Anxiety Merchants & False Prophets – Part I
Pg. 12

The Message of First Kings for Today
Pg. 17

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

• Egyptian or African?
• Holiness
• Deathbed Salvation
Pg. 25

The Deeper Dimension of the Lord’s Prayer

WORLD FOCUS
Blood Moon Apocalypse? • Yom Kippur Official Holiday • Is ISIS Putin’s Nightmare?
This promise has been a comfort for millions of believers throughout the ages. The Apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote these words down after he warned in verses 3-4, “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”

The word waiting is a key to true discipleship with our Lord. In the New Testament, in Luke 2:25 we read of Simeon, who was “waiting for the consolation of Israel.” Anna, the prophetess, proclaimed the birth of the Messiah, “and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem” (verse 38). Actually, the Apostle Paul calls waiting a gift, “So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:7).

What are we to do? Answer: wait. For what? For better times, greater prosperity, more possessions? Not at all. Such things belong to the world. We are waiting for a person, Jesus Christ our Lord Himself.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the very many faithful readers who pray and contribute to Midnight Call Ministry, so this work can continue unhindered. Our task is simple: proclaiming that “Only Jesus saves, and He is coming again.” Jesus saves is the Gospel; His coming again is the prophetic Word. We dare not neglect the whole message of Holy Scripture because we, the Church, are built upon the existing foundation of “…the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.”

Midnight Call Ministries International has now entered its 61st year of proclaiming the prophetic message. While we are amazed at the marvelous grace experienced throughout the many decades, we have noticed in the last few years that this form of ministry, particularly through literature, has become more difficult. Of course, there are multiple reasons, one being that electronic communication is increasing. The reading and hearing of messages on laptops, tablets, and smartphones demonstrates the progress of technology. We are thankful that our website traffic continues to grow day-by-day.

In the meantime, however, it is essential that we continue to put the message on paper, but as already mentioned, it has become more difficult.

Because of financial shortage, we were forced in December to cancel the standard Christmas bonus, a traditional gift we were able to bless those working in Midnight Call Ministry with.

Now, further steps have to be taken, including temporarily suspending all non-working hours and days (personal days, sick days, vacation, etc.). Staff salaries have been reduced by 5% (several have volunteered 10%).

We trust, however, that this will be temporary and that by God's grace, we can go full steam ahead, reaching those who must be reached, and strengthening those who are in need of solid, biblically-based spiritual food during 2016.

I personally thank you for your continual, even increased prayer and financial support.

United in His Service,

Arno Froese, Director
Midnight Call Ministries
The Deeper Dimension of the Lord’s Prayer

By Norbert Lieth

The Lord’s Prayer is a prayer inspired by the Holy Spirit, and therefore also useful for the Church. But it is put in a certain Jewish framework which she should consider.

What Does It Mean? – Revelation 20:5-6

By Fredy Peter

Money: Ends and Trends

Anxiety Merchants & False Prophets – Part I

By Wilfred Hahn

The Message of First Kings for Today

By Dr. Ron J. Bigalke
“…Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

By René Malgo
International Editor-in-Chief

Why are Christians so often divided? It is a question which has concerned many people, and is also used as an argument against the Gospel. It is indeed surprising with what bitterness and vehemence we can treat other believers. But strangely enough, this is in itself an argument for the Gospel. Salvation by grace alone would not be necessary if we could achieve it ourselves, by simply being good people. But the Gospel proclaims, “You are sinful. Only God is good. Only He can save you.” Our sinful behavior, even as Christians, unfortunately confirms this message. This should be no excuse, however, for bitterness, discord or sin!

The Bible begins with the assumption that we are sinners by nature, or it would not admonish us to preserve the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1ff.). It is a question of our personal will and setting of priorities, whether we strive after peace and unity and swallow our pride.

Disunity has always afflicted Christianity. The supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church disguised this for a while, but the Reformation showed us all the more clearly how differently we perceive and order theological concepts and Biblical statements. Are all Christians in one boat? Today we know that this is wishful thinking. The Dutch artist Adriaen Pietersz van der Venne painted an allegory of this condition very fittingly.

Let’s assume the year is 1614. Nearly 100 years have passed since Martin Luther’s first reformatory theses. Luther’s ideas have spread like wildfire. Four years later, the 30-year war of religions between Catholic, Calvinist and Lutheran leaders will leave many parts of Europe, particularly Germany, in ruins. Unrest rules on many fronts.

In the northern Netherlands, the adherents of the strict Calvinist theologian Franciscus Gomarus, and theologian Jacobus Arminius, who was dissatisfied with the Calvinist dogma, quarreled with one another. The northern Netherlands joined forces to form the Republic of the United Netherlands, and fought for their independence from the Spanish-Habsburg crown; the southern provinces (to-
In light of the times, News From Israel is a necessary monthly magazine that will keep you updated on breaking developments throughout the Middle East. News From Israel uncovers hidden information the news media leaves out!

To start or renew your News From Israel magazine subscription, use the order form in the insert or pg. 31, call 800-845-2420 with your credit card ready, or order online at midnightcall.com

• 32 pages • $18 for a one-year subscription • 12 issues
The Deeper Dimension of the Lord’s Prayer

NORBERT LIETH

The Lord’s Prayer can be looked upon and prayed as the prayer of the Church, but it also has a deep prophetic dimension which we want to consider here.

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen” (Matthew 6:9-13).
I pray the Lord’s Prayer almost every day. It touches almost every sphere of our lives. It shows me what is important to God, and it shows something of the deep wisdom of our Lord. It has been a help in trouble for innumerable Christians. The Lord’s Prayer is described by many as a prime example which covers many aspects.

The whole of the inspired Holy Scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction (2 Timothy 3:16). For this very reason, it is important to note in what context the text in question is and to let it say to you what the author originally meant. This is the way to approach the Bible. Professor Helge Stadelmann writes in a book, “that it is meaningful to think of the historical spiritual meaning as a Christian. It begins with the observation that without a historical spiritual understanding, the interpretation and especially the application of whole texts is often wrong. If the Bible is the treasure of the Christian church, she loses something if she is lacking this knowledge. In place of beginning with God and always asking what God Himself said and to whom and for what time, there is an approach to Bible reading that begins with what appeals to people personally. Large parts of the Bible cannot be understood and are passed over. Whoever has understanding of spiritual history will gain from reading any part of the Bible.”

We could ask ourselves what all this has to do with the Lord’s Prayer. Maybe more than we realize at first glance…

Directly before the Lord taught His disciples the Lord’s Prayer, He said, “But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him” (Matthew 6:7-8). The Lord made a clear distinction between His disciples and the nations. The Jewish disciples should not pray as the heathen. Jesus Himself came as a Jew to Jews, to His own (John 1:11) and under the law (Galatians 4:4). He made the new covenant shortly before His death (Luke 22:20). Since the later Church, comprised of Jews and Gentiles, at the time when the Lord taught the Lord’s Prayer was not yet a subject of revelation, it is clear that at this point it was a Jewish prayer.

The contents of the Lord’s Prayer occurred in a similar form in the Old Testament already and concerned Israel (cf. Isaiah 63:15-16). In Jeremiah 31, the Holy Spirit gives obvious parallels to the Lord’s Prayer. This chapter describes the future of Israel.
It can be a prayer that the Lord provides for us each day anew, because all too soon prosperity can break down.

“Our Father”: “They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them...for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn” (Jeremiah 31:9). The restoration of Israel, which is mentioned in verse 1, means that God will lead Israel back home and be her Father, just as He is now the Father of the Church. As far as the future is concerned, Jesus Christ taught His Jewish disciples this prayer. It is a prophetic prayer that the believing remnant will pray in the Tribulation.

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”: “For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he” (Jeremiah 31:11). This will be the Antichrist in the future. The Lord prayed this in His high-priestly prayer: “I pray not that thou shalt take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil” (John 17:15). Jesus did not pray at this point for the rapture of His disciples, but that they would be kept from evil. When we consider that the disciples at this time stood for true Judaism (and not for the Church comprising Jews and Gentiles), we can understand this.

In the Great Tribulation, which will mean the final fulfillment of the Gospel, the great temptation through the Antichrist will come over the whole earth. In His end-times speech, Jesus warned repeatedly of the end-times deception (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24). The evil one (Satan) will give his power and might to the antichristian world ruler (Revelation 13:2, 4). He will be given 42 months of power (verse 5). During this time he will have power over all the kindreds, tongues and nations (verse 7). In Revelation 12, we are told how the dragon in his wickedness persecutes the woman and makes war against the rest of her seed. The Antichrist—as the false prophet—will simultaneously be given this power (Revelation 13:12) and deceive the people and rule them. The great temptation will be that people will receive the mark of the beast and worship the image of the beast (Revelation 3:15-16). During this time the overcomers will pray that the Lord will keep them: “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Of course, we also pray that the Lord will keep us and give us power to overcome and to resist, but this on the basis of the events after Pentecost and the following epistles of the apostles. The apostle John, for instance, writes to the Church, “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not” (1 John 5:18).

“Give us this day our daily bread”: “And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 31:14).

Certainly, everyone may pray at all times. It can be a prayer that the Lord provides for us each day anew, because all too soon prosperity can break down. And yet I think it affects Israel’s situation first in the Great Tribulation. At that time it will be difficult to buy or sell without the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:17). The earth will be afflicted by famines and other catastrophes (Revelation 6:6; Matthew 24:7). At this time this prayer will have greatest significance. It says in Isaiah 30:20, “And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction....” The Church on the other hand will be required to provide for herself with her own hands,
“Give us this day our daily bread”: “And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 31:14).

to work and to give to the needy (1 Thessalonians 4:11; Ephesians 4:28).

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven...And forgive us our debts.” “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt: which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Israel was promised forgiveness on account of grace, but also on the condition: “as we forgive our debtors.” Thus, the Lord continues the Lord's Prayer in this sense, “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15). This forgiveness stood under the threat that it could be revoked (Matthew 18:23ff.).

When it says of Israel, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,” this means for the Church after Pentecost (the new dispensation) the exact opposite, “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (Colossians 3:13). It is important for us, however, to forgive our compatriots all the time, and this on the grounds of the undeserved great love which we have experienced in the forgiveness through Jesus Christ—only it is no longer a condition.

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.” “And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse gate toward the east, shall be holy unto the Lord; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever” (Jeremiah 31:40; cf. Revelation 12:10; 19:1).

We also pray as a Church the “Maranatha” (1 Corinthians 16:22). We want to love His appearing and expect it (2 Timothy 4:8). The Spirit urges us to do this. We also long for the reign of the coming kingdom, to which the Lord Jesus will bring this world His righteousness. But our eyes are firstly looking for the rapture of the Church. The apostle says in this connection, “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

The disciples of Jesus would later form the foundation of the Church (Ephesians 2:20), but in this context we must see them first as the true Israel. After the leaders of the Jewish people had committed the sin against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 9:34) and decided to kill Him (Luke 6:11), the Lord called His twelve disciples (Matthew 10:1ff.; Luke 6:12ff.). These were now
To sum up, the Lord’s Prayer is an original Jewish prayer, which however spiritually is also for us. But as we can better classify it in spiritual history, we can jointly rejoice in it.

prophetically the believing remnant of Israel. For this reason the Lord spoke to them in His end-times speech on the Mount of Olives, although according to other statements of the Scriptures, the Church was no longer on earth at this time, but a remnant of Israel (Matthew 24:4, 6, 9, 15, 23, 25, 26, 33, 42, 47).

At this time, Jesus had proclaimed the approaching kingdom of God, meaning the reign of the Messiah on earth (Matthew 4:17, 23). The Lord’s Prayer belongs to the Sermon on the Mount, which Jesus preached to His disciples. This in turn formed the basis of the government of the kingdom on earth (Matthew 5:3ff.; Luke 6:20). Before the disciples later received the task of preaching the Gospel worldwide, they were given the command at that time to proclaim the kingdom to Israel, whereby the associated miracles confirmed it (Matthew 10:5-8).

The Lord’s Prayer is a prayer inspired by the Holy Spirit, and therefore also useful for the Church. But it is put in a certain Jewish framework which she should consider. The disciples were to learn to pray for the kingdom of God and to expect it (Matthew 6:9-10). We have attempted to portray what it was about:

– Judaism of that time, represented by the twelve disciples.

– The kingdom as the rule of God on earth in the Messiah.

– And about the prophetic situation of the remnant of Israel, during the time of the Great Tribulation. The kingdom at that time had not yet broken through, but the Church of Jesus found entry. After her rapture (Romans 11:25), the Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed and will break through at last with the visible return of Jesus (Matthew 24:14; Revelation 11:15, 17; 12:10; 14:6; 19:6). So we find in Revelation the prayer, “Thy kingdom come” in different words (Revelation 22:17, 20).

At the time of the Tribulation, when a remnant of Israel will come to believe in the Messiah; when the Jews will recognize the work of His hands in her midst, then they will hallow His name, live by it and accordingly pray. “But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel” (Isaiah 29:23).

To sum up, the Lord’s Prayer is an original Jewish prayer, which however spiritually is also for us. But as we can better classify it in spiritual history, we can jointly rejoice in it.
What Does It Mean?

– Revelation 20:5-6

Fredy Peter

Chapter 20 of the book of Revelation speaks of the “first resurrection” before the millennium. Does this mean that all the believers will have to go through the judgment of the Tribulation, which is written of in the previous chapter?

Basically, the Bible teaches two kinds of resurrection: “the resurrection of life” (which concerns the just, the believers), and “the resurrection of damnation” (which concerns the unjust, the godless; cf. John 5:29; Daniel 12:2; Acts 24:15).

Let us take note of the sequence: Christ is raised from the dead first (1 Corinthians 15:23), followed by many saints (Matthew 27:52-53). After that, at the rapture of the Church, those that sleep in Christ will be raised, and the believers who are living then will be changed (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Next comes the resurrection of the two witnesses (Revelation 11:3, 11), and then the resurrection of the martyrs of the Great Tribulation will take place, who are called here “the first resurrection.” Probably, this will also be the time when the saints of the Old Testament will be raised.

This term, “the first resurrection,” only appears here in Revelation 20:5-6, and does not mean the first of all but as the Greek word protos means, one who precedes the other. And so in Revelation 20:14 the “second” is mentioned, namely the “resurrection” of the godless to damnation (the “second death”).

(MR0915/717)
ANXIETY MERCHANTS & FALSE PROPHETS – PART I

By Wilfred Hahn

How terrible are the times; how anxious Americans have become! Christians everywhere feel pressured. Countless analysts, preachers and prophecy experts have been (and continue to) spread fearsome worries about the future.

Their shrill warnings can border on the hysterical. If it is not the false alarms of “blood moons,” it is about geopolitics or the economic outlook. Some even claim that they have had “divine inspiration” for their prophecies. Speculations are wide-ranging: The U.S. dollar will crash; surely the world economy will collapse; and others warn about “tribulational” events being just around the corner, for which one should be prepared.

Whom to listen to? What should one do in response? Perhaps, consider advance preparation?

There indeed are plenty of worrisome developments around the world. God-fearing people will discern the long-term trends of moral decay. Wickedness and humanism are increasing in influence, and therefore mankind’s economic systems, societies and civil institutions are deteriorating and being corrupted. Instability is the new norm. Mankind’s modern idols are teetering and tottering.

However, we again ask, how should one respond?

In answering this question, we encounter two diametrically opposed perspectives. One is Biblically supported, the other is not. And, it is the latter that leads to most of the fear-mongering, false prophecies and profit-making deliverance. We will investigate.
A worthy watchmen would remind people (and the world) that the Lord’s return is near; that the time for repentance is short; and to look up, “[…] for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28, KJV). After all, on many occasions Jesus urged the disciples to watch.

For example, these honorable forecasters would implore and call out with warnings of the following nature: “Watch out for false prophets [as] they come to you in sheep’s clothing” (Matthew 7:15); “Watch out that no one deceives you” (Matthew 24:4); “[…] keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come” (Matthew 24:42); “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation” (Matthew 26:41); “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed” (Luke 12:15).

Note that none of these urgings from the Bible requires a physical preparation; they are only spiritual ones affecting the heart. None concerns itself with worldly goods or material possessions. For again, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions” (Luke 12:15). A key distinction found here is that the concerns of these “worthy” watchmen are not about the “abundance of possessions.”

As such, these messages will contrast with the types of announcements that will come from more earthly-minded prognosticators, who may even masquerade as Spirit-led forecasters or prophets speaking for God. They focus more exclusively upon temporal and materialistic affairs. Moreover, followers of such spokesmen are likely to encounter wild speculations and suffer angst and confusion.

These so-called watchmen might prophesicate that the world’s monetary
system is about to collapse. Or, frighteningly, that the stock markets will crash and that the U.S. dollar is sure to plunge. Apocalyptic scenarios are envisioned in which banks will be shuttered and depositors will be unable to access their money. Possibly, grocery store shelves will be emptied and electrical and municipal water systems will no longer function.

What to do? How to preserve your wealth should these frightful scenarios actually occur? How to protect your own family?

As might be guessed, a lot of confusing answers are on offer. Indeed, terrible things have happened in virtually every country over past centuries. However, that fact does not add any real validity to a forecast. The problem lies in the fact that no one has a sure solution or reliable prediction for something that might apply to the near-term future.

That is to say, there are lots of predictions and offered solutions, but none are sure or likely to be correct. Out of thousands of false prophets, which one is likely to be correct? One cannot know in advance. Dire prophecies that have a very low probability of being correct are therefore useless. Even worse, as mentioned, such prophecies lead to much anxiety and confusion.

None of these perspectives here denies the veracity of Bible prophecy. All Bible prophecy has and will be fulfilled. But even with the inviolable foreknowledge of prophecy, we are admonished, “[…] Do not go beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6). While prophecy provides a light in a dark place (2 Peter 1:19), it provides no guidance as to short-term events.

Sadly, though teachers and preachers may be well-meaning in their warnings and prophecies about predicted financial events and economic trends, they are misguided. They discredit the pulpit. Secular professionals who may specialize in geopolitics or currency market trends, for example, are also often wrong in their predictions (if not almost always). Then, what advantage does a pastor or ministry leader have with his predictions?

This writer has been active in the global financial industry for nearly four decades. During this time I have witnessed many irresponsible financial predictions from the pulpits of North America. These may have induced their congregations to buy gold, buy the Iraqi dinar, sell the U.S. dollar, and a host of other possible investment schemes. The damage has been great both
Furthermore, no one can reliably predict the near-future. The Bible confirms this in no uncertain terms. Said James: “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow” (James 4:13-14).

in monetary terms as well as reputational. Not only are such types of prophecies likely to be unreliable, but they also betray an ignorance of Bible-rooted perspectives.

**Battling Confusion**

Over the years, I have also received countless inquiries from readers asking me to legitimize the “doom and gloom” (and also profit-making) forecasts of various economists or Bible teachers. These respondents were anguished and concerned. They were in fear. Were they and their households vulnerable to economic calamity? What should they do? They would ask me to read or research the opinions of these commentators.

My response has generally been the same. Indeed, there will be troubles and crisis. In fact, the history of the world is marked by crisis, greater and lesser. There have been crises beyond count. One researcher, Moritz Schularick, alone counts 71 banking crises having occurred between 1870 and 2009. There have been many other types of crisis. Human strife and crises of various types are a normal occurrence.

Furthermore, no one can reliably predict the near-future. The Bible confirms this in no uncertain terms. Said James: “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow” (James 4:13-14). The Proverbs writer counsels, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring” (Proverbs 27:1).

If we cannot reliably see the future, then what to do about our current worries and anxieties? Jesus directly answers this question. He tells us, “[…] do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34).

We indeed are required to be good stewards with the skills and opportunities that God has given us. We have a responsibility to plan rather than to predict. Christ mentions the situation of the tower builder: “Suppose he starts building and is not able to finish. Then everyone who sees what he has done will laugh at him. They will say, ‘This fellow started to build. But he wasn’t able to finish’” (Luke 14:29-30).

However, we are also told that we should rely upon God to lead us through crises and concerns. For if “God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?” (Matthew 6:30).
Jesus cares for us: “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

**Deliverance for Profit**

Understandably, we may well empathize with pulpit forecasters in part. Who has not been chastened when it comes to predicting future trends, as they may impact our household or investment decisions? However, there is an even more reprehensible type of opportunist in such matters.

If you have some money, there are plenty of vendors willing to provide their advice and to sell to you their solutions. To no surprise, the business fortunes of these advisors and suppliers are benefited by fear-mongering and exaggeration. Sadly, some otherwise godly ministries may rely on such sales in order to cover their budgets. The greater the fear that can be generated, the more nitrogen-packaged food, bomb shelters, and crisis-proof investments that can be sold.

Even more appalling is that Bible prophecy may be used to drive survival supply sales. These vendors (some claiming to be ministries) are outfitting people specifically to be able to survive the coming Tribulation period. Even ministries that take a pre-Tribulation view (i.e. the rapture of the Church occurring before the start of the Tribulation period) can appear nearly indistinguishable from the Tribulation preppers. They also offer to sell survival supplies; perhaps promote the purchase of gold bullion, and may even urge the purchase of personal weapons.

**Thoughts to Ponder**

Jesus said that “In this world you [Christians] will have trouble” (John 16:33). We can then confirm that we will not be able to avoid some worldly troubles. Yet, none of Christ’s urgings to be on “watch” are concerned with this type of trouble. He is most concerned about our salvation and faith and preserving us from spiritual deceptions.

Would Christ allow that salvation and deliverance from crisis and trouble for the members of his body, the Church, would be dependent upon affordability? In other words, can only those Spirit-filled Christians that can afford a large portfolio of gold bullion or a 7-year supply of nitrogen-packed food, be protected from last-day crisis and wickedness? Could it be that poor Christians will have no access to such deliverance?

This could never be true. Christ offers salvation and deliverance to all who would come. As the Spirit of Christ said through Isaiah, “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare” (Isaiah 55:1-2).

In the same way, Christ’s deliverance does not (should not) have any monetary cost. We may indeed suffer monetary loss in a world that is increasingly inhospitable to Christians. However, salvation and deliverance from a wicked world is available to all without a monetary price. While hucksters peddle survival supplies for the future Tribulation period—to only those that can afford them—God has a much more equitable plan, not that we should deserve it. It is the great “snatching away” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18) … the Rapture.

(In the next part to this series, we will further examine the commercial hucksterism conducted in the name of Christianity, so that we might not fall.)
The election was complicated and convoluted, with allegations of disenfranchisement and voter fraud, resulting in bitter disputes, lawsuits, and requests for recounts. For the first time in 112 years, a candidate won the popular vote but lost the electoral vote. Gore eventually conceded the election publicly, and Bush became the forty-third president of the United States.

While the election was certainly controversial, and though Gore did not conceal his discontent with the ruling of the United States Supreme Court, the process was peaceful. Although demonstrators protested and discussions were impassioned, there were not any threats of armed rebellion or physical violence from either of the parties. Although the transfer of power was protracted and sorrowful, it was nevertheless democratic and nonviolent, which reveals much concerning the American process, since, historically, the type of confusion involved in the election has not always resulted in such a manner.

First Kings begins with a power struggle that resulted in Solomon's rise to the throne. The opening chapters of First Kings reveal the depravity that can manifest itself within us all. First Kings begins with a critical moment in the history of a nation, and addresses both political and spiritual power. Ultimately, we learn that living in a fallen world necessitates that God's people act astutely and resolutely to promote the Lord's sovereign purposes.

How to Evaluate Success

The two books of Kings were originally a single work within the Hebrew Bible. As the title of the book suggests, the two works depict the history of the kings of Israel and Judah from the time of Solomon until the Babylonian captivity.

The tremendous success of a king—by means of administrative competence or political prowess—does not necessarily constitute success to God. The Lord evaluates an individual's contribution on the basis of one primary examination: obedience to His revealed Word, the Holy Bible. The test of obedience alone determines either failure or success with God. The Lord does not evaluate success on the basis of outward appearance.

First Samuel 16:7 reads, “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’” Similarly, one reads in 1 Peter 3:3-4, “Your adornment must not be merely external . . . but let it be the hidden person
of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”

Scripture reminds men and women that true beauty is not based upon external adornment; rather, it arises from one’s inner self (see previous Scripture references). Consequently, the book of Kings is quite selective with the details that it records concerning the life of each king. Momentous economic and political contributions are often neglected in relative silence, because God’s concern is primarily the spiritual vitality of a king’s reign.

How to Evaluate the Spiritual
Solomon is the primary character in chapters 1—11 of First Kings. Chapter 1 begins with his ascension to the throne, and chapter 11 concludes with his death. Chapters 1—2 reveal the events associated with Solomon’s rise to the throne.

First Kings begins with David in old age and soon to die. Two of his sons, Adonijah and Solomon, are in opposition for the right to inherit the throne. Amply concerned for the threat to the purposes of God, the prophet Nathan acted decisively and shrewdly in response to Adonijah’s attempts to seize the throne, rather than being passive for God’s will to be accomplished.

Adonijah is similar to David’s other son, Absalom, who sought to instigate a rebellion to depose God’s chosen king. The difference between the two sons is whom they enlisted for help, yet both sons relied upon their charisma, embellishments, and handsomeness (cf. 2 Sam 15:1-12; 1 Kgs 1:5-9). Absalom secretly plotted his revolt by persuading the common people. Adonijah, however, conspired to seize the throne by convincing his brothers (excepting Solomon) and other influential men from David’s court.

Although Adonijah was responsible for his behavior, the fundamental cause is related to the fact that “His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, ‘Why have you done so [viz. proclaimed yourself king]?’” (1 Kgs 1:6). David was much too laissez-faire with Adonijah; consequently, this son had little respect for God-given authority. The uprising was brief because Solomon was anointed as king prior to the death of his father, King David.

The prophet Nathan had been King David’s trusted advisor, and was also the one through whom God promised an eternal kingdom (cf. 2 Sam 7:4-17; 12:1-15; 1 Chron 29:29). Solomon was God’s choice for the throne (2 Sam 12:24-25), yet the Davidic line was not exempt from power struggles (2 Sam 15:1—18:33; 20:1-22). Nathan, therefore, instructed the queen mother, Bathsheba, to remind the king that he had already sworn—by the will of God—that he would cede the throne to her son, Solomon, subsequent to his death. Leaders must be led occasionally; thus, Nathan and Bathsheba did so with respect and wisdom.

The reign of Solomon begins a weakening of the kingly office, which eventually becomes so decadent that God can seldom use them as His representative. Consequently, subsequent to Solomon’s rule, God will primarily utilize a different office to further His sovereign purposes: the prophet. Not only were the prophets associated with the kings and rulers of the nation, but they also spoke to the general populace. The reason for the messages they proclaimed is crucial to understand. “It would be a grave mistake, however, to assume that, because of the great interest of the prophets in the monarchy, they were themselves primarily politicians. Their political activity is always subservient to a religious end. They did serve as the counsellors, but they did so in order that the theocratic kingdom might prosper.”

Due to their indifference on spiritual matters and frequent apostasy, which resulted in them being in violation of God’s will, the kings often conflicted with the prophets, who served as God’s spokesmen. The message of First Kings “is that of a nation passing from affluence and influence to poverty and paralysis.” To discern the enduring values of First Kings, “we must keep before the mind two thrones—that on earth with its succession of kings, and that in the heavens with its one King.” When examining “the former we see the failing government of men, and in looking at the latter we see the unfailing government of God.” A primary emphasis of First Kings is the absolute necessity for God’s
God’s people are called to decisive actions that will advance His purposes. Nathan knew the will of God, and thus he acted with boldness, preparedness, and shrewdness.

people—who are “strangers and pilgrims” in this fallen world (Hebrews 11:13)—to make decisions that are intelligent and steadfast in order to further the Lord's sovereign purposes.

How to Do Well

The initial question of the book of First Kings concerns “who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him” (1:20). The answer is provided in chapters 1—2. King David's son, Solomon, would sit upon the throne of his father (2:12, 24, 46). The decision was not the result of political maneuvering; rather, it was the outcome of God's will (cf. 1:48; 2:15, 24). Nevertheless, the succession of Solomon to the throne would not occur without conscious thought, because significant locales of the kingdom desired a king other than God's choice. By the end of 1 Kings 2, all those threats against the kingdom were removed, and “the kingdom was established in the hands of Solomon” (v. 46).

The greatest threat against Solomon's kingdom, however, still remained: the king's own heart. Solomon's greatest enemy to his reign was himself. The Lord was unequivocal that Solomon's greatest need was to “Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies” (2:3). Either divine blessing or judgment would be determined by whether a king would “keep the charge of the LORD.”

The classic American comic strip, Pogo, made the following words famous: “We have met the enemy and he is us.” The assertion was most notable as an appropriate summary toward the foibles of humanity and the nature of the human condition. As one reads the end of 1 Kings 2, it would appear that Solomon's rule is well established, yet it will only be assured by the condition of his heart. The primary battle of life is being certain that one maintains a heart of faithfulness to the Lord God, as evident in a lifestyle of obedience.

King David's concluding words to Solomon his son asserted truly that strength is not derived from administrative and military dealings, without moral and spiritual vitality. A good leader is not exempted from God's law; rather, he or she is bound to heed it. True and enduring vigor is founded within a person's relation to God and His Word.

Conclusion

There is always a danger in choosing a leader based upon the wrong criteria, which would be charisma and charm. This folly was evident in the people's approval of Adonijah's political maneuvering (cf. 1 Kgs 1:5-27). Furthermore, there is the hazard associated with leadership that is enfeebled or preoccupied, because such leaders become irrelevant to present circumstances, which thrusts their followers into divergence and insecurity. While there is a need for leaders to affirm their responsibility, as Solomon did when he ascended the throne, there is danger in thinking the ends justify the means. The actions of Solomon demonstrate the negative aspect of leaders who strive to achieve the right thing in the wrong manner (cf. 4:1-28). For this reason, Scripture instructs the church to pray for those in positions of authority (1 Tim 2:1-4).

What constitutes godly leadership? Nathan the prophet is an example of holy activism. Knowing that God has a sovereign purpose does not mean that one waits passively for it to develop. God's people are called to decisive actions that will advance His purposes. Nathan knew the will of God, and thus he acted with boldness, preparedness, and shrewdness. May each of us heed the wisdom of Proverbs 4:23, “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

ENDNOTES

1 Edward J. Young, My Servants the Prophets (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952; reprint, 1983) 82.
There will be blood in September—
Blood Moon Apocalypse?

“The blood moon” was making folks on Twitter jittery.

“...a blood moon if God’s chosen cent eclipses were not visible in Israel itself. ...”

The night of September 27-28 will bring a “blood moon.” To skywatchers, it simply refers to the copper color the moon takes on during an eclipse, but to some Christian ministers, the fourth and final eclipse in a tetrad—four consecutive total lunar eclipses, each separated by six lunar months—fulfills biblical prophecy of the apocalypse. (The first three in the series took place April 15, 2014; October 8, 2014; and April 4, 2015.)

“The coming four blood moons points to a world-shaking event that will happen between April 2014 and October 2015,” said John Hagee.

The reference to the impact is most direct in Joel 2:30-31, which reads, “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.”

There’s also a reference to a blood moon in Revelation 6:12—part of the passage about the Seven Seals—which reads, “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.”

The astronomical site EarthSky.org says that tetrads, of which there have been 62 since the first century, follow natural cycles and are easily calculated. Moreover, three of the four most recent eclipses were not visible in Israel itself. (“What good is a blood moon if God’s chosen can’t see it?” wrote Patheos’ Bob Seidensticker.)

Nevertheless, the coming of the September “blood moon” was making folks on Twitter jittery.

Some had watched a documentary based on Hagee’s book.

Commentary:
What is the purpose of publishing this article now? Simply warning true Christians not to take note of the proclamations of sensationalists. They thrive on proclaiming the unknown; they make predictions that always fail. They write books which in the end testify against themselves. Dr. David Reagan writes in Lamplighter, the November/December 2015 issue, under the title “The Great Convergence Fizzle,” about these various false prophecies such as the Blood Moons, the Shemita, Newton’s Riddle, etc. with the words, “much ado about nothing.”

We emphasize that the Bible does not urge or instruct us to watch for certain natural and supernatural signs, nor to take note of Jewish holidays, but we are to watch for Jesus. We follow the admonition Scripture gives, “So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:7).

(For more on waiting for the Lord, read The Great Mystery of the Rapture, Item 1038.)

China

Communists to Build African Harbor for Peace

China’s first official military base abroad, in Djibouti on the horn of Africa, will serve largely to secure international waters and protect the continent’s Chinese population.

About 60 Chinese warships have been taking part in escort missions since 2008 as part of a UN anti-piracy campaign in the Gulf of Aden near Somalia.

For China, Djibouti is an important junction. The base will not only help secure economic interests, facilitating the transport of crude oil through the strait for example, but China will be able to keep a better eye on the Arabian peninsula and parts of Africa further inland. A runway is being built for this purpose. It has long been known that China is investing heavily in the African continent, and [recently] President Xi promised to invest $60 billion into the continent’s business sector. So it was merely a matter of time until Beijing decided to get more involved militarily, to increase security in the region. The African Union has been given 100 million euros ($108 million) for a quick-reaction force. Some 8,000 Chinese troops are to be part of a UN peacekeeping mission. It is plausible that there will be other forms of cooperation with the People’s Liberation Army in Africa.

Many of the ports are to be linked by rail to China, and they will thus help expand China’s military reach considerably. Experts believe that the “String of Pearls” strategy is a reaction to US geopolitical interests. China no longer wants to—and no longer can—depend merely on economic cooperation and partnerships.

Commentary:
Communist China keeps expanding and is the power to be reckoned with in Southeast Asia. The very generous help to African nations creates a definite stepping stone toward a more direct, in this case, military presence in Africa.

What does it mean biblically? Many Bible scholars today and in the past have
referred to Revelation 16:12, “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” The “kings of the east” from Israel’s geography are those beyond the Euphrates River: Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and China. Some scholars insist that China is preparing to invade Israel with armed forces of 200 million strong.

There is another interpretation, and that is spiritual. We notice the words “the kings of the east” in verse 12, but verse 14 says, “the kings of the earth and of the whole world.” Who are these kings? Today, we would call them the political leaders and their governments. What is their target? “To gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” It is my understanding that we are not dealing with physical nations, governments and their armies. Why not? Because no military force has the ability to fight against God Almighty. In Revelation 17:14 more is revealed, “These shall make war with the Lamb.” Again, no earthly power can make war with the Lamb; thus, we are dealing with demonic powers.

What will be the end thereof? The result is revealed in Revelation 19:19-20, “And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

The Lord of lords and the King of kings does not need to fight; only His appearance is all-sufficient to destroy the powers of darkness and their subjects; that means all the nations of the world. The Bible simply states, “The beast was taken, and with him the false prophet...both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.” No military powers and their weapons are revealed.

Nevertheless, we find it of interest that the earthly powers of the east are directing their attention toward the west: Israel. *(For more on this subject, read Revelation 13: Satan’s Last Victory, Item 1067.)*

The designation means no official meetings will take place on this day and employees can choose to not work on that day.

Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon called the move “a decisive victory” that “finally provides an official place for the Jewish religion in the world’s parliament.”

The recognition would not have been possible, he said, without the cooperation of the US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power, who prevented the anti-Israel majority at the UN from blocking the resolution.

“Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people, and the UN should have recognized this holiday many years ago,” Danon said.

-ww.jpost.com, 18 December 2015

**Commentary:** Israel’s diplomatic staff is to be commended, as well as U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power.

Why is this important to Israel? The answer is two-fold; positive and negative. Positive because Israel wants to be counted among the nations of the world; they desire to be an equal member of the family of nations. But that brings us to the negative aspect, because Israel is not like any other nation on the face of the earth.

It began over 3,000 years ago, when Israel requested equality: “Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (1 Samuel 8:5). That, however, is not God’s goal.

*(continued next page)*
Yom Kippur (continued from page 21)

The prophetic Word states, “And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth” (Hosea 2:18-21). That indeed makes Israel different and NOT equal to any other nation. 6184

(For more on prophecies throughout the Bible, read Exploring Bible Prophecy from Genesis to Revelation, Item 2275.)

RUSSIA

Is ISIS Putin’s Nightmare?

Russian news agencies reported the destruction of 500 ISIS petrol tankers heading from Syria to Iraq.

The rebel sites in Syria report Russian strikes around the Islamic State’s Syrian capital Raqqa and north of Aleppo.

What made Russia change its strategy? Was it the Islamic State’s blowing up of the Russian airliner in Sinai or the half-hour meeting between Vladimir Putin and Barack Obama in Turkey? Or maybe it was the Vienna summit where Washington agreed to leave Bashar Assad as Syrian president until an interim government was formed?

ISIS’ photos of the explosive that allegedly brought down the Russian plane and the Paris attacks probably contributed to Moscow’s turnaround. The announcement that the plane was indeed sabotaged already signaled a change.

In any case, Washington was pleased with the result including the cooperation between the two countries’ air forces. Washington and Moscow may still not agree about Assad’s future, but the United States can take credit for significantly expanding the coalition in the war against the Islamic State.

Turkey has also changed its tune; its foreign minister said Ankara and Washington were planning an operation to rid the Islamic State from the Syrian side of the Turkish border. An alleged safe zone would be set up—an idea Washington has opposed.

ISIS isn’t stopping people from leaving but has issued mobilization orders compelling young males from 14 up to join its ranks. Recruits are paid $200 a month and get money for living expenses, weapons and training. As a result, some families that can’t or won’t abandon their homes send their sons to war. The call-up is intended to refill the ranks depleted by deserters.

In the absence of a military strategy, the Vienna agreements remain the only possible infrastructure to solve the war in Syria. By January the UN envoy to Syria will have to submit a list of acceptable groups and militias to negotiate with Assad’s people over the formation of an interim government.

At the moment this mission seems impossible in view of the deep disagreements among the militias and mainly between Russia and Iran on one side and the Western countries on the other. The issue: Who should represent the side negotiating with Assad.

www.haaretz.com, 22 November 2015

Commentary: A strange reversal is developing: While the United States withdrew the bulk of its military from Iraq, Russia is now involved in Syria, a neighboring country. One must recall Vietnam: when the French withdrew their forces, the U.S. stepped in and experienced a devastating defeat. After the Soviet Union (Russia) withdrew from Afghanistan, the Western powers stepped in yet achieved nothing more than utter chaos and confusion.

Now Russia is back in the spotlight. Will they achieve their intended goal? Very unlikely, because the real reason for the existence of ISIS is spiritual. The real goal is closer unity among the nations of the world. That’s just another of the many steps toward world government. 6169

(For more on this subject, read Northern Storm Rising, Item 2294.)

Visit midnightcall.com and click on the Swift Word logo to sign up!

Need More Up-to-Date News?

Subscribe FREE to Swift Word More Prophecy-Related NEWS 5 Times a Week

Visit www.midnightcall.com
The only other times the word “Palestine” or “Palestina” is mentioned is in a negative way, “The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina… Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent’s root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent… Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none shall be alone in his appointed times” (Exodus 15:14; Isaiah 14:29, 31).

Unfortunately, the name Palestine has become extremely popular lately. The news media highlights the conflict between Israel and the Arab Palestinians, and virtually always portrays Israel as using excessive force.

Another major contributing factor to the popularity of the name Palestine comes from our own camp: Bible commentaries, dictionaries, and some teachers have replaced the name Israel with Palestine when referring to its geography. The logical result is Palestine for Palestinians. One forgets that during the British Mandate, the British were the ones who named the territory Palestine. When passports or identity cards were issued for people in the territory, most Arabs refused to be called Palestinian Arabs, while the Jews accepted the definition Palestinian Jews.

Much has been written about the so-called Middle East Conflict, and generally, the narrative is accepted that the Jews coming from Europe established the country Israel and dispersed the Arabs. Doubtless, there are some valid points to this argument. However, history teaches clearly: winner takes all.

Using myself as an example: In 1944, when the victorious Soviet forces defeated the National Socialists of Germany (Nazis), my mother had a choice to sign a document requiring that she would be a faithful and law-abiding citizen of the Soviet Union, or otherwise leave Memelland, her family’s home for over 500 years. Today, the territory formerly known as Ostpreussen has been divided into Lithuania, Russia, and Poland. The matter was settled once and for all. That is true international law: the winner dictates history.

We may also apply this to all new countries established 200 or more years ago. Territory was conquered by force, displacing the original inhabitants, and a new country was founded.

When it comes to Israel, it’s a totally different story. New laws, new principles apply. And new morals are used. Israel conquered much of the Promised Land during four major wars against the Arabs, yet were forbidden to take possession of that land. It’s now called occupied territory.

There is more. No nation in all of human history ever permitted the defeated enemy to publicly declare their intention to destroy the victor, the one who conquered the territory fair and square by weapons of war. Israel does.

But the whole world declares Israel’s possession of any part of the Promised Land, even territory they purchased with money, as being occupied territory.

The Brutal Enemy

Very little is revealed in the global news media regarding the behavior of Arab Palestinians. The Palestinian educational leaders think nothing of indoctrinating children in school and higher education to kill Jews, destroy the State of Israel, and chase the Jews into the Mediterranean. Interestingly, virtually no protest is heard about such unthinkable brutality and inhumane behavior, which is tolerated, even encouraged by Arab Palestinians.

“Gaza Parents Name Their Newborn ‘Knife of Jerusalem.’” It is grotesque and almost too difficult to write about such beastly behavior of intelligent and ed-
Gaza Parents Name Their Newborn “Knife of Jerusalem”

MEMRI-TV

The parents of a newborn baby in Gaza explain that they decided to call their son “Knife of Jerusalem” because it was “the least they could do” to express solidarity with Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem. The interview was posted on the Internet on October 24, 2015.

Father of the baby: Allah has given me a new baby, and I’ve named him “Knife of Jerusalem” after the Intifada of the Knives, because we are now witnessing a new kind of revolution.

Mother of the baby, her face veiled but her eyes: I am the mother of Knife of Jerusalem. We gave him this name in solidarity with our people in the West Bank. This is the least we could do for them, in the third Intifada, the Intifada of Al-Aqsa.

Friend of the father: I am a friend of Knife of Jerusalem’s father. It was my idea, and I published the post on Facebook. I felt that this would gain lots of attention on the social media. He was over at my shop, and he told me that he was going to the hospital, because his wife was having a baby. He said that he did not know what name to give the baby. We were watching the music video “Lovers of Stabbing” on TV, and I said: How about Knife of Jerusalem? He said: “How can I call him Knife?!” I said: “After the martyrs and the Intifada of the Knives. Today, it is the knife that has its say on the ground.” This is a really sweet name. It’s the least we can do for Jerusalem.

Prophetic Word

What a grotesque picture of brutality!

But God’s intention for Israel is clearly revealed in Ezekiel 36:4, “Therefore, ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes, and to the cities that are forsaken, which became a prey and derision to the residue of the heathen that are round about.” The Jews have rebuilt the country, established a civilized democratic infrastructure, and have become very successful economically. They are the envy of the Middle East.

The next verse shows the unbridled hatred of the enemies, “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey” (verse 5). This speaks about Idumea, the country of Edom, located south of the Dead Sea, but the spirit of hatred is applicable to the general public of Arab Palestinians.

While Israel’s behavior may often be criticized, the end result will always be God’s initiated restoration of the land and the people, even spiritually, “And I will put my spirit within you, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them” (Ezekiel 36:27).
EGYPTIAN OR AFRICAN?...
HOLINESS...
DEATHBED SALVATION

Egyptian or African?
Dear Mr. Froese,

In regard to your answer about African Jews (October issue), please let me offer some more information.

Jacob (Israel) was born deep in the desert at Beer-Lahai-roi, an oasis in the desert near Kadesh-Barnea. Reference: Atlas of the Bible. This is in South Israel, not Africa.

You also stated that Ephraim and Manasseh were born of an African woman, but you give no documentation for this statement.

Genesis 41:45 states that Potiphar gave his daughter Asenath to Joseph for a wife. Potiphar was an Egyptian, not African, so his daughter Asenath would have to be at least one-half Egyptian.

Answer: Your statement, “Joseph’s wife, Asenath, was an Egyptian, not African” is incorrect. Egypt is an African country. According to Roman law, Manasseh and Ephraim were Africans. Don’t confuse Africans with black people only.

Holiness
Dear Editor,

Thank you for a much needed article, “Do Christians Really Need to Be Holy?”

First John 3:2-3 says, “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure” (NIV).

An excellent book on this is The Pursuit of Holiness, by Jerry Bridges.

-B. Kuhry, CA

-R. Whiting, MA
Answer: Appreciate your letter relating to our article, “Do Christians Really Need to Be Holy?”

I would add, holy is our position in Christ, and that isn’t affected by our flesh. Unfortunately, our condition is that our flesh is often subject to sin, as Paul confirms.

Thanks for recommending the book by Jerry Bridges.

Deathbed Salvation

Dear Sir,

My question concerns the thief on the cross and the lesson Christ wanted to convey to us about confession and forgiveness. Does the event show that forgiveness is offered to us even at the very last moments of our lives? If like the thief on the cross next to Christ (who seems to have given no thought in his life to God, his own sinfulness or his eternity in heaven or hell), one is suddenly aware of the salvation that is possible from Christ, and if we on our deathbed confess our sins and ask forgiveness, will we like the thief be forgiven? I would appreciate your thoughts as I have been trying to understand what teaching that God may want to give us in this part of Christ’s victory on the cross, and do not want to mistake flawed reasoning for the truth. Thank you for your reply, and may God bless your ministry in its efforts to share the gospel with the world.

-D. Hebert, ON, Canada

Answer: Repentance and salvation are an act of grace. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin. Some say yes, others say no. It’s significant what Matthew records, “The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth” (Matthew 27:44). Note the plural. In Luke 23:39-40, the change is recorded: one thief suddenly recognized his “lostness” and repented. Is this type of salvation available today? Absolutely. The key is and remains, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” Of course, one must realize death may come at any moment, and then one’s chance of salvation is gone forever.

Calvinism

Dear Editor,

My wife and I became born again believers in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior in August of 1985. She came from a Roman Catholic background, and I from an Anglican background, and we both ultimately ended up in a small country Baptist church. We have been married 50 years. We both thank and praise God for bringing us together and for keeping us together. My wife and I are like-minded in Christ, and we both have been given an unquenchable thirst and a deep love for God’s precious Holy Word. It cuts us both to the heart when we see God’s Holy Word twisted, distorted and misrepresented. In the spring of 2015, our church received a new pastor. He and his family are wonderful, God-fearing people, but soon he started to preach on “Calvinism.” Immediately, a red flag went up to my wife and I, because it did not represent the holy, loving, merciful, compassionate, and just God that He has declared Himself to be in His Holy written Word.

On behalf of my wife and myself, I wrote a six-page letter to our pastor explaining to him that Calvinism just didn’t line up with the Scriptures, and I asked him kindly for his comments, which to this point, he has never answered. We have been long-time subscribers to Midnight Call, and in the September issue, I noticed a book on sale by Dave Hunt called What Love Is This? concerning Calvinism, and we sent away for it. I read the book first and then asked our pastor if he would like to read it, and he said he would because he already had a couple of Dave Hunt’s book in his library. We found that Mr. Hunt’s book expressed exactly what we believe to be true in Scripture concerning this subject, but after our pastor read the book, he asked me to see him in the back of the church after the service. When I arrived at the back room, I was confronted by the pastor and all the church elders. I was immediately told that Dave Hunt’s book did not properly represent true Calvinism, that it was poorly written, and that it was very demeaning and they were extremely offended. I was
warned not to lend that book to anyone else in the church! I was accused of being an Arminian, but I told them that I did not subscribe to Calvinism, Arminianism, Augustinianism, or for that matter, any other of man’s “isms,” and that we follow Jesus Christ and Him only. We pray and ask God’s Holy Spirit to impart to us His wisdom and clarity of understanding when we read His Holy written Word, and we completely and faithfully trust God for this. I told them that my wife and I believe in the eternal security of salvation for all “true” born again believers in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and they then said that we were one point Calvinists. I told them that they did not hear what I had just told them, and then they accused me of causing disunity in the church. I told them I had no intention of telling anyone in the church about this but the pastor. I apologized profoundly to them, shook their hands in peace and then left.

Dear Editor, did I cross the line with God’s anointed; was I incorrect in what I did, or was I just simply making a mountain out of a molehill? It feels like God has placed a burning hot coal in our hearts concerning the truth in His precious Holy Word, and we feel like we are all alone in this matter. Please help us; no matter the consequences, we value your trusted opinion. We thank you for your magazine and the work that you do for Jesus Christ and His truth.

-R. Langabeer, ON, Canada

**Answer:** You have done well to contact your pastor regarding Calvinism. You have not violated any Scriptural principles in that matter.

Midnight Call does not endorse Calvinism, but receives and accepts teachings authored by Calvinists. Good, solid Bible teaching is what is needed, and there are many “Calvinists” who are excellent Bible teachers.

When Calvinism denies man’s freedom of choice, I reject it. Scripture clearly admonishes over and again, to exercise our own free will. To the Jews in Jerusalem, Jesus said, “…ye would not.”

**Physical Healing**

Dear Gentlemen,

I am writing to find out if there is anything in the Bible about doctors. I do not know that much about the Bible. I do know that Jesus healed people; in fact, one woman went to Jesus and touched his robe and she was healed. I have also heard from a salesperson that was selling aloe, that aloe is mentioned in the Bible. I am praying that you might be able to answer my question about doctors. My question is this: my wife said that she thinks there is something in the Bible that says doctors cannot heal. Thirty years ago, I dated a young lady who also said that she didn’t go to doctors. She had good health. In fact, she told me that there were people who could cure you by touching you. I told her that these television programs show special things for their ratings. I want to know if you can trust doctors to heal me. I have cancer, plus I recently found out that I have glaucoma.

I do know for a fact, that the Church of Scientology and Christian Scientists do not go to doctors. I heard or read that a couple who were Christian Scientists, did not take their child to the doctor and the child died. The state was going to prosecute them. Then the state had to back off because it was against their religion to go to doctors.

-R. Rager, MD

**Answer:** Here are a few Scriptures speaking about medical doctors: Matthew 9:12; Mark 5:26; Luke 4:23; Colossians 4:14. We read in the Old Testament about physicians; for example, Genesis 50:2 or 2 Chronicles 16:12, which shows that Asa should have consulted the Lord and not physicians.

What does it mean for us today? The summary is Hebrews 9:27, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” So it matters not whether you go to a physician or whether you trust the Lord; death is 100% certain.

Regarding aloe or any other non-medically approved methods, it seems to help some but not others.

I trust the Lord for my life, and when my time comes, He will take me home. In the meantime, if I have an ailment, I present it to the Lord and then go to a doctor.
The Mark of the Beast has long been the subject of heated debate and even outrageous sensationalism.

Prophecy Questions
- When will the temple be built in Jerusalem? • Who is the Antichrist?
- Where is the Ark of the Covenant?
- Will peace come to Israel?  
  Plus, the answers to 115 more questions about Bible prophecy.

119 Most Frequently Asked Questions About Bible Prophecy item #1055
176 pgs. • Paperback • Author: Arno Froese
$11.99 Sale $7

The Truth About 9/11
This book goes beyond the September 11 atrocities and reveals several reasons for the great conflict between Christianity, Islam, and the tiny country in between — Israel.
   This book also contains an explanation of how this act of terror against the United States fits into this development, and what it means to believers.

Terror Over America item #1050
128 pgs. • Paperback
$9.99 Clearance $5 Author: Arno Froese

For Christians, perilous, faith-killing times are today...they're a form of “Apocalypse Now” for the believer. How can believers avoid becoming prey to the lethal devices of a rapidly encroaching, end-time money snare and remain faithful and free stewards? For those seeking answers, this book offers a guiding light in the dark days of the current turmoil.

Global Financial Apocalypse Prophesied item #1068
340 pgs. • Paperback
$14.95 Sale $10 • Author: Wilfred J. Hahn

Prepared for the Mark of the Beast item #1061
240 pgs. • Hardcover
$16.95 Sale $12
Author: Arno Froese

Fascinating Numeric Patterns Revealed in the Holy Bible
Have you ever pondered the fascinating numeric precision woven throughout the Word of God?

Biblical Mathematics item #2007 • 240 pgs.
Paperback
$10.99 Sale $8
Author: Ed F. Vallowe
Read about Satan’s plan to create peace and prosperity through deception!

Finally, it seems the world has a leadership they can trust, admire, even worship. How Satan and his cohorts accomplish this feat of deception, and how far his preparations have progressed is the theme of this book, Revelation 13: Satan’s Last Victory.

**Revelation 13: Satan’s Last Victory** item #1067
256 pgs. • Paperback
$11.95 Sale $9 Author: Arno Froese

Something strange is happening in the Mideast.

The awakening of the Arab nations heralds to the world the coming great change—the Arabs are to be counted as an important power structure on earth. *Democracy Invades Islam* reveals how the Arab revolution will hasten the establishment of the final world government under the auspices of Democracy, led by Antichrist.

**Democracy Invades Islam** item #1072
256 pgs. • Paperback
$12.95 Sale $10 Author: Arno Froese

How Daniel Saw Our Days

*Daniel’s Prophecies Made Easy* takes a new and refreshing look at the ancient prophecies illustrated by Nebuchadnezzar’s image, the four world powers, the ten horns and the climax of Antichrist’s dominion of planet Earth, followed by the establishment of God’s divinely ordained Kingdom.

**Daniel’s Prophecies Made Easy** item #1057 • 240 pgs. • Paperback
$12 Sale $9 Author: Arno Froese

The Olivet Discourse

Chapters 24 & 25 of the book of Matthew have given birth to numerous doctrinal stances. Largely those doctrinal statements have revolved around eschatological issues. Many vital questions concerning the timing of endtime events are dissected and addressed in the examination of these prophetic chapters.

**Hidden Signs in the Olivet Discourse** item #1060 • 208 pgs. • Paperback
$10.95 Sale $8 Author: Norbert Lieth
A comprehensive panorama of church history from Acts 2 to today

General editors Ed Hindson and Dan Mitchell have extensive experience with producing reference works that combine expert scholarship and popular accessibility. Together with a broad range of well-qualified contributors, they have put together what is sure to become a standard must-have for both Bible teachers and students.

With nearly 300 articles across 400 pages, readers will enjoy...

- a comprehensive panorama of church history from Acts 2 to today
- a clear presentation of how the church and its teachings have developed
- concise biographies of major Christian figures and their contributions
- fascinating overviews of key turning points in church history

**The Popular Encyclopedia of Church History** item #2288
400 pgs. • Hardcover
$26.99 Sale $25 Authors: Ed Hindson and Dan Mitchell

More than 500 easy-to-read pages of explanatory comments about the prophecies in God’s Word

It’s all here—clear and concise explanations for the key Bible prophecies from Genesis to Revelation. Written by Bible scholars but created for everyday readers and Bible students, this volume makes it possible for users to expand their knowledge of prophecy in ways unmatched by other books. Among the notable features are...

- useful charts, diagrams, and timelines
- simple format for easy referencing
- helpful word definitions
- special attention to Bible passages that are particularly difficult or important

**Exploring Bible Prophecy from Genesis to Revelation** item #2275
560 pgs. • Paperback
$19.99 Sale $18 Authors: Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson

Why Israel’s existence is a true miracle of God

**Target Israel** item #2293
224 pgs. • Paperback
$15.99 Sale $14 Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson

Are you missing half the story about the last days?

**A Woman Rides the Beast** item #2296
580 pgs. • Paperback
$16.99 Sale $15 Author: Dave Hunt
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM#</th>
<th>ITEM DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>QTY.</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Large items marked with star require $30 per item surcharge when sent outside USA.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flat Rate Shipping Cost</th>
<th>Total for Order</th>
<th>S&amp;H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Addresses $4.95</td>
<td>Gift to Midnight Call</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA Priority $10.95</td>
<td>Total Enclosed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada $9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Countries $20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mail to: Midnight Call
PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073 or
call: 1-800-845-2420 (M-F, 8-5 EST) fax: 803-755-6002
online: midnightcall.com/store

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City: __________________ State: _______ Zip: _______
Card#: __________________ Exp: _________ Phone: __________________
Email: ________________________________

*Large items marked with star require $30 per item surcharge when sent outside USA.*

From Adam to the Second Coming of Christ!

This detailed chart has brief descriptions of such topics as the People Groups from Adam, Noah and Abraham’s time, the Kingdom Years, the Time of the Church and the Tribulation and Second Coming of Christ. The reverse side has a summary of the judgments in Revelation. A perfect tool for personal or study group use.

**PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE BIBLE (ENGLISH)**
ITEM #9073 • Size: 8.5 x 5.5 • also available in Spanish

**$9.95 Sale $7**

7 glossy protective coated panels!

Perfect tool for Bible study
When the last one from among the Gentiles is added to the Church, then something remarkable is going to transpire: Jesus will come for His own: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). That's our future, our hope, and that's why I wrote the book, *The Great Mystery of the Rapture*. It is a book you need to read, a message of great comfort, the comfort we need in these times.

The incredible doctrine of the return of Christ commands us to investigate *The Great Mystery of the Rapture*. 