radical trust in God. Prove it to everyone. Let everyone see your trust in the scriptures and your divine powers." Interesting, that His own flesh brothers later used the same instigation (John 7:3-5).

But Jesus declined. *Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"* (v7)

The devil can quote scripture. Yet he failed to finish quoting it for the passage continues -- *You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.* (Psa 91) – which are obvious references to

Christ's crushing underfoot of Satan.

Yet, Jesus presented other scripture. In other words, He showed that it was wrong to isolate a verse and present it out of context. He looked to the whole of scripture, the whole counsel of God.

And He could have put on the display; after all, He later walked on water. But Jesus later said, *Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do;* (John 5:19). If the Father didn't say jump, He wouldn't jump. But if the Father said, "Go walk on the waves to your disciples." He'd do it.

To the lust of the flesh, Jesus responded with trust in God's provision. To the pride of life, He responded with submission to God's direction. Time for round three...

*Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." (v8,9)*

The lust of the eye – men want what they see. And after all, this was what it was all about – right? Earthly rule, earthly power, earthly splendor? The devil offered Him the whole earthly enchilada. For what? A little bow. What a deal. Ruling the whole world is exactly what the Jewish Messiah is expected to do – right?? It was like the devil was saying, "You don't have to do it God's way. After all, that involves so much trouble and time. Do it my way. You can have it all now for just a little compromise."

Doing it God's way can indeed seem like a 'long hard road'.

Asaph, the psalmist, wrote,  
*I was envious of the boastful,  
When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

*For there are no pangs in their death,*

*But their strength is firm.  
They are not in trouble as other men,*

*Nor are they plagued like other men.*

*Therefore pride serves as their necklace;*

*Violence covers them like a garment.*

*Their eyes bulge with abundance;  
They have more than heart could wish.*

*They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression;*

*They speak loftily...*

*Behold, these are the ungodly who are always at ease;*

*They increase in riches...*

*When I thought how to understand this,*

*It was too painful for me—*

*Until I went into the sanctuary of God;*

*Then I understood their end. (Psa 73:3-8,12,16,17)*

Yes, with God's means, you reach God's ends – eternal life. With Satan's means you get Satan's ends – eternal death. Regardless of the difficulty, God's plan is the only plan that's good for His children.

*Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"*

*Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.(v10,11)*

For the third and final time Jesus responded, "It is written..."

'Marvelous' you may think, 'how Jesus knew the Word and quoted it accurately to the devil.' But this wasn't what decided the day.

Jesus didn't simply know the Word of God; it wasn't that He had studied it diligently; it wasn't that He could quote it or even that He kept it in context. That was basic and academic. What made the difference was something else far, far more powerful.

*He was submitted to it, all of it.*

And this is more explosive than you may at first consider -- the incarnate Word of God submitted to the written Word of God. Jesus is the Word of God and yet He submitted Himself to the written scripture. The Bible says that He has been given the "name which is above every name" (Phi 2:9) yet it also says of the Lord, "...You have magnified your Word above all Your Name." (Psa 138:2)

Here's the rub – many of us ignore the written Word of God and wonder why we submit to temptation. Many hold only to select portions of the scripture as if God is bound by each and every sentence in isolation. You must take the whole of His Word in context or you're headed for bitter disappointment. Many of us know the Word and can even quote it, witness with it, minister it to other brothers or sisters, yet we aren't truly submitted to it. Like having a prescription of a vital medicine and only reading the label, submitting to the authority of the written Word is different than knowing it. Good grief, even the devil knows it.

There was a Baptist pastor named Peter Miller, from a small town in Pennsylvania who lived during the

American Revolution. There was also another man who lived there named Michael Wittman, an evil-minded sort who did all that he could to oppose and humiliate the pastor. He made his life miserable. One day Michael Wittman was arrested for treason and sentenced to die. At first, Peter Miller thought, "Well, thank goodness the Lord took care of that guy. I didn't know how much more I could take!" But then he remembered the part of the Bible from Matthew 5 which said "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." And he was like, "Oops! I guess I blew that one, Lord." And he decided to travel seventy miles on foot to Philadelphia to plead for the life of the traitor. He approached General George Washington with the request.

Washington said, "No, Peter. I cannot grant you the life of your friend."

The old preacher said, "My friend? This guy's not my friend. He's the bitterest enemy I have!"

"Washington said, "What? You've walked seventy miles to save the life of an enemy? That puts things in a different light. I'll grant your pardon." And he did.

Peter took Michael Wittman back home - no longer an enemy. But a friend. By his act of love, he demonstrated the difference between merely knowing the word of God and being submitted to it.

May each and every one of us who truly love the Lord overcome temptation and live victoriously by sincerely submitting to the scripture, the written Word of God.

## ***Phased Plan for Israel's Destruction Alive and Well***

*(written before Hamas election victory)  
Palestinians Prepare for Phase Three – Jack Kinsella*

As Ariel Sharon clings to life and Israel's government is forced into a limbo-like state until they can figure out what to do, the Palestinians are making preparations for the final phase of Yasser Arafat's Phased Plan for the Destruction of Israel.

According to most mainstream Middle East analysts, PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has lost control of the Palestinian Authority and the PA is in political free-fall.

Abbas' orders to the security forces are routinely ignored. His policy directives fail to echo through the PA bureaucracy. Even his threats to resign do not cause a ripple.

Abbas has done nothing to impose law and order. PA security forces have failed to take any action against groups aligned with the ruling Fatah movement. The forces have refused to crack down on the Islamic opposition as Hamas and Islamic Jihad gunners maintain missile strikes on Israel. In many cases, PA security officers help Hamas and Jihad in attacks against Israel and Palestinians.

Last week, about 100 PA officers stormed the Rafah border terminal along the Egyptian border in a move that prompted the flight of about 70 European Union monitors.

The officers took over the terminal to stop a rival Fatah faction from fleeing Gaza to Egypt. Earlier, the Fatah faction attacked a police station in Gaza City and an officer was killed.

This week, all eleven major Palestinian terror groups including Fatah and Hamas, announced they would no longer be bound by a so-

called "lull" in violence declared in February 2005.

The military wing of Islamic Jihad reported an attempt to manufacture anti-aircraft missiles. A Jihad spokesman said the missiles were designed to strike Israeli fixed-wing and helicopters in the Gaza Strip.

Fatah-sponsored Popular Resistance Committee has reportedly obtained maps of Israel army bases north of the Gaza Strip. It's military wing, Nasser Salah Eddin Brigades, is planning to carry out attacks deep inside Israel.

There are new reports that Palestinian terrorists are being trained in Syria, Lebanon and Iran before being smuggled back into the Gaza Strip. Weapons experts have undergone training in camps run by Iran and Hezbollah before sneaking back into Gaza to await orders.

In 1974, 12th Session of the Palestinian National Council adopted what is commonly known as the Phased Plan for the Destruction of Israel. In 1993, arguing against the Oslo Accords, Benjamin Netanyahu ticked off the three phases, warning that Oslo was Phase One.

Arafat's Phased Plan, adopted by the PLO, remember, in 1974, reads thusly:

1. Through the "armed struggle" (i.e., terrorism), to establish an "independent combatant national authority" over any territory that is "liberated" from Israeli rule. (Article 2)
2. To continue the struggle against Israel, using the territory of the national authority as a base of operations. (Article 4)
3. To provoke an all-out war in which Israel's Arab neighbors destroy it entirely ("liberate all Palestinian territory"). (Article 8)

Hindsight proves Netanyahu was absolutely correct in his assessment of Palestinian intentions when pursuing the Oslo Agreement.

Arafat followed the Phased Plan to the letter, using the 1989-1993 terrorist intifada to force Israel into accepting the establishment of the Palestinian Authority ("independent combatant national authority") to govern the land surrendered by Israel in the 'land for peace' agreement hammered out at Oslo.

Arafat died before he could personally bring the plan to Phase 3, but he left his most trusted lieutenants in charge, and they are keeping the faith. (Both Mahmoud Abbas and Ahmed Queria are signatories to the 1974 Phased Plan, as well as co-founders of Fatah and the PLO with Yasser Arafat) Sharon's condition and what it means to their personal visions of the peace process has also paralyzed the various members of the Quartet.

Conditions are ripe for Phase Three. Both the United States and Israel are preparing for possible pre-emptive air strikes against Iran's nuclear sites before they become operational.

Russia, one of the members of the Quartet is also Iran's nuclear patron. Any strike against Iran would also be a military strike against Russian interests.

Such a strike would also likely kill a number of Russian nationals working at the target sites. Any air strike against Iran would trigger a massive Islamic response, particularly from Syria, who legitimately fears it would be next.

A Persian-language Islamic daily hinted in August that Iran has Iranian terrorist cells in place inside the United States as well as in Gaza; "This country's military and intelligence agencies must pay serious attention to such statements, and the country's ability to take preemptive actions against any aggression by its enemies must be improved," reported Siyasat-e Ruz.

"One of the most important defensive means for the Islamic Republic of Iran is the reinforcement of resistance cells in other countries, especially coordination with such cells within the territory of the United States, that may be used for rapid and strong responses at critical moments. Regarding new policies made by strategic research centers of the Islamic system, IT SEEMS THE WAY IS BEING PAVED TO TAKE THIS MEASURE." (Emphasis mine) There is an old Chinese curse that says, "May you live in interesting times."

The Apostle Paul was more direct: "This know also, that in the last days PERILOUS times shall come." (2nd Timothy 3:1) Let's summarize, shall we? Israel is paralyzed by Sharon's stroke. It has a caretaker government that by law can govern for only 100 days. Since Iran will have by then passed the 'point of no return' the decision to launch rests in the hands of a temporary, caretaker government in the throes of an election.

The Palestinians are preparing to launch an all out war against Israel, timed to coincide with Israel's elections, (and Iran's date with destiny), together with tactical and military aid supplied by Iran, Syria and Lebanon.

And every single detail was outlined by the Hebrew prophet Ezekiel, two thousand, five hundred years in advance.

Barring some kind of political miracle or direct Divine intervention, it is hard to imagine more perilous times that those facing our world as we go forward into this sixth year of the 21st century.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." (Romans 13:11)

## Principle People of the Scripture – Part 2

### Noah

#### Reference – Gen 5:29 – 9:29

Gen 5 - Preface: *What's his name!?*

Adam – means *Man or Mankind*

Seth – comes from root that means *Appointed or to Set Mind On*

Enos – comes from root that means *Mortal or To Be Incurable or Desperately Wicked*

Cainan – means *He Possesses*

Mahalaleel – means *Praise of God*

Jared – means *He Descends*

Enoch – means *Dedicated*

Methuselah – comes from roots that mean *When 'he dies', It Comes*

Lamech – means *Powerful*

Noah – means *Rest or Comfort*

What's His name? – Jesus

*"A man is appointed to be mortal and desperately wicked. Yet He possesses the Praise of God for He descends (from heaven) dedicated (to the Father). When He dies (for our sins) it (salvation) comes – powerful rest and comfort."*

#### Gen 6:1-8

Conditions on the earth at this time :  
High focus on sexual gratification – v1,2

Possible demonic activity – v1,2

Giants, mutants or 'fallen' beings – v 4

Great wickedness, man's imagination captured by evil – v 5

A cesspool that must be destroyed – v 6,7

But Noah found grace in God's eyes.  
- What does this tell us about Noah?

#### Gen 6:9-10

Noah is declared to be just or righteous and to be complete among his contemporaries. Like his great

grandfather, Enoch, he is said to have walked with God. He is, in a way, the antithesis of Adam – Adam had the perfect setting and a glorious fellowship with God and yet he compromised with evil and sinned. Noah had the perfectly evil setting in which the whole world was devilish and corrupting all God's ways. Nevertheless, he remained faithful to the Lord and completely obedient.

- What made Noah righteous in God's eyes?

- What made Noah complete or whole or finished in God's eyes?

- In a world on the brink of destruction, so filled with wickedness, do you think it was challenging to Noah to walk with God? What does it mean to do that?

- How was Noah's marital relationship and children in contrast to the world of his day?

#### Gen 6:11-13

The earth itself was also ruined, spoiled and corrupted – environmentally a mess. It was filled with violence or literally wrongness – everything was wrong. Throughout the earth, all living things had totally corrupted God's ways. The language implies that the corruption was 'in your face' all the time and as a consequence acted as a catalyst in the moral devolution.

- Is this similar to today and if so, how?

- Do we observe any specific tactics on Satan's part here?

- What does the Bible say about what we face and thus are influenced by?

#### Gen 6:14-16

God is quite specific on the design plan for the ark.

- Why do you suppose the scriptures records these specifications?

- Much biblical scholarship says that the ark is a type of Christ. Do you see why?

- If that is the case, what typical or prophetic pictures do you notice?

#### Gen 6:17-22

Here are the instructions.

- Was there room for partial obedience?

- What did Noah do with these instructions?

#### Gen 7:1-3

Having completed the enormous task of building the ark and gathering the food, Noah hears again from God.

- Where is the Lord?

- What does this say about our salvation in Christ?

#### Gen 7:4,5

Noah is given a week to pack it up.

- Do you suppose this was a 'crisis of faith' for Noah? If so, why?

Again, Noah is said to have done all the Lord commanded.

- How long did Noah work on the ark?

- What's the longest period of time you've obeyed the Lord in some way and have not seen it finished or fulfilled? Was Noah patient?

#### Gen 7:6-15

Noah went into the ark the same day it started to pour and then the animals came in to him.

- What do you suppose his family was thinking?

#### Gen 7:16

There were probably a lot of worried people around.

- Who shut the door?

- Did Noah choose who got on board?

- Did Noah preach to people to repent?

See Heb 11:7 and 2 Pet 2:5

- What did Noah know about the flood?

#### Gen 7:17-24

The destruction is complete.

- Why did God bring such heavy judgment?

- Why was Noah counting the days? Did he anticipate an end to the flood? Some scholars consider the flood as a picture or type of the final tribulation period upon the earth.

- Why do you suppose that is?

- Did Noah navigate the ark?

#### Gen 8:1-3

God remembered Noah.

- What does this imply about God's heart in judgment?

- Have you ever experienced deep grief?

- Do you think God grieved?

Remembered is in the imperfect tense which means that his recalling of Noah was with an eye to the future. His plan for Noah was still incomplete.

- Do you think God was silent until this time?

- If so, what was this like for Noah?

- Does God test us with times of silence? If so, why?

#### Gen 8:4-9

The waters gradually abated. First the ark came to rest on Ararat, then the tops of the other mountains could be seen and then Noah sent out a raven and a dove.

- If, as some scholars attest, the flood is a type of the tribulation and Noah is a picture of the Jewish people, what do you think Noah's first trusting in this raven may imply?

- How about the dove which returns to him?

#### Gen 8:10-12

The second time she returns, the dove brings a freshly plucked olive leaf. Consider this olive tree - after nearly a year under water, this is clearly a remarkable and an encouraging event. The first sign of life after this terrible destruction is the sign of peace.

He knew the waters were abated but he waited another seven days.

- What does this say about Noah?

#### **Gen 8:13,14**

313 days after the judgment began, Noah removed the cover of the ark and saw that the terrain was no longer covered with floodwaters. 57 days later the ground itself was dry.

- What's he waiting for?

#### **Gen 8:15-17**

It's a new day with a new start and a new blessing to be fruitful.

- What attitude would you have in such a situation?

#### **Gen 8:18-22**

Noah is moved to worship and in a demonstration of his confidence in God, he offers up some of the precious birds and animals. God smells a sweet savor.

- What causes this offering to smell great (literally soothing – derived from the same root as Noah) to God?

- What did Noah's faithfulness to God mean for his family?

God says that He'll not curse the ground again (or literally treat it as insignificant) for man's sake for the imagination (literally form or framework) of man's heart is evil from his youth. God's holiness required Him to deal with sin. In mercy, He destroyed what was destroying itself.

- What was the next stage of God's redemptive plan? Gen 12:1

- What was the ultimate intent of God – how will He redeem man? Rom 5:6

#### **Gen 9:1-7**

Four declarations here: first, a renewed blessing which is repeated, to be fruitful and multiply; second, a new relationship with the animal kingdom – all beasts will have a fear of man; third, a new diet – meat; forth,

a new law – no murder, else life for life.

- Why do you think God gave the animals a fear of man?

- Why a new diet?

- Was man accountable in the same way for murder before the flood?

What was the result?

#### **Gen 9:8-11**

Here is the Noahic covenant. Why was this necessary?

#### **Gen 9:12-17**

The rainbow reminds God of His covenant.

- Why is the token or reminder important?

- What is the reminder of the New Covenant which birthed the church?

#### **Gen 9:18-29**

Noah's failure in drunkenness opened the door so to speak for his son's failure and the consequent curse upon his grandson.

- How is Noah's behavior in contrast to the heart of God here?

- How do you think Noah perceived God at this point in his life? Why?

- How do you perceive God? Why?

Noah was counted as one of the three most righteous men apart from Christ to have ever lived. See Ez 14:14, 20.

- Why do you suppose that is so? Heb 11:7

- Are trials and tribulation purposeful and even good for us? Why?

- How would you characterize Noah's life and his soul?

- What do you see in his life that you would like to see in your own?

- How will you pursue this?

## Hooks and Crescent Moons

*As the Middle East heats up again with the issue of Iran's nuclear aspirations and the victory of the Hamas terrorist group politically, we felt it appropriate to present a summary reminder of why these things are occurring – in particular, the Iran issue. In Daniel's prophecy of chapter seven, the bear which is one of the four beasts struggling over the last days land of Israel (which we believe could refer to Russia) has ribs in its mouth. (See our article Daniel 7 – the Quartet?) The word for these 'ribs' simply means something curved and comes from the Aramaic word pronounced 'Allah'. We do not believe that is a coincidence as the last days anti-Israel alliance described in the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and 39 is presently Islamic in character. The crescent moon is also a symbol of Islam.*

*The complete article from which the following is excerpted contains an excellent and thorough history lesson but also a couple of perceptions that we consider more as opinions as opposed to scripturally supported assertions. What is presented herein, though, we believe is worthy of your attention and prayerful consideration. (Editors)*

#### **Russia, Iran and Ezekiel 38**

It is fascinating to watch Russia being slowly, inexorably drawn into the Middle East conflict, almost against its better judgment, and

forced by its economic need and its competitive drive to outflank the US and the West for global dominance, into what could easily become a showdown of the nations in the Middle East. Russia has its own problems in the Caucasus region with Islamic terrorists, some of whom even have ties to Iran and Al Qaeda. Still Russia envisions a more sinister threat from the European theatre for control of the Mid-east oil reserves than it does from any other sphere.

The current situation mirrors the precise imagery that Ezekiel conveyed with the **'hooks in the jaws'** analogy, and the even more fascinating is the statement emanating from God himself. *"I will bring thee forth"*. The key to Russia's thrust into the Middle East quagmire rests with its major client partner and western agitator in the region, Iran. Ezekiel's roster of nations for the Gog-Magog war continues to align perfectly for the first time in history. "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee." The other nations on Ezekiel's Roster are all either Russian client states or old Soviet client states, with the exception of Turkey, which is rapidly being pushed back into the Islamic world by the European Union.

Ezekiel foretells that the Russian invasion against Israel will come in the latter days, and intimates that it will be timed to be a post-event to the peace-and-safety covenant that

the Antichrist makes with Israel and her Arab neighbors. *"After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them."* So, let's take a trip into the book of Ezekiel and review the Russian-Iranian alliance prophecy of Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39.

### **The Prince of Russia is Waiting for the Opportune Time**

Ezekiel's Magog-Iran led scenario looms on the horizon. The principle players are all in place, and can quickly add the subordinate allies of Libya, Gomer and Togarmah. These members of the alliance will probably include Turkey and the Muslim republics that make up the southern border of Russia.

But there remains one giant stumbling block to the Moscow led invasion upon the mountains of Israel. And Russia is nobody's fool, not even Iran's. The great Russian bear wants no part of Iran's nuclear exchange philosophy. Russia is and has always been a solid proponent of the theory of mutually assured destruction. (MAD) The Soviet Union and the USA mutually avoided the threat of during the Cold War because each side maintained a sense of rationality when it came to nuclear holocaust.

Russia has also made strategic defense and support alliances with China (kings of the east) as a means for both of those nations to

act as a counter to what they see as a transforming trans-Atlantic (US & EU/NATO) (and ultimately will become the empire of the Antichrist) superpower. Ironically, Russia, China, and the EU are all lying in wait anticipating the day when the US is dislodged from its prominent perch as the world's premier force in geo-politics and destabilized internally to such an extent that it cannot utilize its great military machine. They all fully realize that the Middle East terrorist campaign of Holy Jihad is a war to bring down the United States, (to wound Israel's Big friend) and thus they are waiting to see how the US fares in defending itself in the war on terror.

So, Ezekiel's scenario of chapter 38-39 must be an event that comes after a fatal blow is struck against the United States, greatly diminishing the position of the US in the world. The fall of the US is likely a sequence of events relative to Bible prophecy in conjunction with the sudden disappearance of Christians from the world stage (Rapture). It may well revolve around a nuclear, chemical or biological nightmare perpetrated by international terrorists. In any event, the rapture event itself would unquestionably render the US as an absolute dysfunctional state, with total chaos ensuing in the wake of its sudden demise.

This scenario paints a bad picture for America, but I think it is well within the scope of likelihood, both from a current-events perspective, and also from a perspective rooted in Bible prophecy. In any event, something of world significance must happen that removes any obstacles

that would hinder Russia from making its calculated move to lead a coalition of nations, including Iran against Israel.

### **The Absence of Syria, Iran's Present Axis of Evil Partner**

Perhaps the most striking point when reading the listing of the Ezekiel 38 Magog invasion coalition strike-force upon Israel is the absence of Syria from the alliance membership. The Russian invasion is expressly asserted to be pinpointed towards the mountains of Israel, which probably would include the contested Golan Heights. Syria and Israel have been locked in total disagreement about the possession of this very area ever since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Russia has traditionally supported Syria's claims to the Golan's mountainous region. Yet, Syria is not mentioned by Ezekiel in the Magog scenario. The absence of Syria in this coalition begs for an answer.

Damascus, the capital city of Syria, is the international headquarters for virtually every Middle East terrorist organization. The absence of Syria from the Magog coalition indicates that the prophesied burden of Damascus event is a sequence of events that prefigures in time the Magog invasion. It is highly likely, given the present geo-political world situation and the strategies involved in the American-led war on terror that Damascus will be devastated either by Israel, the US, or become victim to an international nuclear exchange, as the war on terror proceeds.

### **The American War on Terror Tracks a Trail to Iran and Syria**

Although the US war on terror is ostensibly a global war with many allies, and in reality, it is simply an American war on terror. And that is something we'd better get used to. The United Nations is in reality nothing more than a failed humanistic effort. The United Nations that does exist is united only in its opposition to all things Israeli, which, by definition, includes all things American. If there is a single issue over which there is almost no division at the UN, it is the shared view that world peace will never be possible as long as Israel exists.

When an anti-Israeli resolution comes before General Assembly, the vote is always the same: the whole world votes in favor, with the United States, Israel, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands opposed. Our 'closest allies' at the UN, according to the liberal left, include Germany, France and Russia. With allies like that, who needs enemies? They claim to stand united with America against the terrorists, provided the US doesn't ask them to do anything except stand. None of them seem particularly interested in doing anything beyond that.

Even Russia is going after their own terrorists, but any claims of cross-cooperation are a fantasy, except in cases where it benefits Moscow. America's global war on terror remains America's war, despite the very significant contributions from genuine allies like Australia, the UK, Poland and

some of the former Eastern European Soviet bloc countries.

Even if America survives, they are hoping that it will result in a corresponding reduction of American power and influence, ending what French President Jacques Chirac dubbed the 'unipolar' world of American superpower status. If al-Qaeda can successfully cripple America to the degree it is no longer the world's only superpower, then the task of developing a counter-balance to American global influence becomes that much easier, and fits squarely with prophetic scripture that forecasts the rise of the Antichrist in the European West.

As the Bible's outline for the last days continues to develop, more and more of the Big Picture begins to come into focus. According to Scripture, in the very last days, Israel will face the assembled might of the world's collective armies alone. (without the protective umbrella of the United States as it presently enjoys) Zechariah writes, *"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it."* (Zech 12:3)

Consider the historical progression towards that stage thus far, especially since the 1967 reacquisition of Jerusalem by Israel. There is no political potato hotter today than Jerusalem. Every nation that has attempted her destruction was cut to pieces. Israel won all five of her wars by utterly decimating her enemy's war-making capability.

It took years after each attempt for the Arabs to sufficiently rebuild their military capabilities so they could try again. Even with the almost unlimited military aid given the defeated Arab states by the Soviets and Europeans.

Zechariah says that all that burden themselves 'will be cut in pieces,' allies as well as enemies. America became a target of Islamic terror more for its support of Israel than for any other reason. According to Zechariah, Israel is alone in this final confrontation, under siege by all the people of the earth, there is no mention of an ally standing beside her, apart from God. Zechariah says that; *"In that day shall the Lord (not America) will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem."* (Zech 12:8)

In the Big Picture, we can already see the four spheres of global power defined by Scripture assuming their final forms; the reviving Roman Empire, the Gog-Magog alliance, the Kings of the East and the Kings of the South (Islamic Saudi Arabia & North Africa). That pretty much encompasses our erstwhile 'allies' in the war on terror who are sitting on the sidelines hoping for an Islamic victory over America.

*Focus on Jerusalem Prophecy Ministry  
Iran in Bible Prophecy (excerpts)  
By: Darrell G. Young  
October 2004*

Other HM articles relevant to this issue: (see them at [www.heavenlyminded.com](http://www.heavenlyminded.com) – Essays)

- Allies
- Daniel 7 – the Quartet?
- A Covenant Confirmed
- A Judas in Jerusalem
- Counterfeit Controllers
- Crazy Days
- Stage Right