

# PROPHESCOPE ON ISRAEL



*Timothy Tow*

# **PROPHESCOPE ON ISRAEL**

*Timothy Tow*

Christian Life Publishers

***PROPHESCOPE ON ISRAEL***

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*To,*

*Dr Allan A. MacRae  
my teacher  
in the plain truth  
of Old Testament Prophecy  
that confirms  
my stand on  
Premillennialism  
this book  
is affectionately  
dedicated.*



## SIGNS IN THE SKY

One day our Lord said to the Jews,  
Learn a lesson from the sky:  
When red clouds rise after the dews,  
Then say ye the rain is nigh,  
But when it's pink in the evening  
'Twill be a bright, sunny morning.

Or when it's clouding in the west  
We'll soon expect a shower,  
Or when the South Wind shows his crest  
'Twill soon be warmer weather.  
With such vivid illustration  
He teaches our generation.

One day after the Autumn Rains  
The twilight glowed roseate!  
I said the days would surely change  
From these showers on my head  
To golden sunshine like summer:  
And true it dawned bright and warmer!

So returned summer with the sun  
Till red clouds dimmed this morning.  
I said for sure the rains would come  
And they did come by evening!  
We tell the weather by these signs,  
But not His Advent by the times?

Behold, 'tis crimson in the East,  
'Twill soon be monsoon weather.  
But we who're saved see in the West  
Brighter sunset and fairer.  
Christ the Messiah quickly comes  
From heaven to take His loved ones!  
Although 'tis crimson in the East  
There's a brighter Morn forever.

Scripture: Matt 16:2,3; Lk 12:54; I Thess. 4:13-18.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am deeply grateful:

To *Mrs Tan Yin Chan* my secretary for type-setting this book with devotion as unto our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to *Charles Seet* for the Book Cover and maps.

To *Christian Life Publishers* for their ever ready service also for Jesus' sake,

To the *Embassy of Israel in Singapore* for supplying much important, relevant materials, including all the photos and illustrations reproduced herein,

To *Sami Awwad* and *Bob Baseman* for several colour reprints from their superb photo-artworks on the Holy Land.

To *Werner Keller* for a black and white ivory relief of a Canaanite goddess and photo of the Ishtar Gate in Babylon in *The Bible as History*.

To *Zondervan Publishing House* for the photo of fig leaves and fruit in the *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*.

To *Inter-Varsity Press* for a plan of the Millennial Temple in the *New Bible Commentary (Revised)*.

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## FOREWORD

I count it a privilege to recommend *Prophescope on Israel*, written by my friend, Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow. This study of Israel in history and prophecy should stir the hearts of God's people all over the world. It is rich in Biblical references; and it also provides very helpful perspectives on Israel's tragic, yet divinely-guided history from the call of Abraham to the crises of the present hour.

Because of his faithfulness in teaching God's infallible prophetic Word for over 30 years at Far Eastern Bible College in Singapore, a small army of premillennial Bible teachers has been moving across the Eastern Hemisphere. The blessed hope of the Church still continues as the darkness deepens!

May our great God be pleased to use this book especially in the vast regions of Asia and the Pacific until our Lord Jesus Christ returns to receive His Church to Himself!

*Dr John Whitcomb*

## PREFACE

The big railway station at Gemas used to be the centre of three services, catering to travellers between West Malaysia and Singapore. One line, the Central, still serves Singapore-Kuala Lumpur-Penang (Butterworth), even up to Bangkok the Thai capital. The second is the East Coast Line that runs between Singapore and Kota Bahru. The third, now defunct, was the Malacca Line down the west coast.

In theology there are also three lines insofar as its approach to eschatology (the doctrine of last things) is concerned. In the study of the end-times leading to the Second Coming of Christ the three lines are known as Premillennialism, Amillennialism and Postmillennialism. The author takes the Premillennialism line.

When the Gospel was first brought by English Presbyterian missionaries to our great-grandparents, grandparents and parents from the eighteen fifties, it taught an amillennial eschatology. In 1910, however, a great revival came to Swatow (Santou), our native place in Guangdong Province, South China, through Miss Dora Yu. She was the first to introduce the doctrine of Premillennialism which thrilled the Church with a bright hope never known before. (Miss Dora Yu was China's first woman revivalist from whom Watchman Nee found the Lord and received further theological instruction. Later Miss Dora Yu established China Bible Seminary in Kiangwan, Shanghai.)

The second teacher on Premillennialism to the Church throughout China and Southeast Asia was Dr John Sung (1901-1944). He taught us many lessons from the Book of Revelation and Daniel. But it was at Faith Theological Seminary, founded by American Bible Presbyterians, that my



Premillennial faith was confirmed. I learned this doctrine thoroughly under the tutelage of Dr Allan A. MacRae and Dr J. O. Buswell. And it is this full-orbed view of Scripture that leads us to see Israel's prophetic role in the end-times in which we live.

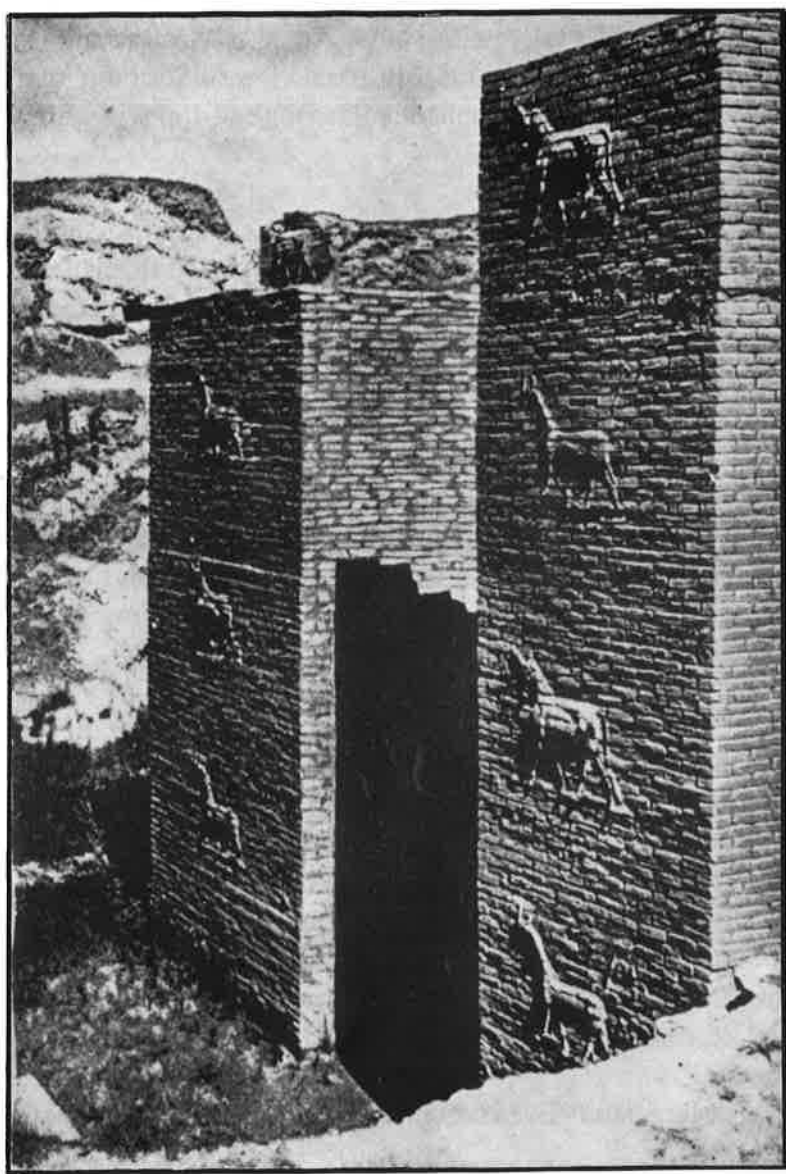
As Israel plays a major part in God's plan of salvation for a lost mankind from the call of Abraham to the Birth of the Saviour by a young Jewish Virgin so is she predestinated to the centre stage of current history to bring in the Return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This being the case, the study of the rise and fall, fall and rise of Israel throughout the ages culminating in her regathering as a nation today, is of paramount importance. To alert us, as the fig tree shooting tender leaves is harbinger of summer, so must we be awakened to the nearness of His Coming by an Israel so prominent in world affairs today.

This "Prophescope on Israel" is a small attempt on our part to stir up the Church, to stir up young souls that they might consider what they must do in the short future before them and to prod the thinking of every Christian to what greater extent we should serve our Lord before He returns. If the publication of this book will result in the enlisting of some young man, young woman, yea, even you in middle or old age, to labour for the Lord more zealously, meaningfully, the efforts undertaken by the author will not have been made in vain.

Maranatha! Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Timothy Tow*



Ishtar Gate in Babylon

## INTRODUCTION

In spite of President Bush's intention to bring in a New World Order of Peace and Justice with the defeat of Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War, the situation around the globe is getting from bad to worse. He could save Kuwait, but not his own people. The bloody, burning racial riots in Los Angeles April - May 1992 cost America billions and sowed seeds of more hatred and strife. As if this was not enough, Germany was suddenly paralysed by nationwide strikes. Australia, the eighth richest nation, is today plunged into the deepest gloom. Nor is the situation in Eastern Europe brighter with the dissolution of Communism, but faced rather with a new kind of internecine struggle and privation. Writes Dr S H Tow in the latest Reformation Banner, Vol 18, No. 2, April-June 1992, "There, Soviet communism has collapsed and with it the Soviet Union itself; there Yugoslavia has become the cockpit of renascent nationalisms and ancient ethnic and religious hatreds." "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:7,8).

To discover what the destiny of the nations will be in these critical end-times, we have the key in Daniel's prophecy. Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the "great image ... terrible" gives us the answer (Daniel 2).

The world system, though it has its glorious past, is fast crumbling. A cosmic cataclysm is looming nearer each day. Daniel interprets the smashing of the "great image" by the stone crashing down from heaven as follows: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which

shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

This Kingdom of God subduing the kingdom of men is the destination of the nations. How does the Kingdom of God subdue the kingdom of men? By the Return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to earth when Israel is regathered as a nation and the restoration of David's Throne whereby the Greater Son of David will rule over all nations in a peaceful, golden millennium. This is confirmed by Daniel's vision, after Nebuchadnezzar's, of our Lord's Second Coming:

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened... I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed... And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. (Daniel 7:9,10,13,14,27)

The two visions are one. Two is confirmation in prophetic Scriptures (Genesis 41:32).

From a proper exegesis of Scripture we see that the Kingdom of God comes in three stages.

**Stage I.** From the call of Abraham and establishing of Israel as a nation to the Birth of David's Greater Son, Jesus Christ.

**Stage II.** From the rejection of the Saviour and Dispersal

through nineteen hundred years to Israel's regathering as a nation and Christ's Second Coming.

**Stage III.** The Second Coming of Jesus Christ that ushers in a thousand golden years of peace. (This is the millennium mentioned six times in Revelation 20, when the saints will reign with Christ a thousand years, "on the earth" Revelation 5:10).

Homer Duncan has given a list of at least 25 references from the Prophets where God promises Israel that He will gather them to Canaan and give the land to them:

- (1) Isaiah 11:11,12
- (2) " 14:1-3
- (3) " 27:12,13
- (4) " 43:1-7
- (5) Jeremiah 16:14-16
- (6) " 23:3-8
- (7) " 29:14
- (8) " 30:10,11
- (9) " 31:8-10
- (10) " 32:37,38
- (11) Ezekiel 11:17
- (12) " 20:34
- (13) " 20:41-42
- (14) " 34:11-13
- (15) " 36:24
- (16) " 36:28
- (17) " 36:33-38
- (18) " 37:1-14
- (19) " 37:21,22
- (20) " 39:25-28
- (21) Hosea 1:10,11
- (22) Amos 9:14,15
- (23) Micah 4:4-7
- (24) Zephaniah 3:18-20

## (25) Zechariah 8:4-8

(*Encyclopaedia of 7700 Illustrations by Paul Lee Tan*)

Yes, as God had chosen Israel to be a blessing to Gentile nations in His first coming (Genesis 28:13, 14), so will the Almighty return to set up Israel, that His Son, the Greater David, might reign on earth out of Jerusalem.

If Israel is appointed of God to return to her Land and play such a major role in the affairs of nations in these end-times, does it not impel us to a serious study of the words of the prophets? Hence the prophetic messages that were preached at the Sunset Gospel Hour, Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church, during the anxious days of the Gulf War. These messages together with one on Lebanon are brought up to date, enlarged, and illustrated, and put together for your study under the title, "Prophescope on Israel."

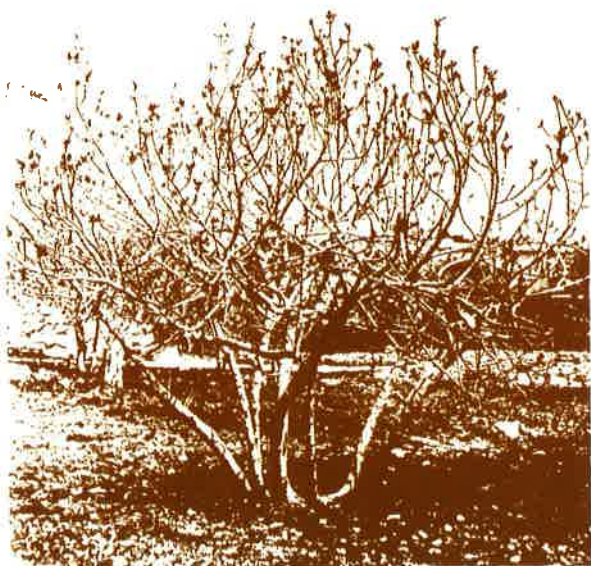
"Prophescope" is our own coinage. As the telescope is an optical instrument for viewing objects at a distance, our "prophescope" is this treatise's eye-opener on Israel's role in God's saving plan for a lost mankind, particularly in the "unfolding drama" before our eyes since her regaining nationhood, May 14, 1948.

A thorough research into the doctrine of the Return of Jesus Christ is made by William E. Biederwolf, *The Second Coming Bible* originally titled *The Millennium Bible*, published by Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Christian who wants to learn more about what the Bible says concerning the last days on Planet Earth and the Second Coming of Christ will appreciate this book. Included is the complete text of every Bible verse from Genesis to Revelation, that directly or indirectly deals with the Second Coming, plus the enlightening commentary of hundreds of respected Bible scholars. *The Second Coming Bible* is an in-depth study that will be genuinely helpful to anyone who desires to explore the prophetic teachings of the Bible concerning the last days and

Christ's Second Coming. (William E. Biederwolf was a well known and respected evangelist who also served as president of the Winona Lake School of Theology.) Much of what we see through this Prophescope is confirmed by Biederwolf's Second Coming Bible.

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:28-33).

In this prophetical study of Israel in the end-times before Jesus comes, one principle that must be strictly adhered to is not setting dates. Even the Son is not in the know, for He leaves "that day and that hour" to the Father (Mark 13:32). And He said unto them again, "It is not for you to know the times or the season, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:7). Of things eschatological, "we know yet we do not know; we do not know and yet we know." This tension of knowledge which is arbitrated only by an Omniscient God humbles and subdues us, puny creatures, that we may be charitable to brethren who see differently from us. Amen.



Above, first and second figs. Below, a fig tree laden with first figs. © MPS

### Fig Leaves and Fruit





## STAGE I

*From the call of Abraham and establishing  
of Israel as a nation to the Birth of David's  
Greater Son, Jesus Christ.*





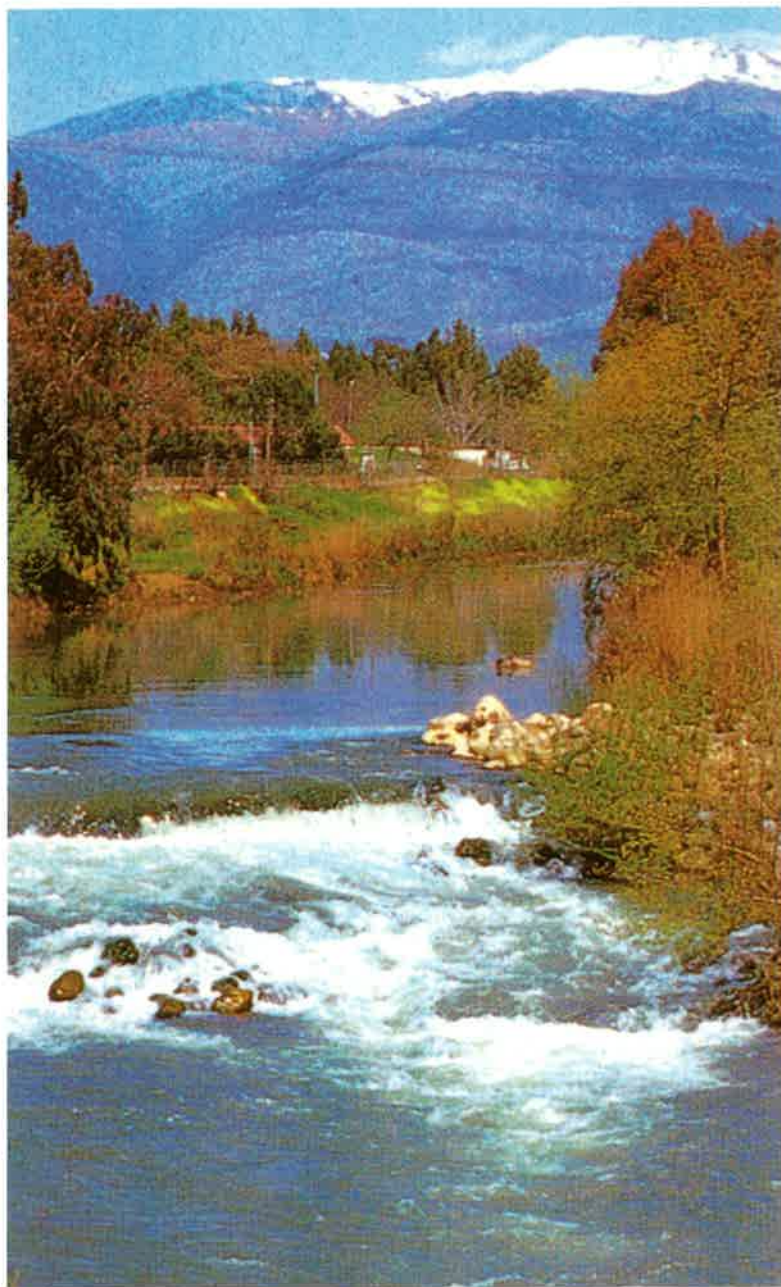
Jerusalem the Golden

## **CHAPTER I**

### **ABRAHAM'S CALL AND LAND PROMISED TO HIM AND HIS DESCENDANTS**

In Paul's sermon to the philosophers on Mar's Hill, he made this observation, that the God of creation is also the God of nations: "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:26). When the apostle spoke about the distribution of land to nations according to the determination of His appointed times, the Empire of Greece was then superseded by the Empire of Rome. Kingdoms rose and kingdoms fell according to God's timetable, for He is the most High that ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever He will (Daniel 4:17).

Now, if God has given every nation on earth a territory and duration appointed, as attested also by Moses to the Israelites before his death (Deuteronomy 32:8,9) how much more will He not give His chosen people Israel the firstborn (Exodus 4:22) a land for to dwell in? A land to dwell not only for economic reasons, but rather for working out His saving purposes, His plan of redemption for a lost mankind. For it is said of Abraham, progenitor of the Hebrew race, that through him will come a great nation, and "in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).



Mount Hermon and River Jordan



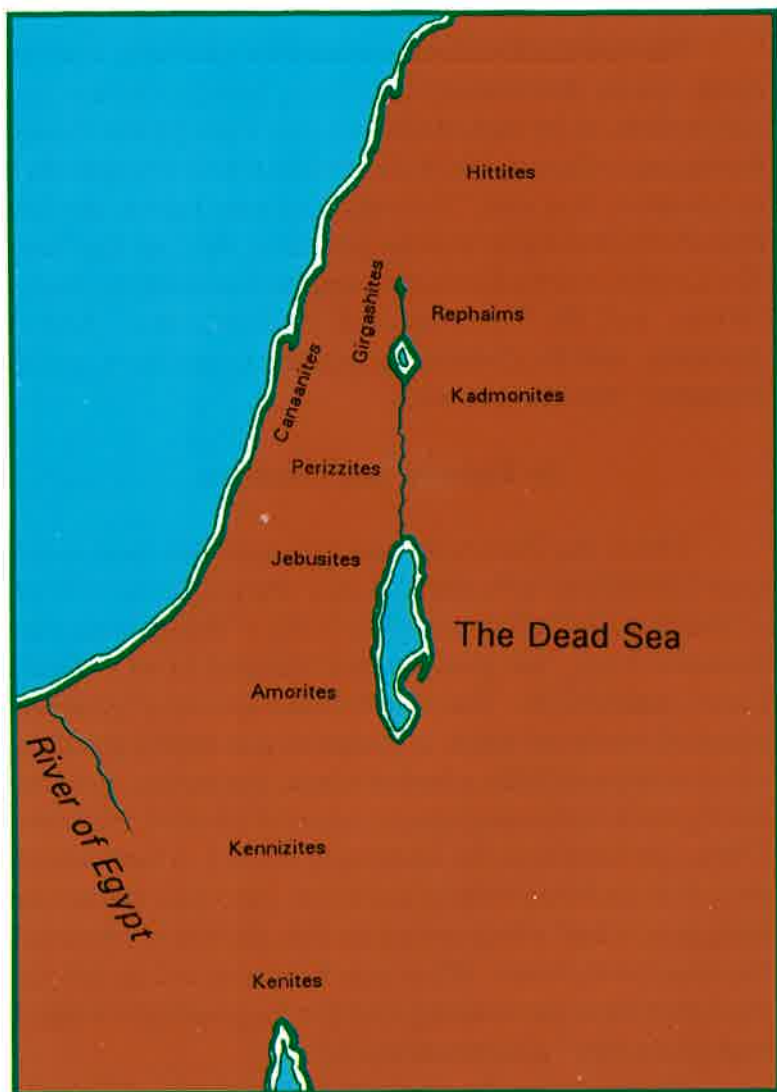
## **Its Extent**

The land that God had appointed for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the descendants after them, Israelites both ancient and modern, is the land of Canaan, yea, even greater Canaan. According to Genesis 15:18-21, the first time it was announced to Abraham, God said, "Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites; And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites" (ten tribes in all).

## **Its Richness and Goodness**

This is the Promised Land, "the land that thou swarest unto their fathers" (Numbers 11:12), "the holy mountain" and a "pleasant land" (Zechariah 8:3; 7:14), a "delightful land" (Malachi 3:12), "the glorious land" (Daniel 11:41), "Beulah Land" (Isaiah 62:4). Yea, this Promised Land is a "good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; [These are known as the seven holy fruits.] A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee" (Deuteronomy 8:7-10).

To experience the goodness of this "Land of Promise" there is no better way than organising a Holy Land Study Tour, but we would rather call it a Pilgrimage. In fact we were going to write to our mission contact in Bethlehem the night of August 1, 1990. Who would know that on the next day Saddam Hussein's war machine rumbled into Kuwait, and



**Map 1:** Map of the Promised Land for Abraham from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates.

thereafter Scud missiles were raining down on Israel. So our Holy Land Pilgrimage, planned for June 1991 was scuttled by Saddam's Scud missiles. By God's higher plan, however, we were enabled to visit Israel in March 1992 to the delight of everyone of the 49 pilgrims. As this book goes to press, a Fourth Pilgrimage is being considered for March 1993, D.V.

The Land of Israel is known also as a "land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 33:3). During our six-month stay in Israel, 1969-70, we tasted of the goodness of her milk and the sweetness of her honey. We learnt from the grocer the multi-varieties of Israeli honey - orange honey, barley honey, clover honey, wildflowers honey, etc., etc., except durian honey! We discovered that the Jaffa orange is a transplant from America, but it rivals the sunkist. Israel grapefruit, another transplant, tastes even sweeter all because of the rich volcanic soil of the land coupled with a favourable Mediterranean climate. (Israel is the world's No. 2 producer of grapefruit.) We saw how thickly clustered with fruit were their banana plantations, and how below the fruit trees the ground was colonised with beehives. Nowhere in all the world have we seen such productivity upon productivity. "Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the face of the world with fruit" (Isaiah 27:6). It is said that "Israel produces food sufficient for 15 million people. The population is only 5 million, so the surplus food is exported" (Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church Weekly). And has not Singapore profited much in technology by looking up to Israel?

### ***Is This Our Land, Our Beulah Land?***

*(May be sung to the tune: Annie Laurie)*

Caleb says, the Land of Promise  
 God gave to our Fathers  
 Is a land of milk and honey,  
 Brooks, streams, springing waters.  
 If God delight in us,  
 He'll bring us by His Hand,

To this Land flowing milk and honey,  
To this our land, our Beulah Land.

There's a Promised Land to Christians,  
To them who hope in their Lord.  
Not to those who serve half-hearted,  
Who ne'er cast in their lot.  
Will God delight in them,  
And bring them by His Hand?  
To this land flowing milk and honey,  
To this their land, their Beulah Land?

God give us loyal sons like Caleb,  
Who followed Thee to the end.  
Not by might nor power but Spirit,  
Can we take Beulah Land.  
If God delight in us,  
He'll help us by His Hand,  
Conquer this Land far beyond Jordan!  
This Beulah Land, our Promised Land.

What is said above of the fruitfulness of the Land is true especially today as more olim (returnees to Israel) join in the irrigation and cultivation of arid and denuded areas. The grim fact, however, must be told of the Land of Promise that once flowed with milk and honey becoming a wilderness during the latter years of Turkish rule of the Ottoman Empire (1517-1917). This was no doubt a result of the curse put upon a rebellious people by the word of Moses before his death: "The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee. And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced



walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (Deuteronomy 28:49-52).

*Much of the land was owned by absentee landlords and leased out to impoverished tenant farmers. Taxation was as crippling as it was capricious. (According to Dr Howard Carlson, missionary to the Holy Land for over a decade, trees were also taxed. If you cannot pay the tree tax you can imagine what happens to it.)*

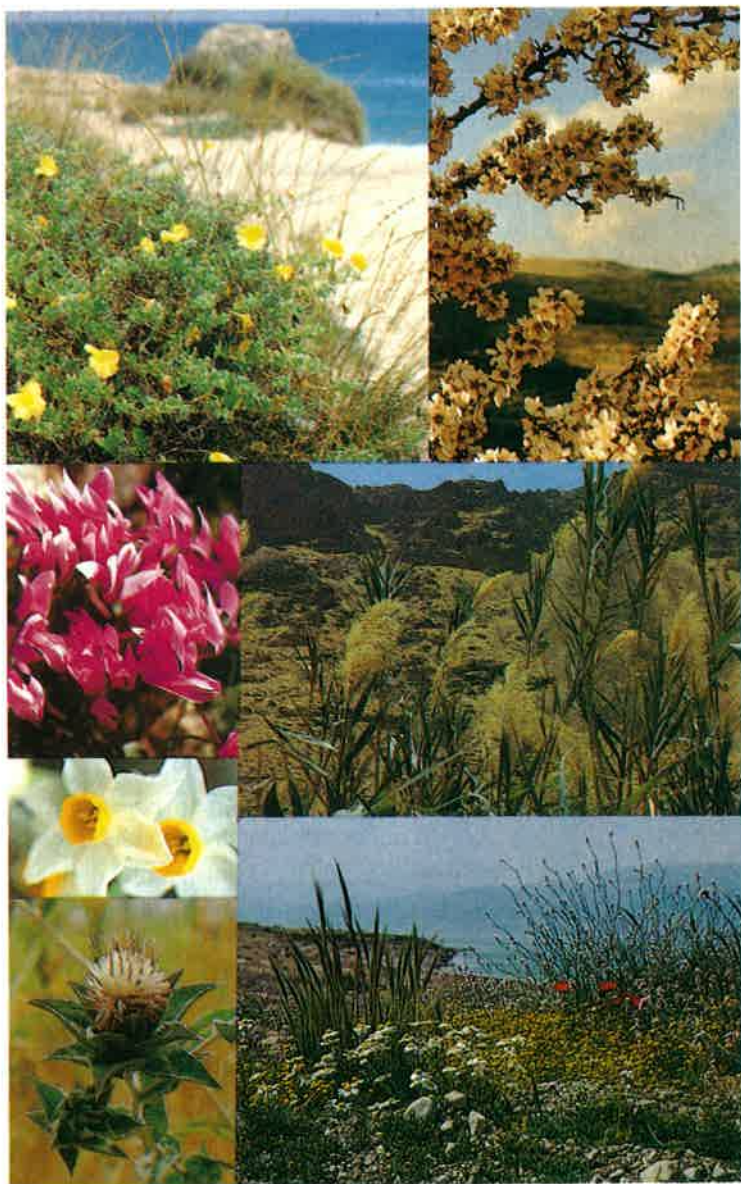
*The great forests of Galilee and the Carmel Mountain range were denuded of trees; swamp and desert encroached on agricultural land.*

*By the beginning of the 19th century the country had become a wasteland and the Jewish communities were largely dependent on donations sent from the Diaspora. The few Jews who came from abroad were, for the most part, religiously motivated to die and be buried in the Holy Land. The second half of the century, however, saw the beginning of efforts to rebuild the land. Jews from Jerusalem started to settle in new neighbourhoods outside the city walls, and to purchase land elsewhere on which they established agricultural villages. These pioneers were joined, from 1882 on, by members of the Hovevei Zion (Lovers of Zion) movement from Eastern Europe, some of whom settled in existing villages, while others founded new ones. The building of the Land went on in spite of the meagre resources of the Jewish community, the Ottoman administrator's hostility and difficult local conditions.*

*(Facts about Israel published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Information Division, Jerusalem 1985).*

Now, after one century of incessant labours, the Land of Promise is flowing with milk and honey again. This restoration of the Land after it has gone fallow under the curse is foretold in Isaiah 35. We quote this marvellous prediction of revival in full.

- 1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.
- 2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and



"A land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8)

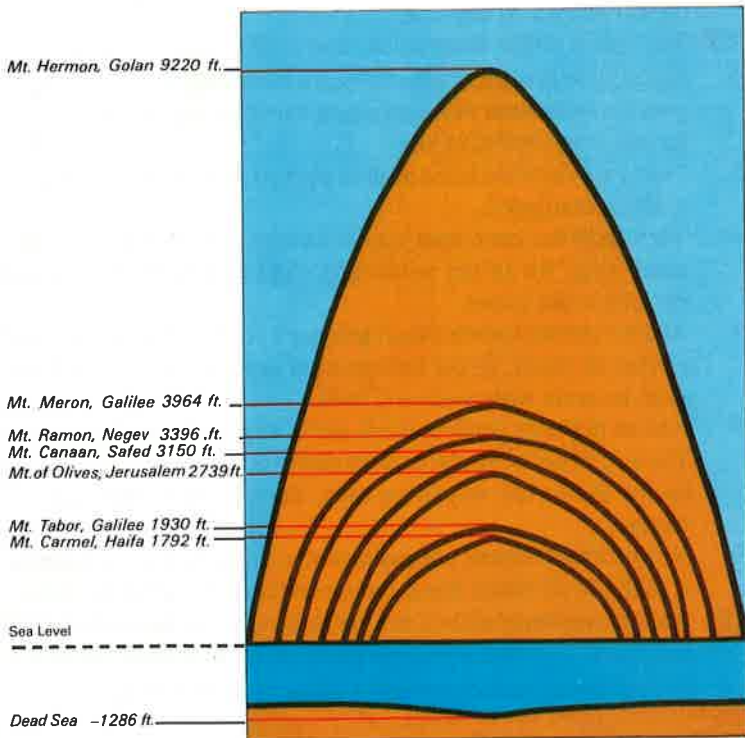
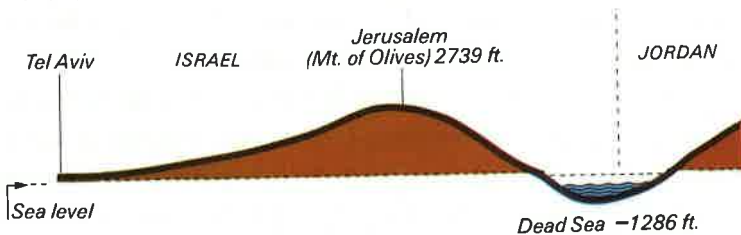
"ארץ זבת חלב ודבש"

- singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.
- 3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.
  - 4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.
  - 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
  - 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.
  - 7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.
  - 8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.
  - 9 No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:
  - 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **Its Preeminent Geographical Position**

Geographically speaking, the Promised Land is situated at the crossroads of the three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa. Israel is deemed to be the centre of the world.

Did you notice how strategic a position Israel holds not only as a crossroads of the three continents, but also as a land served by four seas, as the Chinese saying goes, "accessible from all directions." (四通八达) To the west there is the Mediterranean, also known to ancients as the Great Sea. To the north is the fresh water lake, the Sea of Galilee also called "Sea of Tiberias," "Lake of Gennesaret" and in the Old Testament "Sea of Chinnereth or Chinneroth." It is a natural reservoir thirteen miles long and eight miles wide of sparkling

**Mountains****Topographical Cross-Section**

water gushing down from Hermon and the Lebanese mountains to feed the whole country. In the centre there is the Dead Sea 47 by 10 miles, which is a veritable gold mine of rich minerals. The value of the minerals is estimated to exceed 1,270 billion dollars. This amount would be equal to the combined wealth of the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy (Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations, Paul Lee Tan). Last, but not least, is the Red Sea, which gives Israel an outlet to the Indian Ocean and the Far East. This has not only military but great commercial value. When we went to the Holy Land in 1969, we could send a box of personal belongings very cheaply by "Zim", the Israeli shipping line, which delivered the goods to Jerusalem through Eilat the Red Sea port. When we visited Eilat during our vacation to Israel June, 1991, we saw how its harbour was congested row upon row with the importation of Japanese cars and trucks.

There is a rhyme on these four seas:

*One is blue.*  
*One is dead.*  
*The third is sweet.*  
*And the fourth is red.*

We, who have come to Christ, we who are no less His children, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things (Romans 8:32)? We who inherit a peaceful and prosperous homeland called Singapore, let us also remember Moses' injunction, "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (Deuteronomy 8:7-10). Has not God favoured us in Singapore with a preeminent geographical position as He favours the Land of Israel?

### Energy

Oil imports constitute the main source of energy in Israel and cost a total of \$1.6 billion in 1983, compared to \$1.8 billion in 1982. The decrease resulted in part from improved energy conservation and the use of alternative fuels, mainly coal.

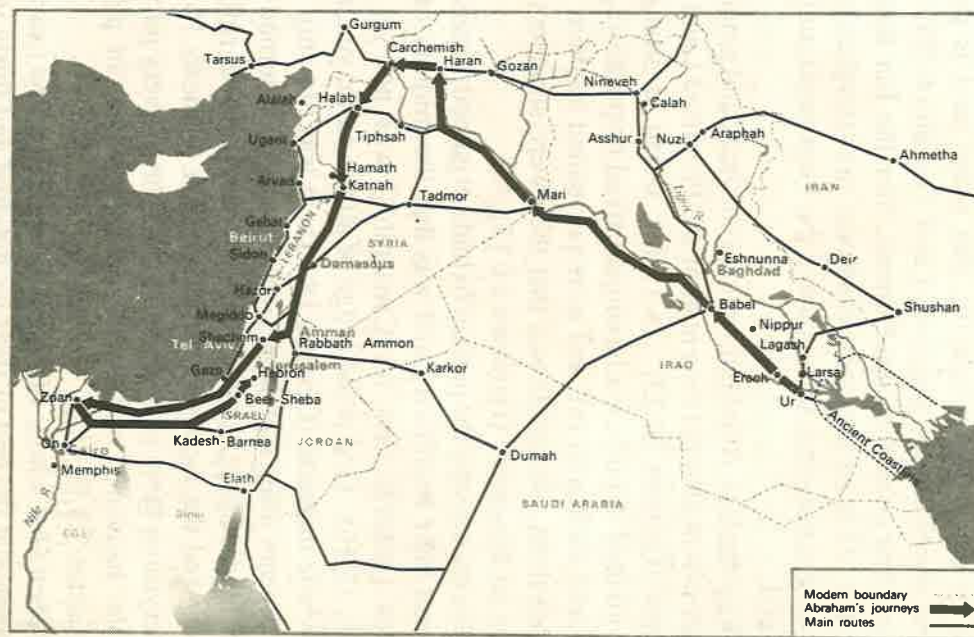
About one-third of fuel imports is consumed in the manufacture of electricity. Total production of

electricity in 1983 was about 13,500 kw/h, of which industry used some 33 percent. Total installed generating capacity exceeded 3,400 MgW by the end of 1983. In order to cope with rising demand and to reduce the cost of fuel imports, three new power units fired by coal, with a generating capacity of 350 MgW each, have been installed. Another is in the process of installation.



*Solar energy stored in high-saline pools near Dead Sea*





Map showing route of Abraham's wanderings and other main routes of the ancient East.

## From Entitlement to Possession

So, God who called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees, which was in the Euphrates estuary in modern Iraq, directed his footsteps to Canaan, which is Israel today. To the Arabs, cousins of the Jews or Israelis, this same land is called Palestine, which means "Philistine Land" (Isaiah 14:29). This word was first coined by the Romans after the Bar Kochba Revolt AD 135 in an attempt to eradicate any reference to the Jewish connection with the country: the Promised Land, the Holy Land.

Nevertheless, Abraham, with his son Isaac and grandson Jacob, in whom also the covenant of the Promised Land was confirmed (Genesis 26:23; 28:13,14), dwelt as strangers. "These all died in faith, not having received its promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded by them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13).

One reason why the patriarchs had not gained possession of Canaan their Promised Land was that the iniquity of the Amorites (general term for Canaanites) was not yet full (Genesis 15:16). God is the Judge of all the earth, yea, even of the whole universe (Genesis 18:25). It was not until four hundred years after Abraham's children had sojourned in a strange land (Egypt) that Canaan would then be ripe for judgment and the land transferred to them (Genesis 15:16). "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven ... a time of war and a time of peace" (Ecclesiastes 3:1,8).

When God's hour of judgment chimed, to be exact, "it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day, it came to pass that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt" (Exodus 12:41). And when Israel had stayed for a season in Horeb (to be exact one year and one month after leaving Egypt, Numbers 10:11), the



Lord instructed Moses, "Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount: Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, and in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates. Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them" (Deuteronomy 1:6-8).

### **Reason for Deprivation of Canaanite Tribes**

In giving the land to Israel, the Lord was depriving the nations that hitherto had been possessors of the Land. Why were these Gentile nations to be dispossessed, yea, exterminated? Because, after four hundred and thirty years since God spoke to Abraham (when the iniquity of the Amorites were not yet full, Genesis 15:16), they were now ripe for judgment. Like Sodom and Gomorrah whose "cry is great and sin is grievous," and God has come to rain down brimstone and fire (Genesis 18:20; 19:24), the seven nations that were greater and mightier than Israel (Deuteronomy 7:1) are to be destroyed. And Israel was God's instrument of judgment. Thus Moses admonished them to consecrate themselves in the jihad (holy war) ahead of them. Israel invaded Canaan at this point of time by what we would call "the punitive will of God."

Moses said, "Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is he which goeth before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the Lord hath said unto thee. Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the Lord thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the Lord hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord doth drive them out from before thee ...



Ivory relief of the bare-breasted fertility goddess of Canaan: from a vault in the harbor area at Ugarit.

"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it...But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them" (Numbers 33:51-53, 55-56).

and that he may perform the word which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Deuteronomy 9:3-5).

### **The Theology of War**

In this mandate to Israel to destroy the Canaanite tribes because of their grievous sins, we can learn one aspect of the theology of war. While there are wars of aggression waged by the strong to eat up the weak, like Saddam Hussein's annexation of Kuwait which must be resisted, there is coming for sure a final world war when He will gather the kings of the whole world to a place called Armageddon as God's means of judging this rebellious earth. For Scripture tells us that it is after the sixth angel had poured out his vial (bowl) upon the great river Euphrates, and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared (Revelation 16:12-16). War comes from the lustful heart of man (James 4:1), but God uses it to fulfil His higher purpose of judgment.

### **"Theoloscope" on the Gulf War**

As to the war that was raging in the Gulf and so vividly captured live on the T.V. it must be seen through our "theoloscope." Theologically speaking the Gulf war was not started by Saddam Hussein or Bush but by God. It comes under the last and most mysterious aspect of His Sevenfold Will which we call the Decretive Will. This is what we call in law the remote cause, but Saddam being the immediate cause cannot exonerate himself. "It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come" (Luke 17:1). God's sovereignty and human responsibility!

Was God using Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait as He used the Assyrian king to invade Samaria? "O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the

people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few. ... For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped (Isaiah 10:5-7; 13-17).

We would not venture to equate Saddam Hussein with the Assyrian king. At any rate, when the Iraqi leader lost the Gulf war, we can safely say he came under judgment of a Righteous God, by His punitive will. Not "Might is right, but right is might." God is still on the throne. Theoloscope!



## **CHAPTER II**

### **DISPOSSESSION AND DISPERSAL**

#### **Condition of Possession**

So the land that was promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob came into Israel's possession substantially under Joshua, successor to Moses but on condition of absolute obedience. In Deuteronomy 28:1, Moses said to Israel, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth."

#### **Dispossession and Dispersal Predicted**

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day, that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee ... And it shall come to pass, that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you: so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. And there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the Lord shall give thee there a



trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind; and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! And at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! For the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see" (Deuteronomy 28:63-67).

### **Curse Repeated**

This curse pronounced by Moses is repeated in Deuteronomy 31:27-29, "For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the Lord: and how much more after my death? Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them. For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you: and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands."

And Moses spake these words to Israel that day:  
 I know you'll turn from my way,  
 And corrupt yourselves everyone through and through,  
 So evil will befall you.  
 Because you'll do evil before the Lord  
 To provoke Him and anger Him,  
 Because you'll do evil before the Lord,  
 Surely He'll cast you away.

### **History of Dispossession and Dispersal**

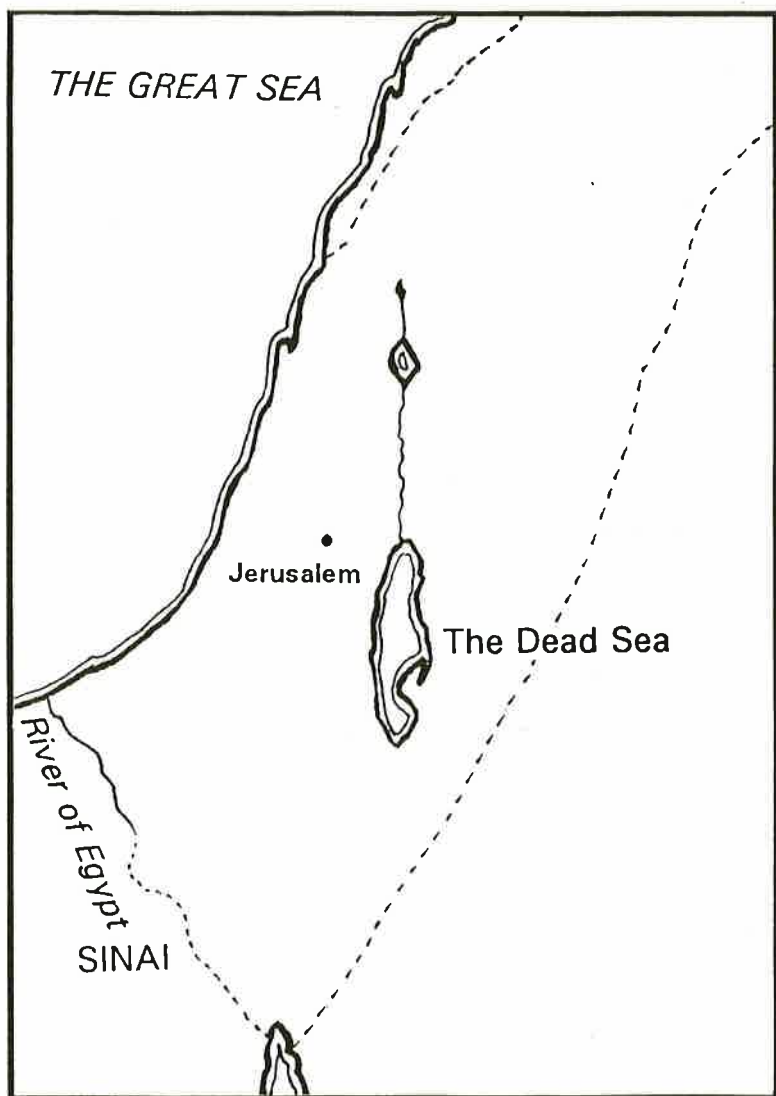
That Israel would turn away from their God happened

too soon! An all-conquering army under Joshua, it began to disintegrate after Joshua and his generation of elders passed from the scene. The book of Judges which follows the book of Joshua tells the story of utter defeat before the enemy. What a contrast between the two books! How true is the saying, "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Without the sustaining grace of God, this is the way of all flesh. Here is a lesson for Singapore. By God's mercies we have prospered under the good government of Lee Kuan Yew. Can we continue to prosper after he is gone?

Nevertheless, the Lord had mercy on His chosen people. He raised them Judges, like Deborah, Gideon, Jephthae, Samson (Hebrews 11:32). He gave them Samuel to revive the people and lead them into the new age of the monarchy. This was in accordance with the Constitution given them by the hand of Moses in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. The monarchy, however, was to be God-appointed, but the people snatched the prerogative to make Saul king. Democracy versus theocracy! This led to Saul's rejection and substitution by David. David was the Lord's choice, for he was a man after God's own heart (I Samuel 13:14).

With the rejection of Saul and divine choosing of David, the land that was promised Abraham, from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates was occupied at last (II Samuel 8:9-10, I Chronicles 18, 19). The power and might of the Davidic Kingdom reached its zenith in the illustrious accession of Solomon, all of which heralded the future millennial Kingdom of Christ, David's Greater Son.

But, alas! Solomon departed from God in his old age so that when his son Rehoboam came to the throne, his kingdom was split in two. The kingdom founded by the great king David was broken into the ten northern tribes of Israel and the two southern tribes under Judah. Does this not reflect on our own situation, the separation between Malaysia and



**Map 2:** Map of Israel at the time of King David and King Solomon (c.a. 1000 B.C.)



Singapore? And does this not reflect on China and Taiwan, North Korea and South Korea, all because of sinful strife?

### **The Kingdom Divided: The Dispersal of the Northern Kingdom**

Henceforth the fortunes of the divided kingdoms began to slide. The Northern Kingdom departed from the true religion by Jeroboam's introduction of gold calf worship. This was followed by Baal worship under wicked King Ahab which necessitated the polemical ministry of Elijah, followed by the healing work of Elisha. We call these two action prophets "The Prophets of Fire and Water."

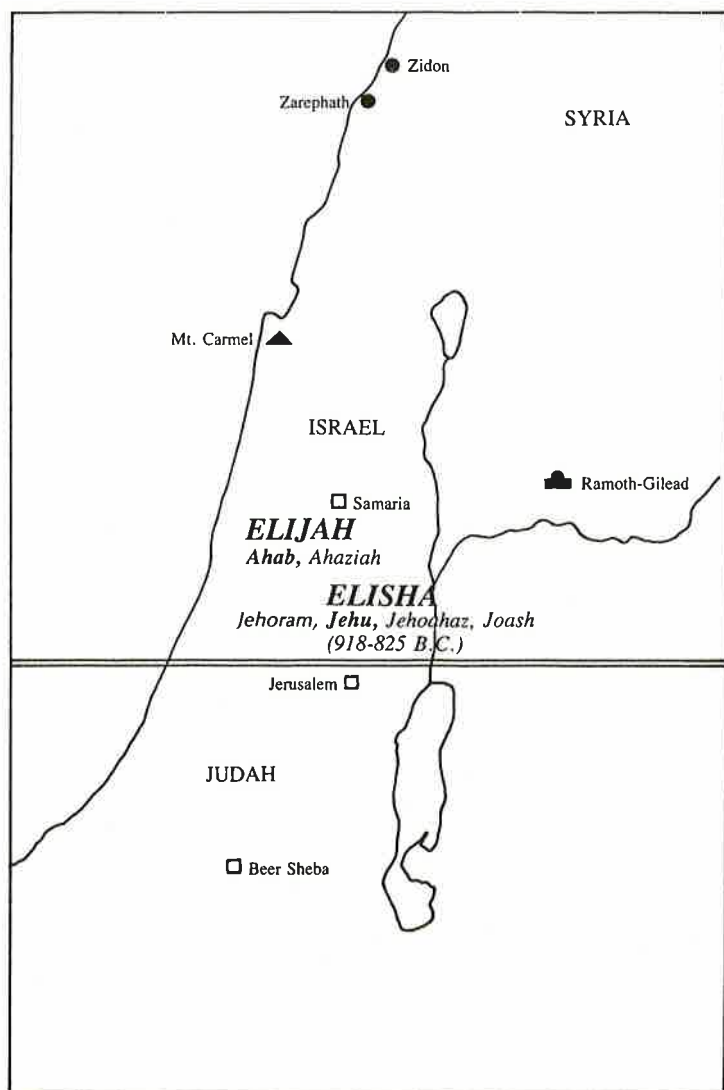
In spite of further reformation efforts by Jehu, the nation plunged into graver sins of idolatry and immorality. God had to judge His wayward people. He raised the Assyrian kings to invade Israel time and again until she was taken into captivity in 722 BC. The warning by Moses of dispossession and dispersal first took effect in the Northern Kingdom. The northern tribes became the lost tribes.

What happens on the national level, happens first to clans and families. How many an illustrious man in the good old days of Singapore is sunk in oblivion today! Yea, even the names of British kings and queens (or British monarchs) who ruled Singapore before WWII, and the names of invading Japanese militarists - the way of all flesh!

As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. (*Psalm 103:15-18*)



*The Times of the Prophets  
of Fire & Water*

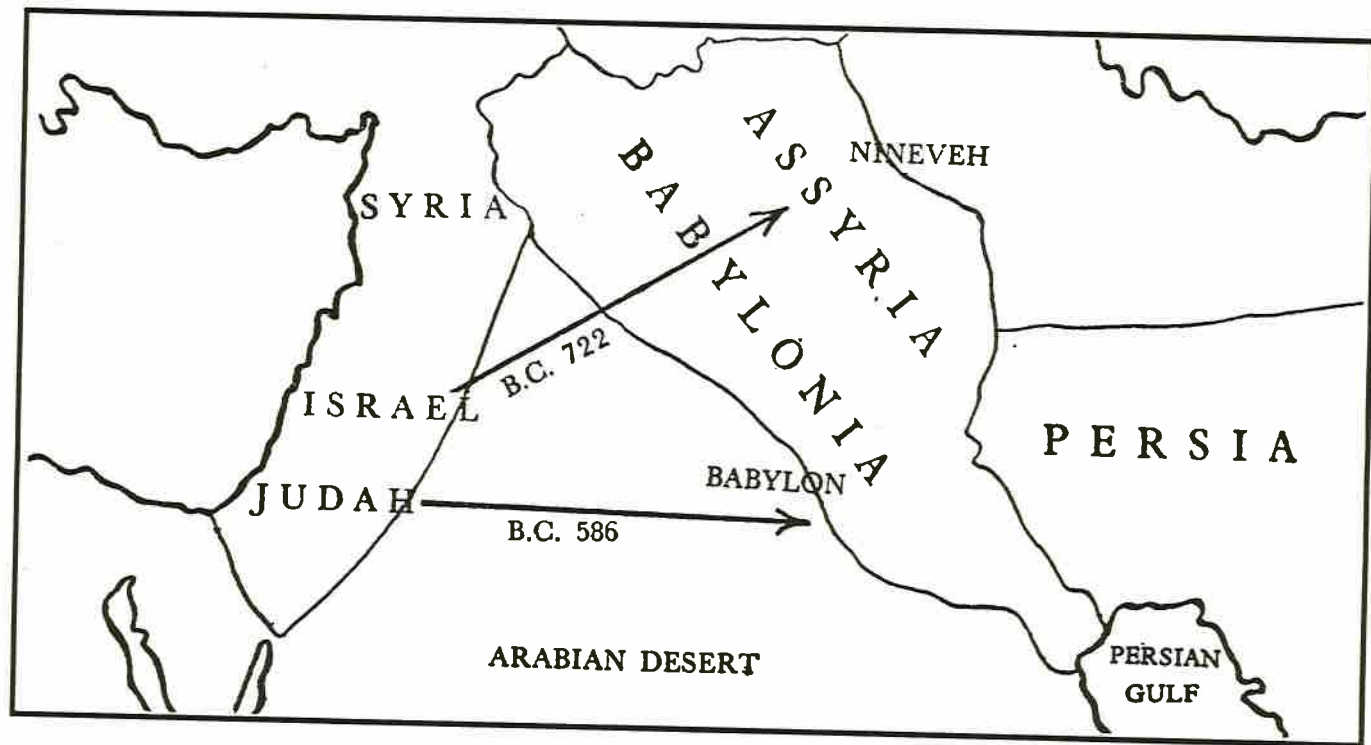
## **The Captivity of the Southern Kingdom to Babylon**

The Southern Kingdom of Judah plodded on. Two reformations were forged by good kings Hezekiah and Josiah, but also to no avail. Judah followed the Northern Kingdom to practise every kind of idolatry and immorality. Thus Isaiah, prophet to Hezekiah, after condemning Ephraim (the Northern Kingdom) denounced Judah (the Southern Kingdom) as well:

Wherefore hear the word of the Lord, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. (Isaiah 28:14-18)

Thus, by the words of the prophet Jeremiah who stood with King Josiah against apostate Judah (Jer 2:5-18), she was doomed to destruction. This was fulfilled in 586 BC when Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian king destroyed Jerusalem and burnt down the Temple, and carried the third and final batch of Jews to Babylon. (Now, ancient Babylonia is modern Iraq!)

Though Judah was taken into captivity to Babylon, God had mercy upon this remnant people because of His covenant with David (II Samuel 7:15,16). God promised through Jeremiah the prophet that He would bring them back to Judah after 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10). To enable the Jews to return to their homeland, God raised up the great Persian king Cyrus. By his hand the Empire of Babylon was subdued.



THE CAPTIVITIES OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

## From the Return from Babylon to the Birth of the Saviour

The Jews were not only allowed to return to Judah but were given every assistance by Cyrus' decree. This was foretold by the prophet Isaiah,

Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers: that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. (Isaiah 44:24-28)

Led by their governor Zerubbabel, the Jews returned in 536 BC and the temple was rebuilt. Under Ezra the scribe, the law of Moses was re-established (458 BC). Last but not least, Nehemiah rebuilt the broken wall of Jerusalem in 445 BC.

After the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem arose the prophet Malachi, but he was the last. Then reigned a silent interlude of 400 years. "But when the fulness of the time was come," says the apostle Paul, "God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law ..." (Galatians 4:4). Jesus, David's Greater Son, was born in Bethlehem according to the prophet Micah (Micah 5:2).

In summary, here is a bird's-eye view of the working out of Stage I: From the call of Abraham and establishing of Israel as a nation to the birth of David's Greater Son, Jesus Christ.

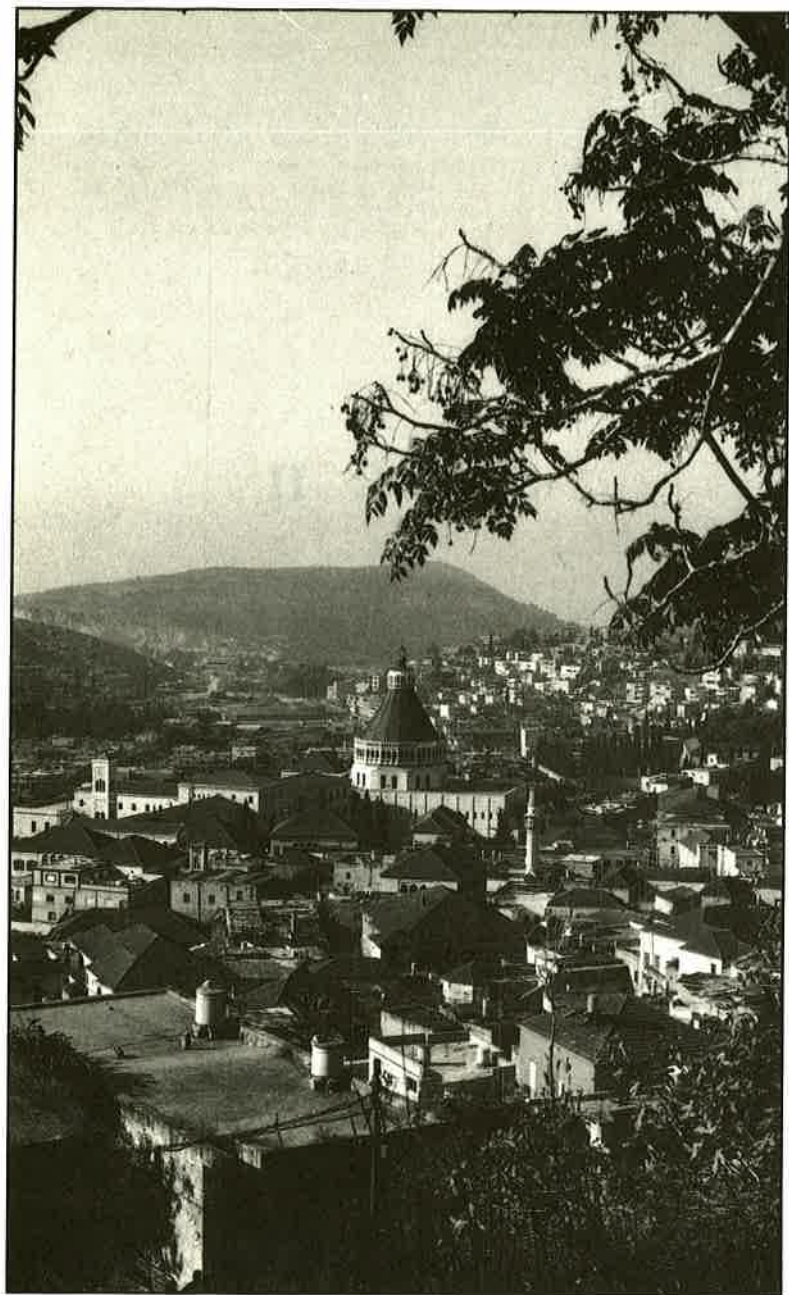
### A BIRD'S EYE-VIEW OF THE WORKING OUT OF STAGE I

| A                                   | B                                   | C                                              | D                        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Hebrew Family                   | The Israelitish Nation              | The Jewish Church                              | The Silent Interlude     |
| Abraham to Joseph                   | Joseph to Zerubbabel                | Zerubbabel to Nehemiah                         | Malachi the Last Prophet |
| 360 years                           | 1,100 years                         | 110 years                                      | 400 years                |
| Abraham<br>Isaac<br>Jacob<br>Joseph | Theocracy<br>Monarchy<br>Dependency | Return<br>Reconstruction<br>Revival<br>Relapse | Birth of the Saviour     |

Adapted and Enlarged from "The Unfolding Drama of Redemption" by W Graham Scroggie

## STAGE II

*From the rejection of the Saviour  
and Dispersal through  
nineteen hundred years to  
Israel's regathering as a nation  
and Christ's Second Coming.*



Nazareth



## CHAPTER III

### SEQUEL TO REJECTION OF THE SAVIOUR

Although the first Christmas carol sung by angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" proclaimed a universal amnesty to all who would repent and believe (Luke 2:14; Acts 20:21), our Lord's mission was logically first to His own kin, the Jews. "For He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Paul declares the same in his letter to the Romans, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first ..." (Romans 1:16).

But when Jesus began to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to his own people, first at Nazareth his home town, He was not only rejected but literally chased out of his community. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour save in his own country and in his own house. And He did not many mighty works (miracles) there because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:57, 58). John in a general introduction of the Saviour in his Gospel sadly tells his readers in advance of the rejection of the Christ, "He came unto His own but His own received Him not" (John 1:11).

The Jews who could not accept Jesus' claim to Deity crucified Him. In the heat of their murderous clamour to a reluctant Pilate they rashly took on the curse, "His blood be on us and on our children" (Matthew 27:25). This self-imposed malediction is much severer than that declared by Moses to

their fathers. The heinous crime of killing the Son of God!

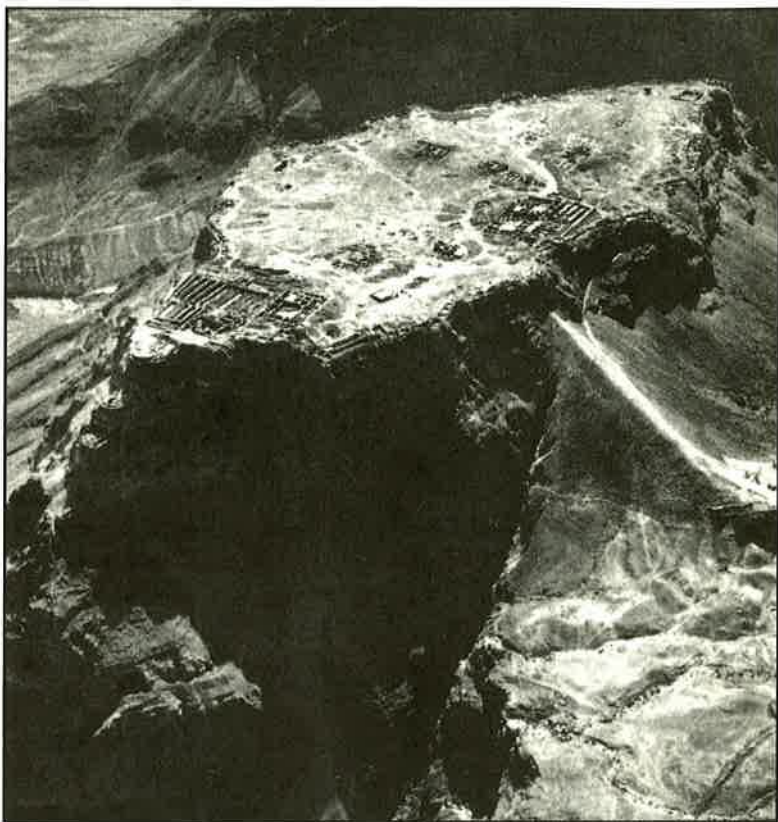
### **The Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD**

And it came to pass that in the next generation, in their children, the curse upon the diehard Jews fell. In 70 AD Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem the Holy City and set it on fire (Josephus). A million souls perished in the flames and by the sword! This destruction was prophesied by none other than our Lord in the Olivet Discourse:

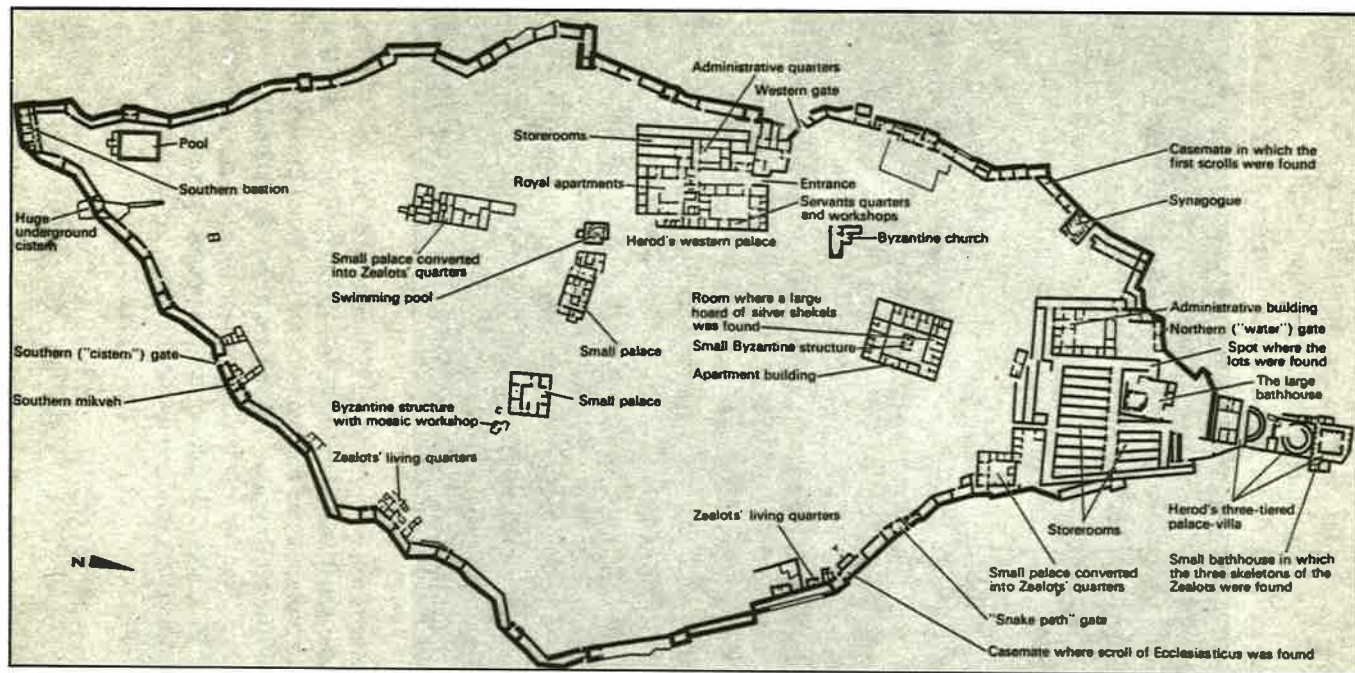
And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (Luke 21:20-24)

### **Massada**

An episode from the Jewish revolt that brought the holocaust upon Jerusalem is the story of Massada. Nearly one thousand Jewish men, women and children who had survived the fall of Jerusalem refused to surrender to Rome. They took over King Herod's fortress on the steep rock-mountain of Massada by the Dead Sea. For three years they managed to hold their own against repeated Roman assaults to dislodge them. When the Romans finally broke through, they found that the Jews had committed mass suicide. Massada has become the Jewish watchword for resistance against the enemy to the bitter end. Massada has become a shrine for the



Massada Fortress is half a mile long, 220 yards wide and rises to 2,000 feet above the Dead Sea. First built by Alexander Jannavs the High Priest, it was reconstructed and embellished by Herod the Great in 40 BC. He "fortified it to protect himself from the Jews should they try to depose him." The fortress was surrounded by an 18 ft wall with 38 towers each 75 ft high. Beside were store houses, barracks, arsenals, cisterns to collect rain water, and a royal palace. What a masterpiece of engineering!



Plan of the fortress of Masada, which became a Zealot stronghold on the outbreak of the First Roman War in 66 C.E. After *Encyclopaedia of Archeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. Jerusalem, 1970.

Jews. It is the symbol of courage and heroism and of the choice of death over slavery.

Only two women who had hidden themselves with five children survived to tell the tale. Josephus wrote, "Far, however, from exulting in the triumph of joy that might have been expected from enemies, they united to admire the steady virtue and dignity of mind with which the Jews had been inspired, and wondered at their contempt of death by which such numbers had been bound in one solemn pact. For the Romans it was a hollow victory." Massada is one place for every pilgrim to visit.

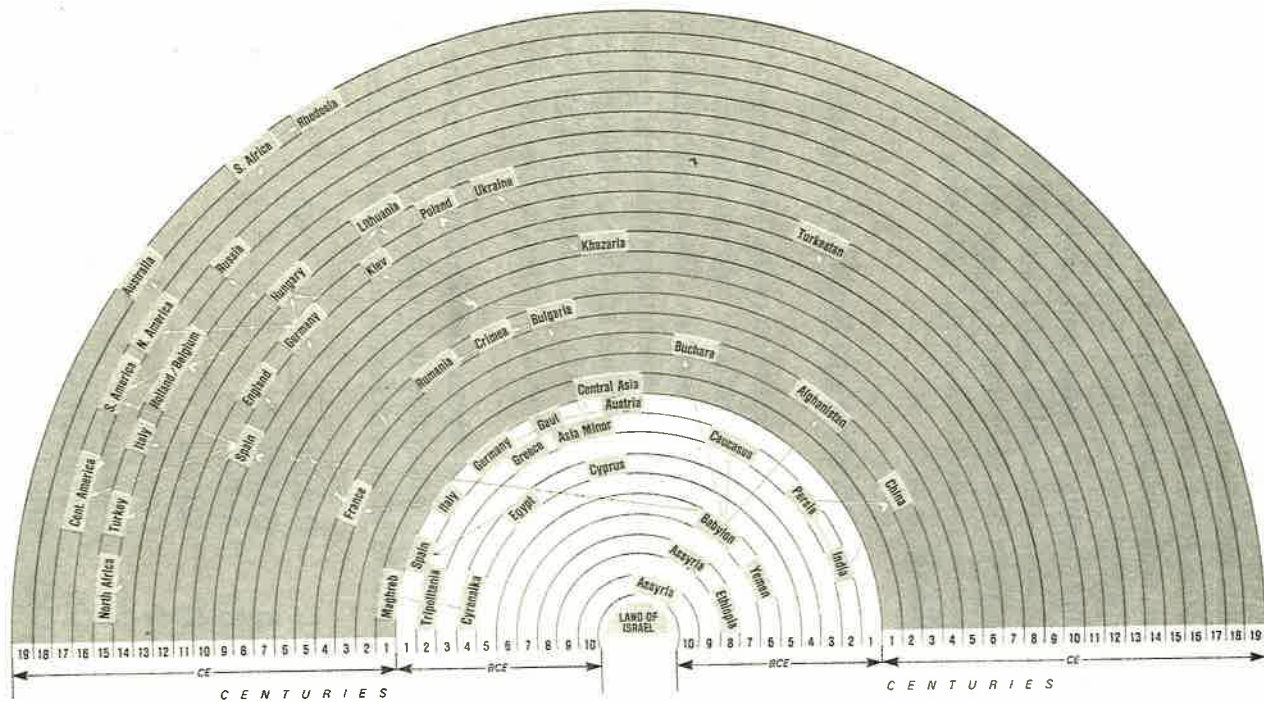
### **The Diaspora and Foreign Conquests**

Following the destruction of the Temple and City in 70 AD a large number of Jews were sold into slavery or exiled to neighbouring or distant countries. Their descendants became the nucleus of the Jewish communities that sprung all over the world, even to this day. When another revolt occurred in the reign of Hadrian 132-135 AD, the scattering of all Jews from their homeland was complete. This is now known as the Diaspora.

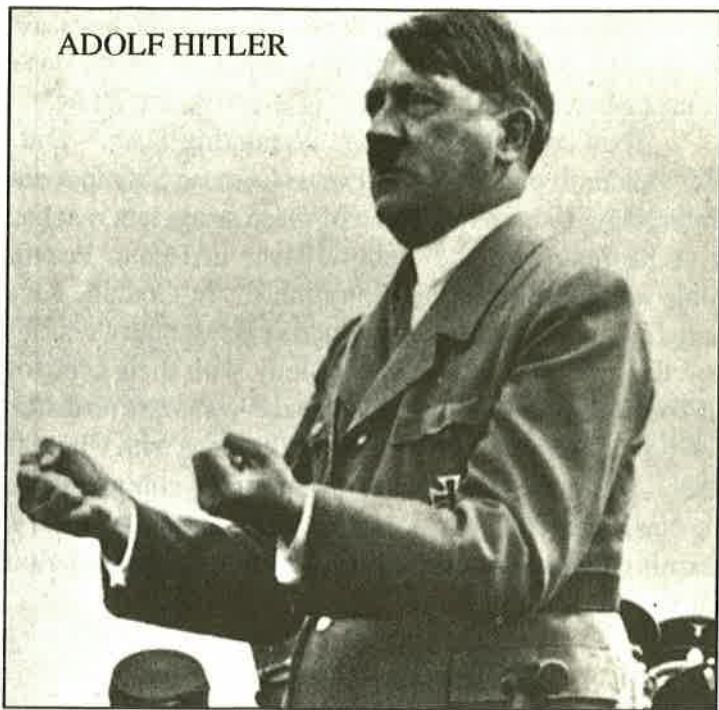
Situated at the junction of three continents the land of Israel has been vulnerable to invasion by stronger powers. Here is a table of the succession of conquests of Israel.

|      |               |    |             |
|------|---------------|----|-------------|
| I    | Romans        | AD | 70 - 313    |
| II   | Byzantines    |    | 313 - 636   |
| III  | Arabs         |    | 637 - 1091  |
| IV   | Seljuks       |    | 1091 - 1098 |
| V    | Crusaders     |    | 1099 - 1291 |
| VI   | Mamluks       |    | 1291 - 1516 |
| VII  | Ottoman Turks |    | 1517 - 1917 |
| VIII | British       |    | 1918 - 1948 |





ADOLF HITLER



Electrified fence inside the camp he had devised to keep the Jews in before liquidation.

While the Land was under foreign rule the Jews, as has been noted above, were a scattered people, "from the one end of the earth even unto the other" (Deuteronomy 28:64).

They became known as "Wandering Jews." Did the Jews wander to the Far East? For us Chinese Singaporeans it is interesting to note that some of these stragglers reached as far as Kaifeng near the Yellow River in Henan Province, China, and established a colony there. In Cochin, Kerala, South India, we had the unforgettable experience of visiting in 1964 the remnants of a Jewish colony with their synagogue and Torah (Law) well preserved. These Jews were no different in complexion from the dark-skinned Indians with whom they lived. And there are Jews of even darker complexion, the Falashas, airlifted back to Israel from Ethiopia in 1991, intermingling with thousands of white Russians in the latest influx.

### **The Holocaust Under Hitler**

Wherever the Jews went they had a hard time. They were persecuted often from pillar to post. The curse they had brought down upon themselves and their children burst forth with hellish fury when Hitler during WWII (1939 - 1945) had six million of them gassed. One third of the Jewish race was extinguished - what genocide of genocides! Over a million of them were innocent children.

While these poor souls tried to eke out a bare subsistence in their ghettos before they were finally taken by the Gestapo (more ruthless than their Japanese counterpart the Kempeitai), how the words of Moses came ringing in their ears: "In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see" (Deuteronomy 28:67).





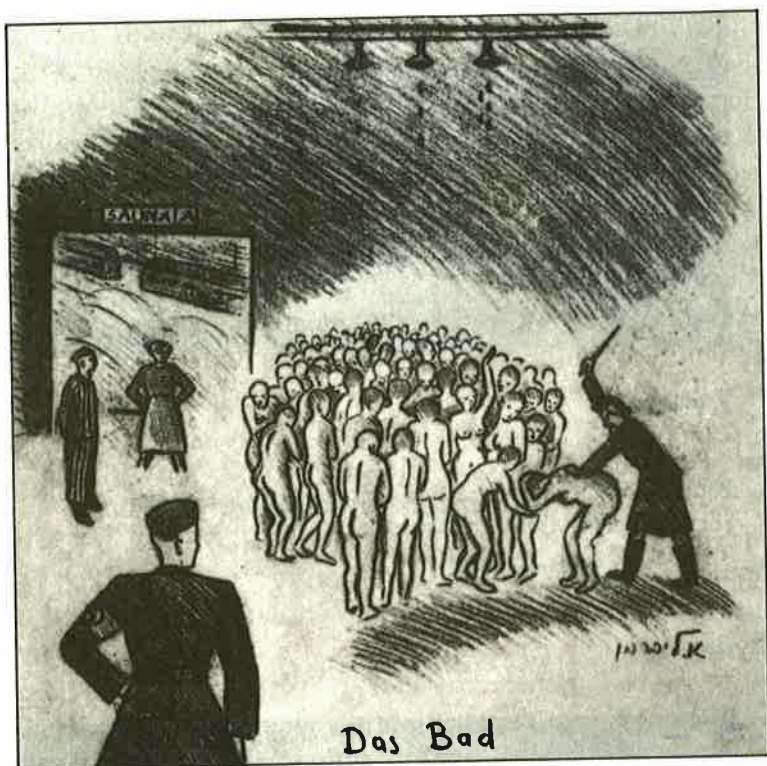
Youngsters

Photographs taken in the Warsaw ghetto by a German war correspondent. Oct. 1, 1940–June 1, 1941. Courtesy Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem.

Old man

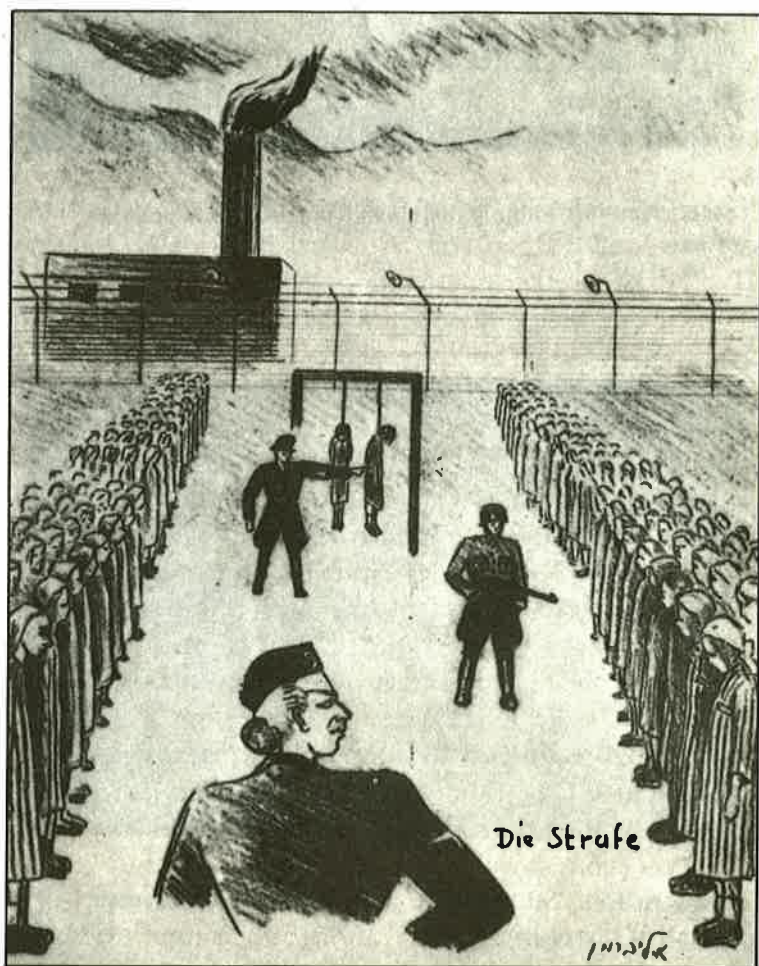


Two drawings from a series depicting daily existence in a concentration camp, by a young girl from Berlin, Elia Lieberman, who lived through the horrors of Polish ghettos, Auschwitz and Ravensbrueck. The drawings were made from memory after her liberation in May 1945. She later settled in Israel. Courtesy Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem.



*Das Bad* means *The Bath (of Death)*. This was a gas chamber, disguised as shower room facilities, with shower room notices in various languages. Zyklon B, a gas employed to destroy insects, was used. Those marked for *Selektion* were forced to run to the "showers" to the accompaniment of a band playing music. Between 700-800 men and women, elderly people and children were crammed into a chamber measuring 25 sq metres (225 sq ft). The cylinders of gas were emptied into the chamber through the showers; the gassing took about four to five minutes, depending on the number of persons in the chamber. Terrible shrieks could be heard from the hermetically sealed chamber when those inside began to suffocate and their lungs burst. When the doors were reopened the Sonderkommando entered to take out the corpses. If anyone was left alive he was beaten to death. The contorted and entangled bodies were separated with axes and

sorted, and after rings and gold teeth were removed and hair was shorn, they were piled in tens for inspection and taken out to be burned. Later furnaces and cremating pits were constructed. As the rate of extermination increased, heaps of ashes accumulated by the pits, whose smoke was visible from far away. The economic exploitation of the corpses involved the extraction of tons of gold teeth and rings, which were sent to the Reichsbank and credited to the SS account; the hair and bones were employed in industry; the ashes were used as fertilizers; and the clothes were sent to other camps after fumigation (p.85-87, Israel Pocket Library, Holocaust).



*Die Strafe* means The Punishment



Mass execution. Photograph taken from a German prisoner of war.



Mass execution. Lithuania, c. 1940. Courtesy Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem.

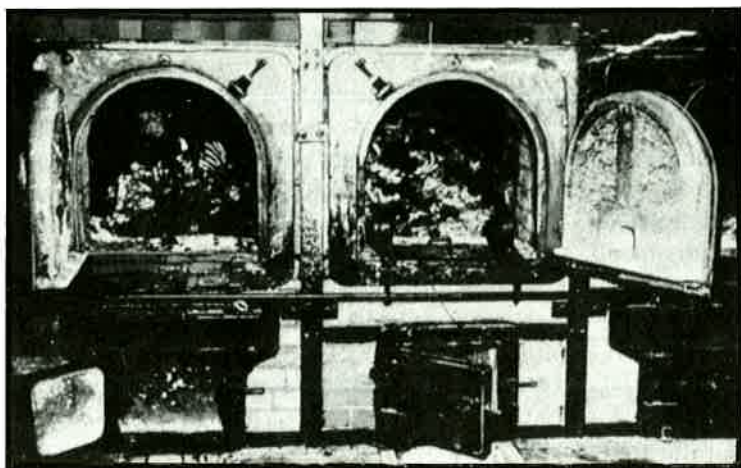


All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it. The Lord hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries. Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease. Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street. Behold, O Lord, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord? The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; thou hast slain them in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, and not pitied. Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the day of the Lord's anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed. (Lamentations 2:16-22)

### **The Holocaust Museum and "Righteous Gentiles"**

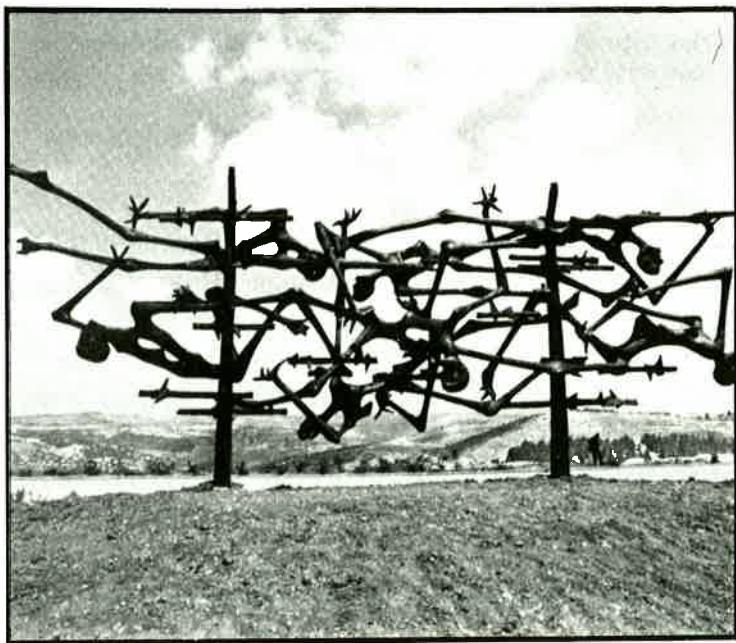
To perpetuate the memory of the sufferings of the Jews under Nazi persecution and extermination, a Holocaust Museum called Yad Vashem has been established in Jerusalem. Outside this Death Museum a forest of trees has also been planted to commemorate those Gentile friends who helped Jews to escape to freedom. Three thousand of these are honoured by the trees planted in their remembrance as "Righteous Gentiles." A bright light shining out of the gloom of the Death Museum is the smuggling of seven thousand Jews, men, women and children out of Denmark to safety in Sweden by the Danish Underground.

Those of you of my generation who underwent the



One of the crematoria.

*Sculpture in memory of concentration and death camp victims, Yad Vashem*



terrors of the Japanese Occupation, 1942-45, can recall vividly the same lamentations of the dispersed Jews. How we also counted the days and the nights as we waited for liberation. With the Gulf War having raged on the TV before our eyes, younger Singaporeans should take stock of their standing before a righteous God. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22,23). With these words Jeremiah expresses the hopes and fears in the souls of the Jewish remnants. The Lord took pity on them as they prayed for deliverance, and not only for deliverance, but return to their homeland, to the land promised to Abraham and their fathers.

Their hopes revived when they also read and reread this specific promise from the mouth of Moses:

And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. (Deuteronomy 30:1-5)

*Again spake Moses to Israel to bless them:  
If you'll from your sins repent,  
Then God the Lord will have compassion on you.  
And gather you back again  
From all the nations where you've been scattered,  
From the uttermost parts of heaven,  
The Lord thy God He will remember again  
To give you your Fatherland.*

## **“Next Year in Jerusalem”**

To keep their chins up while in diaspora the Jews would say, “Next year in Jerusalem,” whenever they bade farewell to one another. The Holy City upon which God had put His seal was remembered and recited from the Psalms again and again: “Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved. And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever. He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:” (Psalm 78:67-70).

## **Prophecies of Israel’s Restoration Fulfilled Before Our Eyes**

When would Moses’ promise of the restoration of Israel from their wanderings and the words of the prophets on the revival of Jerusalem, Mount Zion their Holy City, be fulfilled? After nineteen hundred long, long years of Diaspora, suddenly on May 14, 1948, less than three years after the conclusion of WWII, Israel was reborn before our eyes! An independent sovereign state among the nations!

While we recognise that the rebirth of Israel is a miracle of miracles from God in fulfilment of prophecy, we must not forget His patient working through Providence in bringing about this miracle.

*God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.*

*- William Cowper*



## **The Kibbutz Movement**

First He stirred a handful of Jews to an insatiable desire of returning to their Land to revive it by literally tilling and cultivating it. This was the beginning of the Kibbutz Movement. It is a volunteer movement to live and work together as a community, without private ownership, a Jewish kind of communism whereby their earnings are pooled for further advancement and the remainder equally shared. The first agricultural village Petah Tikvah was established in 1878 near the coastal plain by a group of Jews from Jerusalem. Soon other Jews, following their example, began to settle in areas outside the towns. Successive waves of migration to the Land augmented the Jewish communities which began to organise themselves socially and politically. Golda Meir, lady prime minister of Israel who migrated from the USA to Israel in 1921 to till the land at a kibbutz, was one of the new generation.

## **Zionism**

Second, there was the rising of a national liberation movement of the Jewish people known as Zionism. An official definition of Zionism is given as follows:

The concept of Zionism, the redemption of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel, evolved in Europe during the 19th century. It developed rapidly in response to continued oppression and persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe and increasing disillusionment in the formal emancipation in Western Europe, which had neither put an end to discrimination nor resulted in the integration of Jews into the societies of their countries of residence.

The name Zionism is derived from the word Zion, the traditional synonym for Jerusalem and for the Land of Israel, thus giving expression to the Jewish people's age-old yearning for its return to its homeland and to the revival of its national life. Zionism became a formal political movement with the founding

## One Aspect of Communal Life in a Kibbutz



*For years, children of northern Israel slept in underground shelters*

This is to protect themselves while they slept from rockets fired across the Lebanese border by PLO's and Hizbollahs. Yet, at an ungarded moment during the day, hostile missiles have found their mark on children on the playground. One young child of five was killed by a Hizbollah attack earlier this year (1992).

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty... Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday." (Psalm 91:1,5,6)

of the World Zionist Organization in 1897, at the first Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl, in Basle, Switzerland.

The Zionist movement's programme contained both ideological and practical elements: to carry out the return of Jews to the Land and the social, cultural, economic and political revival in it of Jewish national life; and to attain a publicly recognized, legally secured home for the Jews in their historic homeland, where they would be free from persecution and free to evolve their own life and identity. (*Facts About Israel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Division, Jerusalem, 1985*)

Inspired by Zionist ideology thousands of Jews began to return to their Homeland. Apart from the Kibbutzim (Hebrew plural for Kibbutz), others set up another type of cooperative with private ownership known as the Moshav (plural Moshavim). One of these townships founded by the early settlers consisting of sixty families in 1909 is Tel Aviv. It grew and grew to become the New York City of Israel today.

### **Revival of the Hebrew Language**

Another miracle that occurred by stages was the revival of the Hebrew language long extinct to its common people. A teacher and news editor by the name of Eliezar ben Yehuda (1857-1922) was the man who restored the lost mother tongue by resurrecting it from the Old Testament and from extra-Biblical Jewish literature such as the Mishna and the Talmud. To accelerate the Hebrew-speaking movement, he began with his own family. No one in his house could speak any other language than Hebrew. He saw with prophetic eyes that unless the olim, the returnees from a hundred nations, spoke the national language, there would be no nation. To further popularise the Hebrew language he began to publish two newspapers *Ha Zevi* and *Ha Herut* in 1908.

Today all returnees to Israel who have lost the Hebrew language are given a five-month course on the basics of the language. This crash course is known as the Ulpan. Hebrew

is a simple regular language compared with English. Yet it is no less powerful and it is growing in richness of expression by leaps and bounds in step with the times. Israel is the second foremost nation in the publication of books!

### **The Irresistible Flow of the Olim (Returnees)**

In 1914, at the outbreak of WWI the Jewish community, called the Yishuv, numbered 90,000 in "Palestine." By 1923 there were 180,000. By 1935, 300,000. By 1937, 430,000. By 1945, 500,000. And when independence came in 1948, there were 650,000!

After Independence, immigration became a flood. The first ones to come en masse were 25,000 survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. Altogether 33,000 arrived during the first four months of the State. The new State's first year's total immigrants numbered 204,000. And before three more years passed, an additional 655,000 had entered.

Thus by the end of 1965, the total Israeli population was 2.2 million. By 1969, it was 2.8 million. By 1970, 3 million. By 1976, 3.5 million. Of this population today, one half are now Israel-born, one fourth are of European origin, and one fourth of Afro-Asian origin.

By 1985, Israel's population pierced the 4 million mark of which 83 percent were Jews and 17 percent Non-Jews. Thanks to Gorbachev's *Perestroika* and *Glasnost*, the gate of emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel flew wide open. 300,000 Jews from the frozen lands of the North flowed like a tidal wave to the Fatherland by planes and ships, and it is expected that another million will come in the next few years. Israel's population today exceeds 5 million!

The prophet Isaiah foresaw all this:

Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee,

and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. (Isaiah 49:8-11)

“Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee” (Isaiah 60:8,9). In this tidal wave of the olim, the prophet Isaiah sees them flying in as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows. Are these not those who land daily at Ben Gurion Airport by the planeloads?

But there is also reference to the ships “to bring thy sons from far.” In the Jerusalem quarterly publication *Christians and Israel* (Vol. 1 No. 2 Spring 1992), there is this latest “Aliya” report: *1,400 RUSSIAN OLIM ARRIVE IN ISRAEL BY SHIP*.

*In recent months, nearly 1,400 Jewish olim (immigrants) from the former Soviet Union have made the journey to Israel by ship - thanks to the efforts of the Ebenezer Emergency Fund. This evangelical Christian organization, based in England, worked in cooperation with Ofek Aliya, a private Israeli group.*

*The vessel employed, the “Mediterranean Sky,” has made the voyage from Odessa to Haifa and back three times so far. Further voyages depend on raising additional funds.*

No, these are not my bags ...



An elderly Soviet Jewish immigrant just arriving at Tel Aviv airport waits by the conveyor belt for his bags. The floor of the terminal building is covered with bags belonging to new immigrants. Israel took in about 200,000 immigrants last year. About 100,000 are expected this year. -- AP picture.

If you are looking for our Lord's return, here is **ONE SURE SIGN!**

ALIYA - "ingathering of the exiles", Jews of the Diaspora returning to their native Israel since independence and rebirth of the nation in 1948, is **ONE SURE SIGN** of our Lord's imminent return. The waves of immigration have swelled to a flood since the Soviet Union relaxed its laws on Jewish migration. In 1990 alone some 200,000 have returned to the land.

The prophetic significance of ALIYA lies in the fact that these Jews migrated to Israel by choice. They could have gone to some other country such as USA or Canada or Australia, which would offer prospects of a better life, compared to Israel with its high taxes, high cost of living, limited natural resources, and above all, the constant threat of war.

Against all ordinary reasoning and human considerations, the dispersed Jews are heading for Israel. This strange and in some ways inexplicable return was foretold by Moses 3,500 years ago, according as he received it from God. Even more strange, it was foretold while the children of Israel were still in the wilderness, and had not yet set foot in the Promised Land.

But the Lord God whose word standeth sure had this to say: "I am God, and there is none else; I am God; and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Is 46:9,10).

Of His people Israel, the Lord had foretold their dispersal into captivity, but in the end there would be a return to the land. In that day "the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will gather thee from all nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee ... And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers" (Deut 30:3-5).

- Banner Jan-Mar 1991

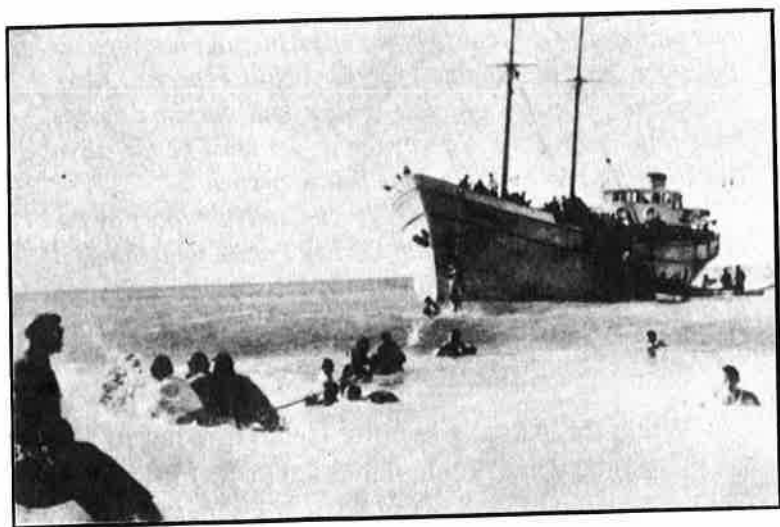
*Making the trip by sea offers at least two advantages over air travel: Olim can bring as much luggage as they like; and some Jews are unable to fly for health reasons. Also, Absorption Ministry officials, police and customs agents have time during the sea voyage to get most of the aliya (immigration) formalities done before arrival ...*

*The first ship of olim was greeted at Haifa port by the Minister of Absorption, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, who thanked the Ebenezer group for its efforts on Israel's behalf. Ebenezer had already funded the aliya of several hundred Russian Jews by air.*

While the Aliya is seen by Isaiah flowing in "grand style" like a tidal wave, Zechariah is led to peer into the early beginnings, attended with many difficulties and frustrations: "And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and he shall smite the waves of the sea..." (Zechariah 10:11).

When Palestine was under British Mandate (1918-48) Jewish returnees would enter their homeland at the rate of 1,500 per month by boat. This was beyond the limit laid down by the White Paper. The "illegal" immigrants would be deducted from the official quota.

In spite of this deduction, "illegal" boats continued to arrive in 1947. Two of them, the *Dov Hos* and the *Eliyahu Golomb* with 1,000 passengers aboard were ready to sail from Italy when the British authorities tried to prevent their departure. This attempt and the ensuing hunger strike by the refugee passengers roused world opinion and the British were obliged to let them sail. "Deliver me out of the mire and let me not sink; let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters. Let not the water flood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me" (Psalm 69:14,15).



"Illegal" immigrants disembarking from the S.S. *Shabbetai Luzinski* at Ashdod, 1947. Courtesy Haganah Historical Archives, Tel Aviv.



"Illegal" immigrants entering life rafts from which they boarded the Haganah ship *Unafraid*, Italy, 1947. The ship was intercepted by the British and the passengers sent to detention camps in Cyprus. Courtesy Associated Press.



## **RETURN FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH**

The most wide-angled prophescope on the regathering of the Jews is given by Isaiah in Chapter 11:11, 12 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." And when these outcasts of Israel are gathered they will be united as one. "The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim" (verse 13). This unity of all the sons of Jacob in a multi-partied State is declared in the Proclamation of the State of Israel by David Ben Gurion the first Prime Minister as follows:

### **Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel**

ERETZ ISRAEL (Land of Israel) was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades

they returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma'pilim and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community, controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodor Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

This catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the home-land wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully-privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the

United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate, being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October, 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the

29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE ALMIGHTY, WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5th DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14th MAY, 1948).

### **HATIKVAH** **The National Anthem**

So long as still within our breasts  
The Jewish heart beats true,  
So long as still towards the East,  
To Zion, looks the Jew,  
So long our hopes are not yet lost ---  
Two thousand years we cherished them ---  
To live in freedom in the land  
Of Zion and Jerusalem.



#### The Flag of the State of Israel

"The *tallit* in which we wrap ourselves when we pray... is our symbol. Let us take this *tallit* from its bag and unroll it before the eyes of Israel and the eyes of all nations. So I ordered a blue and white flag with the Shield of David painted on it" (David Wolfsohn, 1897). From the time that this flag was presented at the First Zionist Congress, it became the flag of the Zionist movement and of the Jewish community in the Land of Israel. In World War II, it was the official flag of the Jewish Brigade and, in 1948, it was adopted as the national flag of the State of Israel.



#### The Emblem of the State of Israel

The official emblem of the State of Israel is the *menorah*, ancient symbol of the Jewish people. The menorah is surrounded by two olive branches representing the Jewish people's yearning for peace, linked together by the word Israel written in Hebrew.



Map 3: Map of Israel today

Immediately following the prophecy of Israel's coming together as a united nation, no more as in the days of the Divided Kingdoms of the Northern Ten Tribes and the Southern Two Tribes, Isaiah sees the young nation at war with her immediate neighbours. "The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. and the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod" (Isaiah 11:13-15). From these three verses are unfolded a successive number of battles fought between Israel and her neighbours, the Philistines on the west and those of the east; Edom, Moab and Ammon and Egypt. It is easily identifiable that the Philistines on the west answers to the Gaza Strip, those of the east are the Syrians (see II Kings 13:17), while Edom, Moab and Ammon are the ancient lands now under Jordanian jurisdiction.

### ***O ISRAEL, GIVE EAR TO ISAIAH***

*O Israel, give ear to Isaiah:  
He foretold your Aliyah!  
Not by might, nor power but Spirit,  
Your God, Yaweh-Jireh.  
Before Messiah come,  
He'll bring your long lost sons  
From four corners of earth to Zion.  
Zion, O Zion, Jerusalem!*

*God shall save your sons from evil:  
North, south, east, west, like a swarm.  
Philistines, Edom and Moab,  
Hordes from the East, Ammon!  
From thee their hosts shall flee,*

*My Spirit them shall drive,  
Dryshod men cross the Egyptian Sea.  
Zion, O Zion, look now and live!*

*Who is the Messiah that shall come?  
The Stem of Jesse is He!  
E'en the Greater Son of David,  
Jesus the Son o' Mary.  
He'll judge the Earth in Truth,  
By Spirit Sevenfold.  
The lamb shall have no fear of the wolf,  
Come now to Zion the Age of Gold.*

*(May be sung to the tune: Annie Laurie)*

The successive battles fought by Israel with these identified neighbours including Egypt, are described officially as One Long War. For the details of each battle it is profitable to reproduce the Table as given by *Facts About Israel*, published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1985.

## ONE LONG WAR

### War of Independence: May 1948 - July 1949

- Causes:** Arab rejection of November 1947 UN Partition Plan gives rise to escalating attacks on Jewish community in Palestine, continuing until British Mandate terminated on 14 May 1948.
- Response:** On 15 May 1948 the regular armies of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, and a Saudi Arabian contingent, invade the new state. War fought intermittently for over a year; Israel Defence Forces (IDF), although poorly armed and vastly outnumbered, repulse Arab assault.
- Outcome:** By July 1949 separate armistice agreements signed with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, based on cease-fire lines. Armistice agreements intended to facilitate transition to



permanent peace.

### **Sinai Campaign: October 1956**

- Causes:** Arab violations of 1949 armistice agreements, particularly escalating acts of terror and sabotage, culminate in Egypt's blockade of Israeli shipping through Straits of Tiran.
- Response:** IDF move against Egyptian bases of attack in Gaza and Sinai Peninsula, capturing both areas.
- Outcome:** In March 1957, in exchange for promises that attacks would cease and that there would be no more maritime blockades, Israel returns territory to Egypt. The promises were not kept.

### **Six-Day War: June 1967**

- Causes:** Egypt, in concert with other Arab states, moves massive forces across Sinai towards Israeli border and, simultaneously, orders UN peace keeping force out of area. Straits of Tiran again closed to Israeli shipping.
- Response:** Israel destroys Egyptian air force on ground. Jordan attacks Israel on eastern flank and Syria joins war in north. Israel, fighting on three fronts, takes control of Judea-Samaria, Gaza district, Sinai and Golan Heights.
- Outcome:** Israel's hope of early peace settlement with Arab neighbours, based on return of territories, dispelled by "Three No's" promulgated at Khartoum Summit on 1 September 1967: "No recognition. No negotiation. No peace." In Spring 1969 Egypt launches "War of Attrition," with shelling attacks across Suez Canal cease-fire line. Israel responds in kind, also using air force in attempts to knock out Egyptian

positions. War ends in August 1970, with cease-fire-and-standstill agreement. Egypt immediately violates standstill by moving new missile batteries into Suez area.

### **Yom Kippur War: October 1973**

**Causes:** In an another attempt to destroy Israel, Egypt and Syria launch simultaneous surprise attacks on Israel.

**Response:** IDF, after suffering heavy losses, repel invading armies on both fronts. US-sponsored cease-fire ends more than two weeks of fighting.

**Outcome:** Cease-fire arrangements with Egypt superseded by series of interim agreements (1974, 1975) that turn out to be forerunners of Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty of March 1979. Cease-fire agreement with Syria results in Israel withdrawal on the Golan Heights, including the return of Kuneitra to Syria.

### **Operation Peace for Galilee: June 1982**

**Causes:** PLO terrorists, having installed themselves in southern Lebanon and established military bases on territory adjacent to Israel's northern border region (Galilee), launch heavy artillery and rocket attacks against Israel.

**Response:** Israel enters Lebanon to destroy PLO bases along Israel's northern border.

**Outcome:** Bulk of PLO forces, their leaders, military installations and organizational facilities removed from southern Lebanon.

### **The Turning Point**

In June 1977, Prime Minister Menachem Begin invited

the heads of the governments of Jordan, Egypt and Syria to meet with him and end the state of war. Only President Sadat of Egypt accepted the challenge.

The Egyptian president's historic meetings with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem, 19-21 November 1977, led to peace talks between Egypt and Israel, the first direct peace negotiations between Israel and any Arab state. The Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty, based on the framework set forth in the Camp David Agreements of September 1978, was signed in Washington on 26 March 1979, with American President Jimmy Carter as witness. This event marked a major breach in what had been a solid front of Arab hostility and non-recognition.

In April 1982, under the terms of the Treaty, Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula, relinquishing the buffer zone between it and its most powerful Arab neighbour, in expectation of the opening of a new era, free from fear of political pressure, economic strangulation and more wars.

Although, to date, Israel's other neighbours still refuse to recognize it and to join in the peace process, an alternative to war has emerged for the peoples of the region.

### **Israel - Lebanon**

The boundary line between Israel and Lebanon is the armistice line established after the 1948 War of Independence, which since then has not been challenged by either side.

However, the establishment of a major base for terrorist activities by the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) in southern Lebanon, and the inability of the Lebanese government to prevent terror attacks launched from its territory against the towns and villages of northern Israel, caused Israel to take steps to defend its sovereignty.

Operation Peace for Galilee in June 1982 succeeded in removing the PLO from the area adjacent to Israel's border. Israel now expects Lebanon to prevent all hostile

acts from its territory against Israel and will continue to work towards establishing mutual peaceful relations between the two countries based on open borders and common interests.

### **Israel - Syria**

While in Syrian hands, the Golden Heights, a plateau dominating Israel's Hula Valley and Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), had been exploited to disrupt civilian life in Israel by shell and sniper fire. In the 1967 Six-Day War, the Heights were taken by Israel. As part of the disengagement-of-forces agreement at the end of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel withdrew from a strip along the eastern part of the Heights, leaving a 556 square mile area essential for its security.

The continued rejection by Syria of a negotiated peace led Israel to provide a legal framework ensuring the local population (12,000 Druze, 6,700 Jews) facilities and services in all facets of their daily life. On 14 December 1981, the Knesset applied Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to the Golan Heights.

### **Israel - Jordan**

Since the 1967 Six-Day War, the demarcation line between Israel and Jordan has been the Jordan River, with Judea and Samaria under Israeli administration. These areas, situated on the west bank of the Jordan River, were part of the territory of Palestine entrusted to Britain in 1922 by the League of Nations. Immediately following Britain's withdrawal from Palestine in 1948, the War of Independence broke out, as a result of which Judea-Samaria came under Jordanian control. This area, some 70 miles long and 30 miles wide, came under Israel's administration as an outcome of the June 1967 war.

Judea-Samaria has strategic importance for Israel's security, as its mountain ranges dominate Israel's narrow coastal plain to the west, where over two-thirds of the population, industry and communications centres are

concentrated. From the Jordan River to Jerusalem, the capital, is a distance of only 20 miles, while from Tel Aviv to the pre-1967 lines it is barely half that. Any future border arrangement must include a guarantee of the viability and maintenance of peace.

The Camp David Agreements, formulated by Israel, Egypt and the United States, include a framework for determining the final status of Judea-Samaria, as well as the narrow, 21 mile-long Gaza district on the Mediterranean coastline between Israel and Egypt, which has also been under Israeli administration since 1967. This framework calls for negotiations among all the parties concerned to be held during the latter part of a five-year transitional period intended to give both Arabs and Jews time to find ways to coexist. A durable, just and lasting peace in the region will only be possible when both sides have learned to live together.

After the Gulf War in 1991 there was started a new movement to draw Israel and the Palestinians to direct peace talks under the aegis of the United States in Washington. The desire for peace is expressed by both sides, but the eruptions every now and then from the Intifada (the Palestinian uprisings) have retarded its progress. The Ambassador of Israel to Singapore in his message on Israel's Independence Day 1992 in *Israel Review*, Vol 17 No. 2, May 1992 expresses the same hope though he noted the most recent clashes, "That the Peace process is finally underway, and is likely to be achieved next year or the year after, makes this Independence Day even more special. Sadly it was preceded by a rash of senseless violence, and much loss of innocent lives. The memory of the Buenos Aires and Ankara bombings is still fresh, but it was even so in Jewish history. A payment in blood heralded each step forward. My prayer, on this Independence Day is that the coming peace breaks the murderous pattern."

We wish both Israelis and Palestinians well. With Israel's Labour Party winning the Elections July, 1992 under

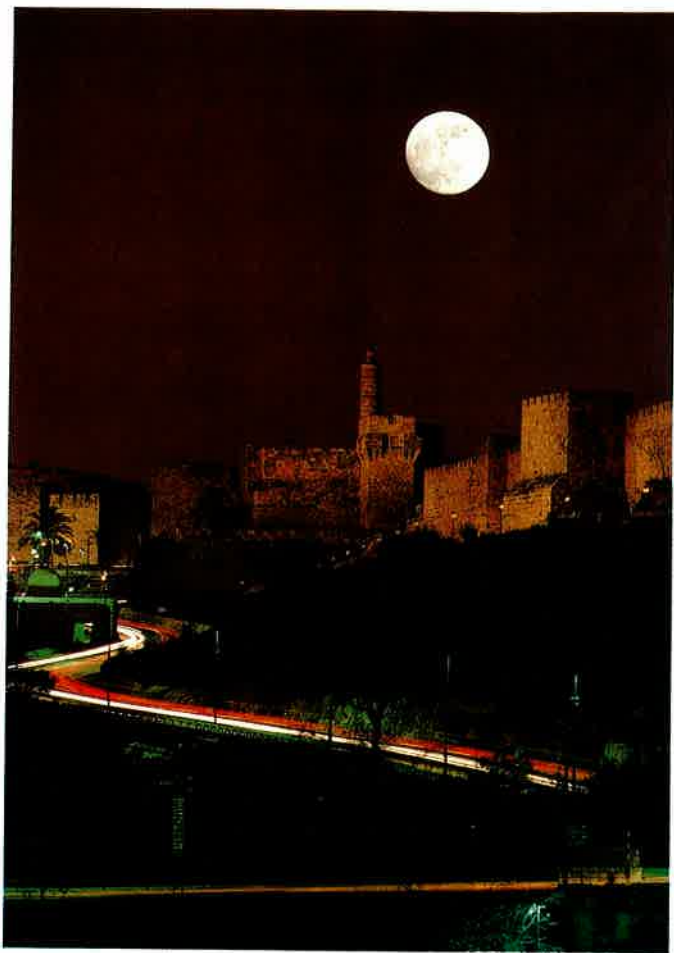
the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin, a new initiative for Peace is made to the Palestinians (*The Straits Times*, July 19, '92). This pleases President Bush mightily, so he is sending Secretary of State James Baker to the Middle East "to get the ball rolling again" on peace negotiations.

In a speech presenting his government to parliament for approval, Mr Rabin said Arab leaders could come to Jerusalem or he could go to their capital to seek a breakthrough in the peace talks. He also put forward the idea of informal meetings with negotiators from Jordan and Palestinians in Jerusalem. Mr Rabin said that his government would "refrain from any steps and activities that would disrupt" the peace talks, a reference generally understood to mean building of Jewish settlements in occupied Arab areas, ie. the West Bank and Gaza strip.

In this connection Mr Baker said it would be all right with the Bush administration if Mr Rabin or Arab leaders came up with a formula for talks that differed from the one he developed during six trips to the Middle East last year (1991). Will this new initiative under Israel's Labour Government with the Arabs succeed?

Whether it succeeds or otherwise, let not Christians be lulled by the peace talks to slumber. Let us be warned by the apostle Paul, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child: and they shall not escape" (I Thessalonians 5:3). How many a woman has been overtaken by the stork - in old times in rickshaws, in taxis, and now even in airplanes!

In the light of Scripture Israel will enjoy three-and-a-half years of peace under the umbrella of the end-time World Dictator (Daniel 9:27), and only three-and-a-half years, for great will be the Tribulation of the second three-and-a-half years as reiterated in Revelation 11:2. (The end-time World Dictator will rule one week of years (seven) before he is deposed by the Second Coming of the Messiah.)



*Jerusalem: one city, indivisible*  
TISHREI - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER  
"He appointed the moon for seasons" (Psalms 104:19)

Alas, there will be no permanent peace between Israel and Arabs, and for that matter in any part of the world, until the Prince of Peace Jesus Christ the Messiah returns to judge the earth. The plaque presented by the defunct Soviet Union to the United Nations at the inauguration, "... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" does not bring peace because they have left out the preamble "And he shall judge among the nations and shall rebuke many people" (Isaiah 2:4).  
*(Encyclopaedia of 7700 Illustrations)*

### **YERUSHALAYIM, MESSIAH IS COME**

*Yerushalayim, thy sons and daughters love thee!  
 Two thousand years they've wandered in exile.  
 Now by God's grace, they're gathered to thee in peace,  
 By thy embrace, their weeping turns to smile.*

*Chorus:*

*Yerushalayim, let peace and freedom ring,  
 To thee Shalom, to thee Shalom!  
 Yerushalayim, lift up thy voice and sing,  
 Messiah is come, Messiah is come!*

*Yerushalayim, behold Christ Jesus has come  
 To save thy sons, if they will turn to Him.  
 By death and pain, He has become their ransom.  
 Rising again, He has forgiven their sin.*

*Yerushalayim, behold Messiah shall come  
 To save thy Land, when thou shalt cry to Him.  
 He comes on clouds, with awesome loud trumpet sound  
 To judge the earth - peace a millennium.*

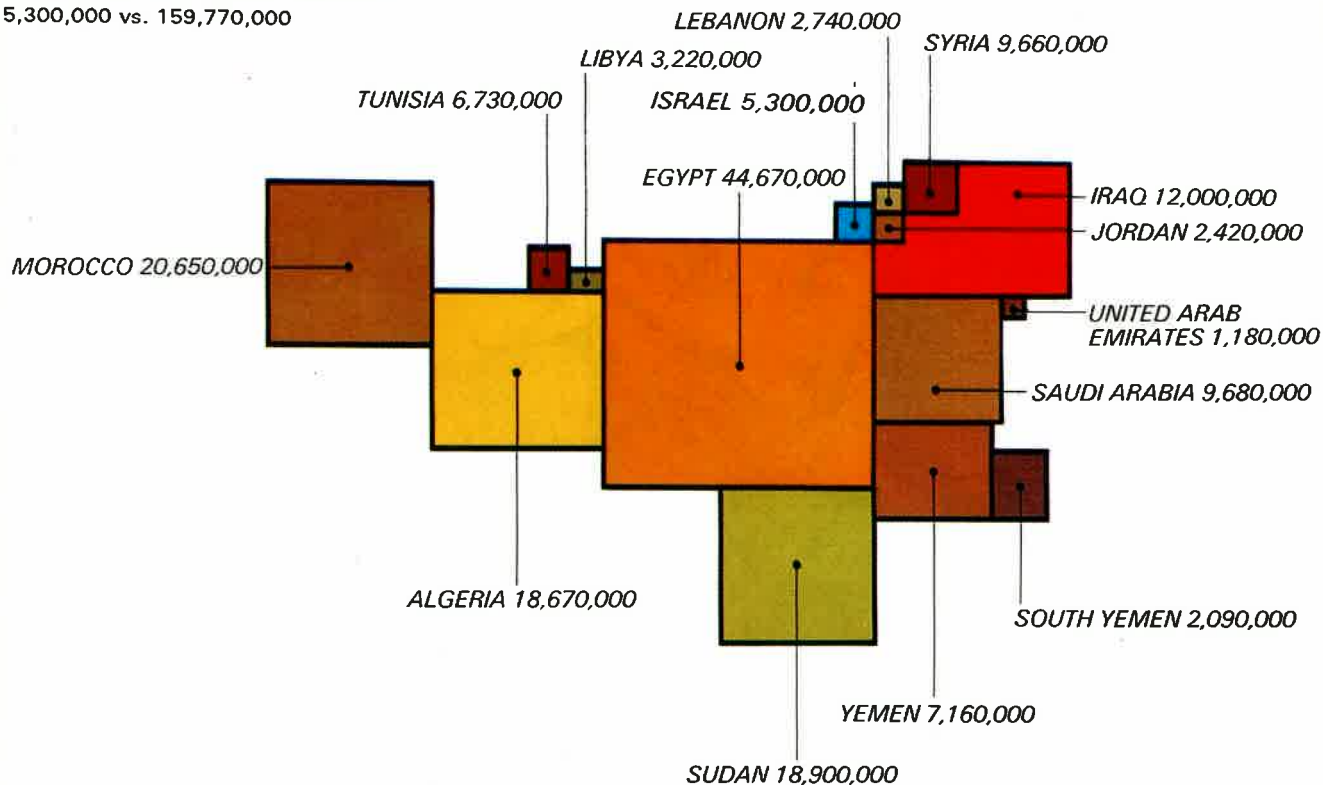
*Yerushalayim, God is thy 'ternal peace,  
 City of Zion, David's throne rise again!  
 City of Truth, resplendent in His glory  
 Till sun shall rise and moon no more shall wane.*

*(May be sung to the tune: "How Great Thou Art")*



# Israel and the Arab States: Population

5,300,000 vs. 159,770,000





## CHAPTER IV

### PROPHESCOPE ON LEBANON - LAND OF TURMOIL

According to the Reader's Digest Almanac and 1981 Yearbook, the little Arab Republic north of Israel on the Mediterranean coast called Lebanon had a population of 3 million, of which half-a-million lived in its capital city Beirut. According to 1986 statistics, however, the population was reduced to 2.6 million, the same as that of Singapore of that year, whilst Beirut's population had risen from half-a-million to 1.2 million. What did these mercurial statistics show? Without reviewing the bloody current history, we can visualise from these upheavals that Lebanon is a nation ravaged by war. During the 15 years of civil war over 200,000 Lebanese were killed - through internal fightings between so-called Christians and Muslims, between PLO and Israel in the war from 1982-85, and between Druses and other groupings such as Shi'ites, Hizbollahs, etc. Though it is relatively quiet in 1992, there is no guarantee against another bomb or bombs that might explode in some shopping centre, raining death on innocent souls. Because of such brutality and uncertainty, half-a-million Lebanese have left their homeland.

Though Lebanon is only two-thirds the size of Johore, Singapore's neighbouring Malay State, it nevertheless looms large in Bible history and prophecy. This is due to her proximity to Israel, God's chosen people through whom God's salvation plan is revealed to all mankind. Being so closely linked to Israel, great events that have taken place in Israel affecting the destiny of the human race have had and will

have serious repercussions in Lebanon, as with Israel's other neighbours, for example. Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

Lebanon, which means "white", is first mentioned in the Bible by Moses when he recalled to the children of Israel what God had commanded them to do in Horeb, soon after coming out of Egypt. "The Lord our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, '...Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the seaside, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, ...'" (Deuteronomy 1:7).

Lebanon is the land of the ancient Phoenicians who spread their civilisation throughout the Mediterranean as seafaring traders and colonisers. The Phoenician city-state of Tyre flourished about 1000 BC, whose king Hiram "had furnished Solomon with cedar trees and fir trees, and with gold according to all his desire" (I Kings 9:11). But 250 years after this, the prophet Isaiah predicted that Tyre would "be forgotten seventy years" (Isaiah 23:15) while Zidon (Sidon) would have "no rest" (Isaiah 23:12).

Lebanon, ancient Phoenician land of Tyre and Sidon, rose and fell with the fortunes of Israel in the course of that period of history when super-powers clashed with each other over their soil. Together with Israel, she came under the sway of Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece and Rome in successive conquests. In modern times, Lebanon came under the control of the Ottoman Empire (1517-1917), but the French were the last to rule this Arab State, that is after World War I. In 1943, while WWII was still raging, Lebanon became totally independent and a member of the Arab League. Although a member of the Arab League, she did not participate in the 1967 and 1973 Wars with Israel. Nevertheless, 400,000 Palestinian Arabs made homeless by the Arab-Israeli Wars had crossed over into Southern Lebanon where many refugee camps were established. The PLO (Palestine Liberation

Organisation) used these camps as a training ground for Arab guerrillas to launch attacks on Israel. In turn, Israeli forces counter-attacked, "eye for eye and tooth for tooth." The trading of blows became so bad that the Israelis invaded Lebanon in a war that lasted from 1982 to 1985. The PLO was physically expelled from Lebanon, with much devastation to the Land.

While Isaiah had earlier prophesied the Babylonian conquest of Tyre and Sidon, chief cities of Lebanon; Zechariah, who lived 200 years after Isaiah, looked across two millennia to another Lebanon. Zechariah sees a vision of another regathering of Israel: "I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them" (Zechariah 10:10). This same vision in wider perspective is seen also by Isaiah (Isaiah 11:11-13).

Now, the first return of the Jews took place 536 BC from Babylon after seventy years' exile (under Nebuchadnezzar). The second return which both Isaiah and Zechariah predict took place, without a doubt, in 1948 when modern Israel was re-established as a nation. Connected with this second return in 1948, Isaiah sees a war of the new Israeli nation involving the territories occupied by the Philistines (Gaza), Syria (the east), Edom, Moab, Ammon (Jordan) and Egypt. This was serially fulfilled in the Six Day War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur War of 1973. But the latest War fought by Israel in the northern front was in Lebanon 1982-85. This was seen by Zechariah in Zechariah 11:1-6 "Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled. Thus saith the Lord my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter; Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the Lord; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not. For I will no more pity the

inhabitants of the land, saith the Lord: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them."

Until the outbreak of Civil War in 1975, Lebanon was a prosperous country compared with her other Arab neighbours. Known as "Switzerland of the Middle East," she was a favourite country of tourists. Beirut, with a modern seaport, had some of the most luxurious hotels. But the Civil War and Israel's invasion has wrecked the cities and destroyed Lebanon's previous prosperity. A centre of trade and banking, with over 70 banks for the Arab world, so that she was also called the "Zurich of the Middle East," she is today reduced almost to shambles by 15 years of continuous bombing and bloodshed. Losses sustained in housing and trade amount to billions of US dollars.

If Isaiah had seen what has been fulfilled in the 1967 and 1973 Wars in the south, Zechariah confirms with a vision of war in the north. Following the return of Israel by sea through the Lebanese coast (Zechariah 10:10-12), the prophet is led in spirit to announce an open invasion of Lebanon (Zechariah 11:1-6). The high and mighty, the barons and tycoons, described as cedars and fir trees, are burned. The fire is the fire from guns and rockets. The war in Lebanon echoes across the Sea of Galilee to Bashan on the east.

This is marvellous before our eyes! Within 40 years of Israel's return, three prophecies have been fulfilled - Israel's becoming a nation 1948, the Six Day and Yom Kippur Wars in the south 1967, 1973, and the Lebanese War 1982-85 in the north. What next? Things will get worse and worse till the whole world is pitted against Israel. The recent Gulf War involving Saddam Hussein's Scud missiles raining death on Tel Aviv and Haifa (south of the Lebanese Border) are a prelude of worse things to come. Then Armageddon, the last battle, will be fought on Israel's territory (south of Lebanon)

leading to Jerusalem. Zechariah 14 tells how Christ will descend on the Mount of Olives to save His people and to judge the nations. It is later than you think! Are you ready to meet your Lord? And if you are a child of God, why won't you give your life to serve Him fulltime? Lebanon, Land of Turmoil, has beckoned you! Will you go away from Him?







Jerusalem: Golden Gate Viewed from Gethsemane



## CHAPTER V

### JERUSALEM THE FOCUS OF END-TIME PROPHECY

Our Prophescope has revealed how the centuries-old predictions of prophets have been fulfilled one by one, in this generation before our eyes: 1) Israel's becoming a nation on May 14, 1948; 2) the wars that followed between Israel and the specific Arab neighbours - Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon; 3) and the final battle called Armageddon, in the offing. But the focus of end-time prophecy on Israel is Jerusalem!

Why Jerusalem? And not Samaria, capital of the Ten Northern Tribes, Jerusalem's relentless rival? Because Samaria was chosen and built by the will of man, but "Jerusalem the Golden" (as sung and extolled also by the Jews in their own tongue) is the elect of the Lord. David who founded Jerusalem and designated it the site where the Temple be built at Jehovah's behest (I Chronicles 21:18) blessed Jerusalem:

- 1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.
- 2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:
- 4 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
- 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy

palaces.

- 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good. (Psalm 122)

Now, we have earlier quoted from Psalm 78:67-70, on God's choice of Jerusalem's over Ephraim. Samaria being situated in the tribe of Ephraim is logically rejected, not to mention her evil of evils in supplanting Jehovah with Baal worship, on top of Jeroboam's Gold Calf worship.

This stark reality of Samaria's rejection we had discovered archaeologically in our Second Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 1987. As we ascended the hill of Samaria, 300 odd feet above the surrounding country, we saw not a single soul, though her ancient wall and marble colonnades stood sentinel, like a petrified guard of honour, to welcome us. A raven or two cawed overhead while the squeaks of frightened squirrels in the bush further confirmed the eternal desertion of this man-made city.

Samaria was founded by Omri (I Kings 16:24), father of King Ahab who built a Temple for Baal (I Kings 16:32) by the wicked influence of Jezebel his wife. Sacked in BC 722 by the Assyrians, she was rebuilt by Babylonian settlers. The city was destroyed by Alexander the Great in BC 331 and by the Maccabees in BC 108. Herod the Great enlarged the city and changed its name to Sebaste. When a great persecution broke out against the early Church, Philip, Peter and John went down to Samaria and preached there (Acts 8:9-25).

But it is silent like a graveyard today according to Micah's prophecy, "Therefore I will make Samaria as an heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard: and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof" (Micah 1:6).

As for Jerusalem, she also has been chastised for her sins. Because of Solomon's turning away from God to serve

The Ruins of Samaria.



"Therefore I will make Samaria as an heap of the field, and as plantings of a vineyard: and I will pour down the stones thereof into the valley, and I will discover the foundations thereof." Micah 1:6

the idols of his heathen wives, God gave ten tribes to Jeroboam to form the Northern Kingdom. Jerusalem, being desecrated by repeated reigns of apostate kings was finally destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Temple burnt down in BC 586. Though rebuilt by Zerubbabel in BC 536-516 and renovated and beautified by Herod the Great, it was razed to the ground by Titus 70 AD. Henceforth with her people dispersed to the ends of the earth Jerusalem has been reduced to a "sleepy hollow," especially under the Turks.

Nevertheless, because she is the chosen of the Lord, God had promised He would come and restore her to her former glory. This is part of God's plan of redemption for a lost mankind. Unless Jerusalem is returned to her original grandeur, how will the Messiah make her His throne from which will proceed His Kingly rule of peace on earth for a thousand years? As the airplane needs an airfield to land, so the Returning Saviour will have a re-established Israel to set up His throne.

- 1 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.
- 2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.
- 3 Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.
- 4 Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.
- 5 For as a young man marieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.
- 6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence.

- 7 And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isaiah 62)

Zechariah who prophesied in the days of the first Jews to return from Babylonian exile, to encourage them rebuild the Temple, had his “double-lens” prophescope (in the words of Dr Buswell) focussed on Jerusalem in the end-times. Much livelier than the days he lived in Jerusalem, he said,

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the Lord of hosts. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness. (Zechariah 8:2-8)

This prophecy on Jerusalem’s renaissance is now being fulfilled before the whole world as T.V. photonews shows a City bursting at the seams. Jerusalem then was indeed a “sleepy hollow” when General Allenby led the British forces into the City near the end of WWI, 1917. Statistics show there were but a handful of about 90,000 struggling for survival in all of Palestine. Today it has soared to over 5 million with half a million in Jerusalem alone, humming with a vibrant economy.

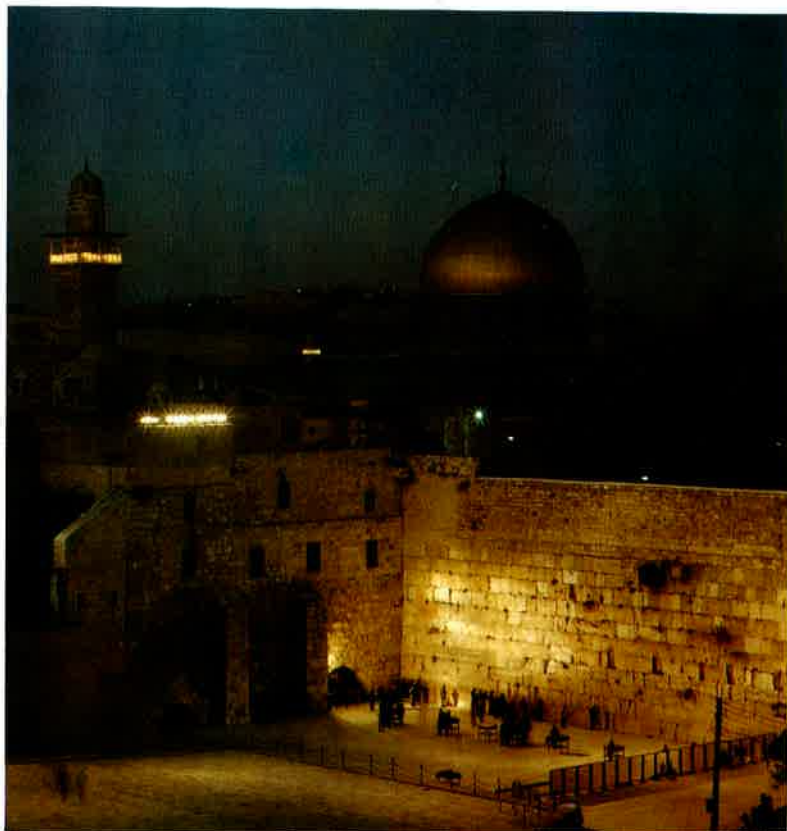
The growth of Jerusalem’s population gathered momentum after the Six-Day War in 1967. Though condemned by the world for encroaching upon the so-called occupied

West Bank, townships and cities are springing up like “bamboo shoots after the spring rain,” to use a Chinese proverb, on every hill and high ground (for security). With the sudden flood of several hundred thousand returnees from the former Soviet Union pouring in, caravan parks are built in the suburbs as a temporary measure to ease the housing shortage.

Zechariah prophesies again, “Thus saith the Lord of hosts: In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men will take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you, for we heard that God is with you” (Zechariah 8:23). Although this prophecy refers to Israel being the promised nation to whom all other races will look up in the millennium, what is happening today in tourism, no doubt, is the harbinger of greater things to come.

Tourism in Israel picked up robustly after the Six-Day War in 1967, so much so it became one of the top dollar earners of the nation. It is said that a tourist in Israel spends US\$1,000 per trip. Today tourists are coming in not only from USA and Europe but from all over the Far East, even from Africa and South America. Although there was a sharp drop during the Gulf War, tourism in Israel has recovered its former levels, and is again on the rise.

Who are the tourists who come in droves? Apart from those doing business with Israel, they are the pilgrims of the three monotheistic religions - Judaism, Islam and Christianity. And Abraham is the Father of them all. The Jews are children of promise, the Arabs children of the flesh (Galatians 4:22,23) and Christians are children by faith (Galatians 3:6-9; Romans 4:11). As you go on a tour or pilgrimage to Jerusalem you will see the Jews gather at the Western or Wailing Wall, the Muslims at the Mosque of Omar and Al Aqsa Mosque, and Christians at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Roman Catholics) and the Garden Tomb (Protestants). (Now Jerusalem is the Holiest City to both Jews and Christians and the third



But beyond this Wailing Wall is "Jerusalem the Golden"  
(as sung by Christians)

*Jerusalem the golden,  
With milk and honey blest,  
Beneath thy contemplation  
Sink heart and voice oppressed.  
I know not, O I know not,  
What joys await us there;  
What radiancy of glory,  
What bliss beyond compare.*



Low  
 in the  
 grave he lay -  
 Jesus, my Saviour,  
 Waiting the coming day -  
 Jesus, my Lord.  
 Up from the grave he arose,  
 With a mighty triumph o'er his foes.  
 He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
 And he lives forever with his saints to reign.  
 He arose! He arose!  
 Hallelujah! Christ arose!



## Tomb of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives



### THE PILGRIMS' HOME SWEET HOME

These pilgrims and these strangers have died in faith.  
 And they've gladly laid down this side Jordan's wave.  
 The promise of God drew their steps up and on.  
 And they've fond confessed Heav'n above's their home.

*Home, home, sweet, sweet, home  
 Yes, they've fond confessed  
 O Heav'n above's our Home*

In Abraham's God trusting, I've joined the band  
 Of pilgrims and strangers To the Promised Land.  
 This world is not my home I am just a passing through  
 Each day draws me nearer Home beyond the blue.

*Home, home, sweet, sweet, home.  
 Yes, I too fond confess  
 O Heav'n above's my home.*

holiest to Muslims, after Mecca and Medina.) Before the Intifada, when it was safe to visit Hebron, the tomb of the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob with their wives would be the rendezvous of all of Abraham's children - Jews, Arabs and Christians!

While Jerusalem is flourishing in this semblance of peace as the Intifada (Palestinian uprising) subsides, it is surely beneficial to conduct a yearly Christian Pilgrimage for the spiritual enlightenment of Christians. But how long will this semblance of peace last?

With the prophecies of Israel's regathering as a nation and the wars fought with her immediate neighbours fulfilled, the next great event on the agenda of God's plan to be unfolded seems to be the rise of a World Dictator who will arbitrate the Israeli-Arab conflict, as the US leadership is trying to play Big Brother at the moment. Will this World Dictator arise from the American scene or from the European Community, which answers to the Revived Roman Empire? He is identified by students of prophecy to be "another little horn" according to Daniel 7:8, "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

Walvoord says that the ten-nation group "that consolidates the power and wealth of the Middle East" will soon come under the World Dictator. He will conquer first of all three countries of the original ten and take over the whole group. He will play the role of the Antichrist because he will persecute saints. He will rule the world ruthlessly for three-and-a-half years (Daniel 12:11, Revelation 13:8). Jesus identified this man to be the conqueror of Jerusalem: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in

Judaea flee into the mountains ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:15-22).

Our Lord's description of the horrors under Antichrist rule is reiterated by John in Revelation 13:5-8:

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

In summary, this World Dictator will arise to conquer nations the first three and a half years through peace. The next three-and-a-half years he will show his true colours and conquer by force. Near the end of the seven years of his rule the nations of the world outside his domain will conspire against him. These are those who, at the pouring of the sixth vial upon the great river Euphrates so that the water is dried up, will invade from the East. Many commentators say they are from Red China, but in Scripture the East does not refer to the Far East but rather to the Near East (see II Kings 13:17). We cannot be dogmatic. This leads to the last World War (Walvoord says WWII) which climaxes in the Battle of Armageddon. (Now what is the ten-nation group but the European Community, the old Roman Empire striving to rise again?)

Armageddon sounds ominous! Its meaning is blood-

curdling. Armageddon is the Greek version of the Hebrew word Har-Megiddo which means Hill of Slaughter. It is an actual geographical location, viz. a small mountain located near modern Haifa overlooking a broad valley, 14 miles by 20 miles. An ancient battlefield of the super powers like Egypt and Assyria, it will be the arena for armies in "the final battle of World War III" (Walvoord).

Militarily speaking, Armageddon is the gateway to Jerusalem. While armies on earth clash with nuclear bombs and guns and gobble alive thousands and millions of men across the battlefields of the world, John sees its celestial counterpart as Deborah sees hers, "They fought from heaven, the stars in their course fought ...," as follows:

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. (Revelation 14:14-20)

Revelation 14:20 describes the great winepress of God that is trodden "without the city," which is obviously Jerusalem. This is a river of blood 200 miles long (one furlong = one-eighth mile) rising to the height of the horse's bridle. This

answers to the whole length of Israel from north to south. From Zechariah's prophescope is seen the same horrible carnage in Israel: "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God" (Zechariah 13:8,9).

In the hour of utter despair, being caught in the middle between the contending armies, the Jews of the end-times will have no one to look to but their long-awaited Messiah. As they mourn and wail for Him suddenly out of the blue like a thunder bolt is revealed the Son of God! He comes riding a white horse and the armies of heaven follow in his train also upon white horses (Revelation 19:11-16). This is foretold also by Enoch, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him" (Jude 14, 15). "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10).

The Messiah's holiness immediately causes this sin-sick earth to tremble with fear. This is the quake of earthquakes that triggers a crunching series, shattering "the cities of the nations"..."and every island fled away and the mountains were not found" (Revelation 16:19, 20). The "cities of the nations" surely are the capital cities - New York, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Tokyo, Seoul, Peking, Shanghai, Canton, Hongkong, Bangkok, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore .. to mention just a few of

the ones Asians visit in jolly tourism these end-times.

As to Israel, two thirds will be consumed in the nuclear carnage, but under God's Judgment who sends His E-bombs, that is, earthquakes, neither can we sinful Gentiles escape! Don't be too sure, you who have gone "Downunder," to Australia and New Zealand, and to the islands of the Pacific, far from the scene. No one shall escape in the Great Judgment Day of God at the Coming of the Messiah, Jesus the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made: And the mean man boweth down, and the great man humbleth himself: therefore forgive them not. Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low. (Isaiah 2:8-12)

Jesus shall stand on the top of the Mount of Olives, says Zechariah. Not only Zechariah, but also the angels on the Day of Ascension, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Yes, "His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south" (Zechariah 14:4).

By way of digression, there is much talk today in Israel about bringing water from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea by cleaving the earth, ie. the construction of a canal. Here is an official discussion:

The water inflow to the Dead Sea has been reduced over the years by about 75 percent, because of various water diversion schemes carried out both in Israel and Jordan. This, combined with its high evaporation rate, has resulted in an extensive drying-out process, especially at the southern, shallow end of the Dead Sea. A response to this situation is the proposed Mediterranean/Dead Sea Canal. Plans call for a water conduit about 65 miles long, a pumping station and a hydroelectric power plant, powered by the 1,000 foot drop needed to reach the low level of the Dead Sea. Implementation of the project would have far-reaching effects: not only would the water level of the Dead Sea be maintained, but the project would open up opportunities for further development of the Negev and Dead Sea regions, as well as adding to Israel's energy resources. (*Facts About Israel*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem, 1985)

Should this Mediterranean/Dead Sea Canal be constructed it might take Israel a decade to complete. With God, it is done in one minute by the Olivet Earthquake. For, as a result of the Quake we read in the following verse, "And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea (*Mediterranean Sea*), and half of them toward the hinder sea (*Dead Sea*): in summer and in winter shall it be" (Zechariah 14:8). While man's A-Bomb or H(ell) Bomb is a deadly scorching fire, God's E-Bomb releases an everlasting life-giving stream.

The prophet Ezekiel sees living water coming out of Jerusalem more vividly in the day of Israel's restoration as follows:

Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house east-ward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh

eastward; and behold, there ran out waters on the right side. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river, were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf therefore for medicine. (Ezekiel 47:1-12).

The description above of the life-giving stream cannot be the same as Revelation 22:1,2. It is a picture of Israel not in heaven, but on earth. For Engedi, a favourite tourist spot today, is mentioned, and Eneglaim, another geographical location.

Food for thought: Will Israel build the Canal to bring in



water from the Mediterranean? Or will water issue from Jerusalem to flow to both the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, according to Zechariah's and Ezekiel's prophecies? We believe God's Word shall prevail.

There is a symbolic meaning to the living waters coming forth from Jerusalem after the Messiah's touchdown on earth. Here comes the Messiah to a sin-cursed earth, not only with healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2) but reviving from His life-giving streams.

But while He comes to save and heal His elect ones, His enemies "that have fought against Jerusalem" will be smitten with a plague worse than that caused by nuclear fallout. "Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongues shall consume away in their mouth...And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague" (Zechariah 14:12,15).

Another prophecy of Zechariah that will reassure the children of Israel of the Messiah's help in the final battle for Jerusalem is given in retrospect in Chapter XII.

- 1 The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.
- 2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.
- 3 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.
- 4 In that day, saith the Lord, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.

- 5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the Lord of hosts their God.
- 6 In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.
- 7 The Lord also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.
- 8 In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.
- 9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.
- 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.
- 11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.
- 12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;
- 13 The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;
- 14 All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

This chapter is self-explanatory and needs no exposition.

Returning to the verse that follows Zechariah 14:12 we have quoted earlier, God will cause a quarrel and revolt to break out in the ranks of Israel's enemies, "On that day men will be stricken by the Lord with great panic. Each man will

seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other. Judah too will fight at Jerusalem ..." (NIV).

With God the impossible or the most unlikely can happen. He can cause a sudden distrust and suspicion to grip the hearts of the allied armies so that they will fly on one another. When Gideon's three hundred blew the trumpets, "The Lord set every man's sword against his fellow (among the Midianites), even throughout all the host" (Judges 6:22).

When Judah under Jehoshaphat was invaded by the allied forces of Ammon, Moab and Edom, they cried unto the Lord, "O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee" (II Chronicles 20:12). And when they looked only to God for help, the Lord caused a dispute to break out, Ammon and Moab against Edom. Ammon and Moab routed the Edomites, but in turn the two allies fell out with each other, so that the invading forces were totally discomfited among themselves (II Chronicles 20:22,23).

Thus will Jehovah break up the invading forces as they advance on Jerusalem. The Jews will fight back from Jerusalem: "and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold and silver and apparel, in great abundance" (Zechariah 14:14). War reparations will be paid to the Israelites more than the losses they have sustained.

### **What About the Temple, the Holiest of Jerusalem?**

Bible interpreters agree one of the signs of the imminence of the Messiah's coming will be the erection of the Third Temple over where the Mosque of Omar today stands. The conclusion for the building of this Temple in the last days is drawn from Jesus' reference to the "abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in **the holy place**"

(Matthew 24:15), from Paul's mention of the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition sitting "in the Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (II Thessalonians 2:4) and from Revelation 11:1,2, etc.

Correspondingly, there is today a strong desire by a section of Jewry to rebuild the Temple. This religious zeal or euphoria rose to new heights with Israel's recapture of the old Temple site in the Six Day War, 1967. With this recapture, they contend they have now entered the "Messianic era."

Israel's chief rabbis declare that with the regathering of Israel as a nation, "the age of redemption" has begun. Says historian Eldad, "We are at the stage where David was when he liberated Jerusalem. From that time until the construction of the Temple by Solomon, only one generation passed. So will it be with us." When it is asked how the construction of the Temple is possible when the Mosque of Omar occupying the Temple site still stands, Eldad answers, "It is of course an open question, who knows? Perhaps there will be an earthquake." As we see it, this will be the hardest problem to solve. Will an earthquake solve it? Can an earthquake solve it?

A deeper theological question is, "Who will receive the mandate to rebuild the Temple? Not even King David could build it. This is his testimony to the nation,

Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building: But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood. Howbeit the Lord God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Israel: And of all my sons, (for the Lord hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. And he said unto

me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. (I Chronicles 28:2-6).

So, to Solomon was given the mandate to build the Temple.

The same principle applies to the building of the Second Temple. There could be no rebuilding without the Divine decree and Spirit stirring upon Cyrus the Persian King to action. There could be no action without the appointment of Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the high priest. These two leaders had the blessing of the prophet Zechariah, "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it... These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth" (Zechariah 4).

With regard to the supposed Third Temple to come, however, we have no direct mandate from the Lord nor any hint of any of David's descendants to build it. Will there be a Third Temple as theologians have deduced from a brief few hints here or there?

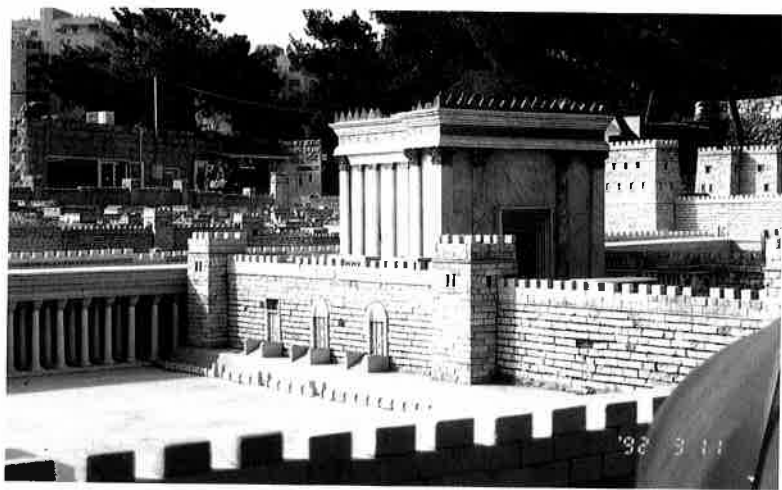
Or could the holy place or temple be what is now the finished construction of the first, large central Jewish house of worship in the Holy City since the destruction of the Temple 1904 years ago? On June 24, 1969 the foundation stone of the Jerusalem Synagogue occurred. Present at this function of epochal significance were the President of Israel, the chief rabbis, cabinet and diplomatic members, the Mayor of Jerusalem and distinguished Jewish leaders from around the world. This synagogue, declared the Jerusalem Great Synagogue, was completed in 1982. In 1983 it was our privilege while on the First Pilgrimage to the Holy Land to have visited this mammoth edifice made of that beautiful Jerusalem stone that reflects a golden hue to the evening sun - hence the eulogy of Jerusalem being the Golden One.

Though it is stated by Rabbi Maurice A. Jaffee, president of the Union of Israel Synagogues that this in no way claims

eminence that is reserved to the Temple, nevertheless, "it may very well serve as a halfway house of some kind to bridge the long gap between the second Temple and the present, and to pave the way for the third Temple" (Dr H L Willmington).

This leaves us a doubt whether there will be a Third Temple to be raised in the near future as seen by many Bible commentators. Temple or no Temple, the Day of His coming is drawing closer and closer, "for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Romans 13:11). Maranatha! Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus, Amen.

To the Reader, here is a more vital question to answer. When Jesus the Messiah descends from heaven to earth that soon coming Day, where will you be? Some argue Christians will be caught up to meet Him in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, others say no, it is a Mid-Tribulation or Pre-Wrath or even Post-Tribulation Rapture. But if you have no assurance of salvation it is like a traveller studying three or four airline flight schedules from Singapore to New York, but he has not bought his ticket. Whichever plane is leaving now, this very hour, how can you join the flight? O to be stranded when others in your family are gone above!



Holyland Hotel's Miniature Temple

## STAGE III

*The Second Coming of Jesus Christ  
that ushers in  
a thousand golden years of peace.*

## A THOUSAND GOLDEN YEARS

1. Behold the Eastern skies, a New Light's shining through -  
The Sun of Righteousness breaks forth from the blue!  
The Night of bomb and blood is scattered far and wide.  
The Day of Right o'er Might is now born anew!

### *Chorus for verses 1 and 2:*

Jesus the Son of God has come to Earth from Heaven,  
He has come with healing in His wings,  
In peace shall He reign.  
A thousand golden years of salvation and rest.  
No more strife among the nations,  
In peace shall he reign.

2. Men shall learn war no more, swords and spears disappear.  
Swords turned to ploughshares, pruning hooks from spears.  
The Earth shall bloom again, the curse shall be removed,  
The ox and lion shall thrive, the lamb and the wolf.
3. In that glad Day of peace in New Jerusalem,  
The Greater David shall sit on His Throne.  
From Earth's end to Earth's end, homage to Him they'll bring,  
All glory to the Lamb, God's Lamb that was slain.

### *Chorus for verse 3*

Jesus the Son of God has come to Earth from Heaven,  
He has come with Healing in His wings,  
In peace shall He reign.  
Hallelu, hallelu. Hallelu, hallelu,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah!

*(To the tune: Santa Lucia)*



## CHAPTER VI

### JERUSALEM DURING CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL RULE

As Jerusalem will suffer so much during the seven years of the World Dictator's oppression, so must she arise to become the throne of the Messiah. For He must rule the earth for a thousand golden years of peace. Theocracy at last must triumph over man's government whether it be democracy or autocracy.

Zechariah continues with the vision of Chapter 14 on Jerusalem's new role under the Messiah.

And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. (Zechariah 14:9-11)

Not only will Jerusalem now be safely inhabited, she will be a City true to her name - City of Peace. She is a City of peace because the Prince of Peace has come to establish His headquarters in Jerusalem. This is seen by the prophet Isaiah:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the

house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. and he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord. (Isaiah 2:2-5)

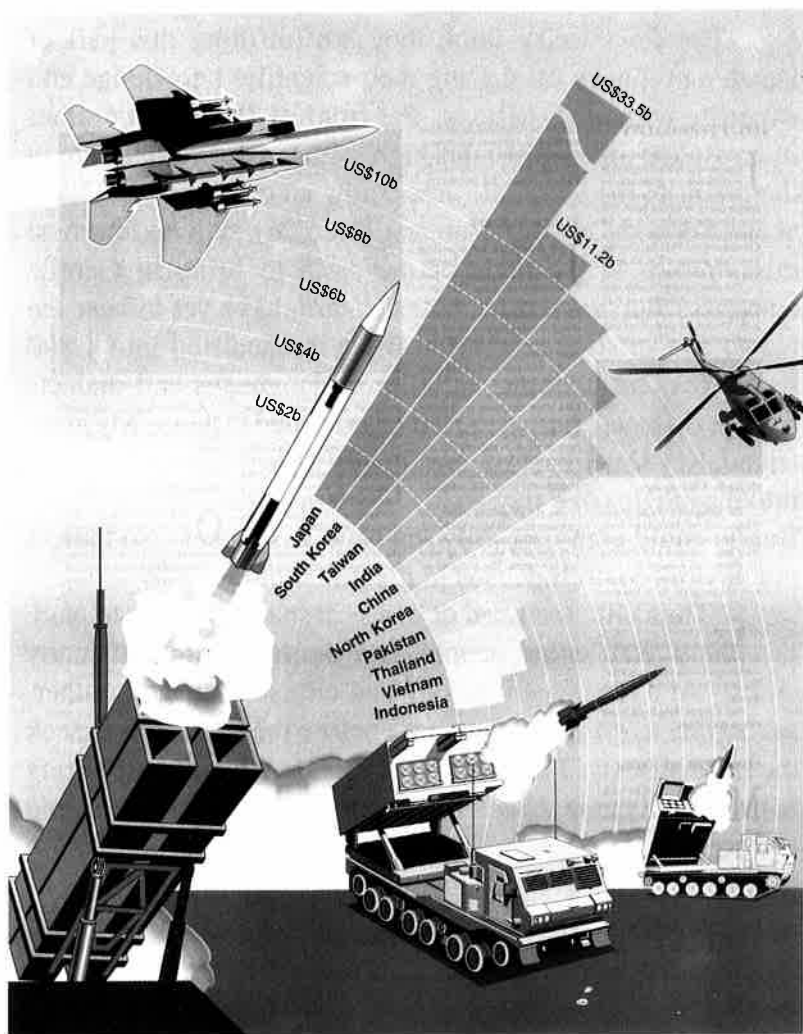
This prophecy on Jerusalem under the peaceful reign of Messiah is given also in Micah 4 almost word for word, with the further blessing on an idyllic life, free from pressure and pollution of city life. "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it" (Micah 4:1-4). Man shall live on this beautiful earth yet and not as he fancied of late to grow cabbages in space! "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:18).

In Isaiah 2:1-4 we have the prophet's vision of Jerusalem becoming the City of God's Law and Word to a world at peace waiting for it. This state of peace is not attainable now, though the UN, founded after WWII, aspires to it. Without Divine Government, wars will be waged to the very end. The amazing new factor on the political horizon in Asia is that she is arming herself more than the West, with Japan heading the list. Even little Singapore is not to be left behind as her Annual Budget of US\$2.25 billion shows. As Jason Linn, author of *Pioneering in Dyak Borneo* has said, "This whole mess cannot be cleaned up till Jesus comes."

Praise the Lord, our Saviour will surely come and Jerusalem will become the capital city of the world. Jerusalem will be the headquarters of the United Nations under Christ, but it will not be a centre for political arguments and

## THE ARMS RACE

Asia is on a weapons-buying spree.  
Why, when the rest of the world is disarming?  
John Dikkenberg reports.



(Asia Magazine 30, June 19-21, 1992)

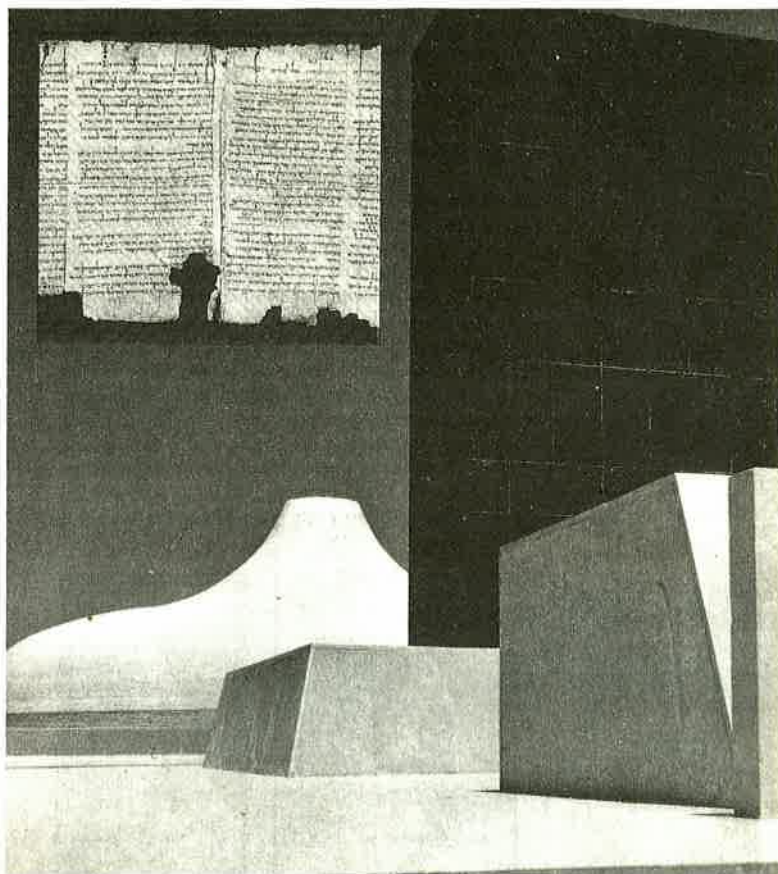
machinations, plots and counter-plots. It will be a religious and cultural centre, a headquarters for Gospel missions to the ends of the earth. For what are “His ways” and “the law” and “the Word of the Lord” — from Jerusalem? (Isaiah 2:3).

### **Jerusalem, Centre for Worldwide Missions**

The Jews today think they are fulfilling this part of Isaiah’s prophecy by sharing their scientific knowledge and expertise with other nations. Far from it! We believe rather in Jerusalem attaining to this high status in the millennium in the realm of the spiritual. Jews, now all converted to Christ at His Second Coming (Romans 11:25,26), will be foremost missionaries to the ends of the earth to bring in Gentile converts. For, even now, half the earth have yet to hear the Name of Christ. Though the Bible is translated into 1,800 languages and dialects, 3,000 more languages and dialects have yet to have a part of the Bible translated to them. My good friend, Rev Dan Ebert III, missionary to the Philippines, went into the jungles of Palawan for 12 years to translate the Bible. But he could complete only the New Testament. So there’s much work to do for Jesus in the millennium.

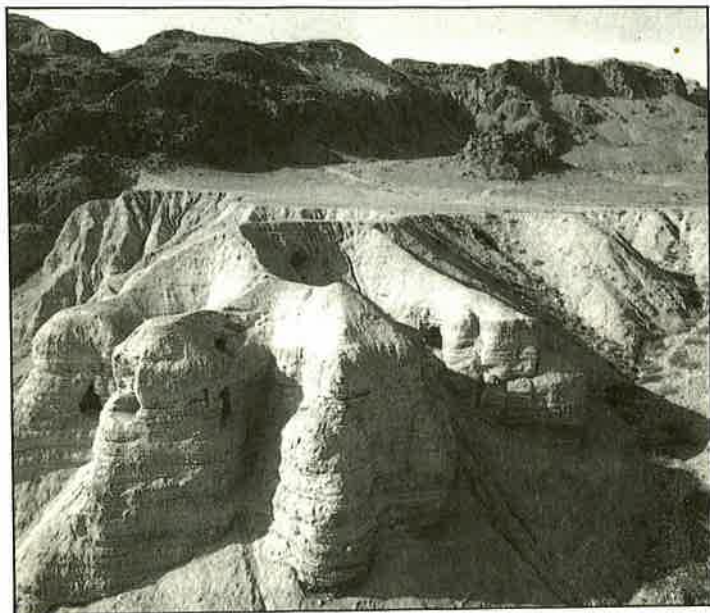
“Thus saith the Lord of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zechariah 8:20-23). Many Gentile converts, from many remote nations, such as the hinterland of China and Mongolia, from all the Muslim nations that are clammed tight against Christ, from hermetically

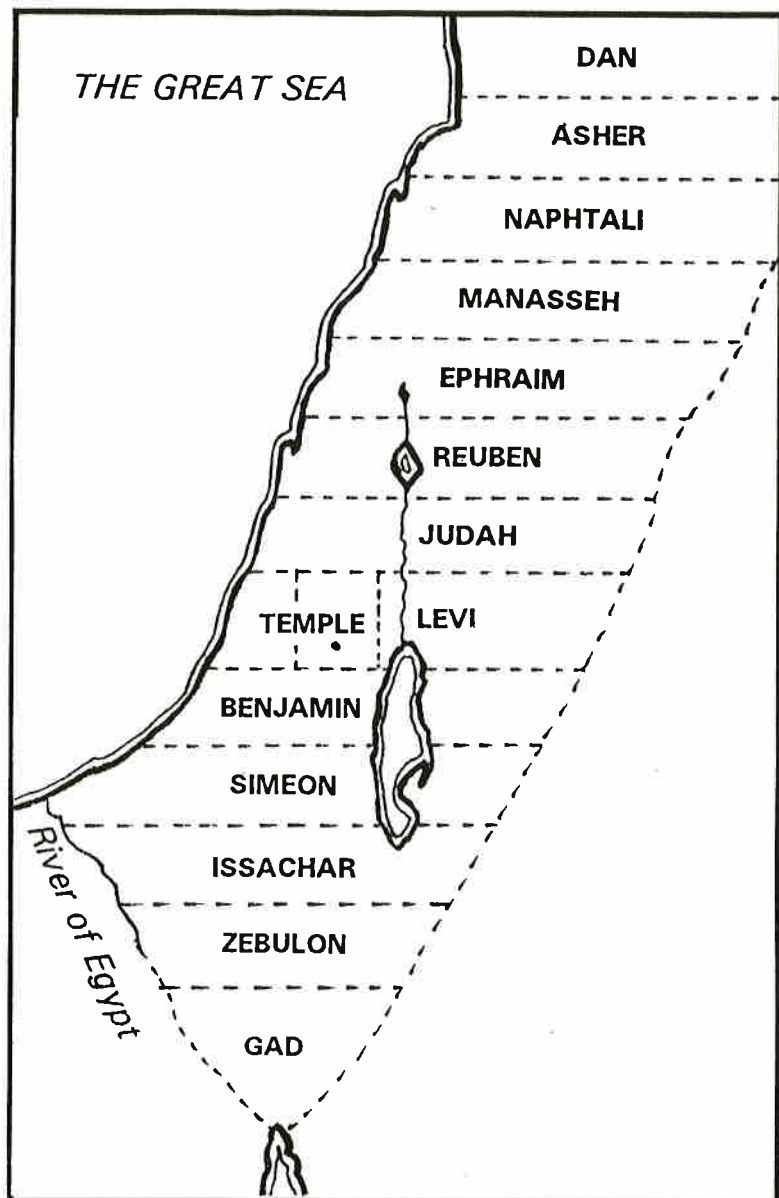
## Shrine of the Book, Jerusalem



It is Isaiah who also foretells: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6,7)

In 1947 a Bedouin looking for a stray goat, in the western region of the Dead Sea area, made the greatest find of this century by discovering the now famous Dead Sea Scrolls. An Arab shepherd named Mohammed Edib, looking for a lost goat, threw a stone into the opening of a cave and heard the clatter of something breaking. He ran away afraid thinking that the cave was inhabited by spirits. However, on the next day he called his cousin and both entered the cave and found eight jars, some with their lids still on; they took the jars outside and started searching in the hope of finding gold inside them. They were disappointed when they only found bundles of leather with columns of writing of which they were unable to understand the slightest thing. A total of seven scrolls were found. One day the Bedouin brought his strange find to a Syrian Christian named Khalil Kando and sold them to him. Kando took four of the scrolls he had bought and showed them to the Metropolitan who resided in Jerusalem. The Metropolitan recognised the four scrolls as ancient Hebrew writing and immediately bought them. In 1949, after realising that the scrolls were of great value, he took them to the United States where they were bought by Professor Yigael Yadin for \$250,000 and then brought to Israel. Professor Eleazar Sukenik, Yadin's father, had already purchased the other three scrolls from Bethlehem. The scrolls are now exhibited in the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, in Jerusalem. The most famous scroll is the one of Isaiah which is one foot wide by 24 feet long. In 1949, Professor Harding, director of antiquities in Jordan, Pèr de Vaux, director of the Ecole Biblique and the Bedouins,





**Map 4:** Map of Greater Israel, as prophesied in the book of Ezekiel.

sealed countries like Burma, will come to worship the Lord in Jerusalem.

With supersonic air travel becoming a reality in a matter of years, the transportation of pilgrims to the Holy City by rocket-planes in an hour or two will pose no problem. Since there will be no more defence spendings, all energies will be concentrated on peaceful enterprises. That includes rocket-travel, and that will be Item Number 1 in our opinion. "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4).

### **Jerusalem, Centre of Millennial Worship**

"And it shall come to pass, that everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16-18).

### **The Millennial Temple, the Messiah's Throne Room**

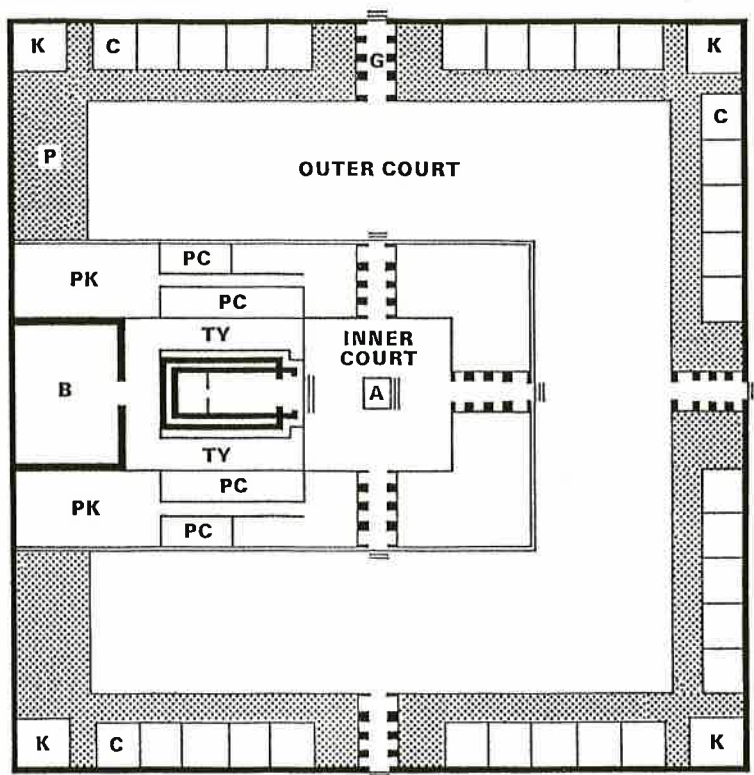
This is where the Millennial Temple shown to Ezekiel, Chapters 40 - 48, comes in. What is the chief end of man even under the millennial rule of Christ? Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. The highest way of glorifying God and enjoying Him is worship which, Augustine declares, is the mother of all virtues. The Millennial Temple will be the throne room where every people and every nation must come to *kowtow* before the King.

According to Merrill F Unger, "The holy oblation



# The Messiah's Throne Room

## 1 THE TEMPLE AREA



Scale in cubits:



- |                    |                                            |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>A:</b> Altar    | <b>P:</b> Pavement                         |
| <b>B:</b> Building | <b>PC:</b> Priests' chambers               |
| <b>C:</b> Chamber  | <b>PK:</b> Priests' kitchens               |
| <b>G:</b> Gateway  | <b>TY:</b> Temple yard (AV separate place) |
| <b>K:</b> Kitchen  |                                            |

(where the Millennial Temple is located) would be a spacious square, 34 miles each way or about 1160 sq miles. This area would be the centre of all the interests of the Divine Government and worship as set up in the Millennial Earth... The temple itself would be located in the middle of this square (the holy oblation) and not in the (old) City of Jerusalem, upon a very high mountain, which will be miraculously made ready for that purpose when the temple is to be erected.”

*In that glad Day of Peace in New Jerusalem,  
The Greater David shall sit on His Throne.  
From Earth's end to Earth's end, homage to Him they'll bring,  
All glory to the Lamb, God's Lamb that was slain.*

*Jesus the Son of God has come to Earth from Heaven,  
He has come with Healing in His wings,  
In peace shall He reign.  
Hallelu, hallelu. Hallelu, hallelu,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!*

*Santa Lucia*




## Song to the New Jerusalem

T. Low


Stephen C. Foster




1. The summer sun shines o'er new Je - ru - sa - lem: Gold - en days of  
 2. The au-tumn show'rs fresh-en new Je - ru - sa - lem, Hap - py feasts are  
 3. The spring rains drive win-ter's bi-ting cold a-way: Wheat and bar - ley,  
 4. The Sun of Right-eous-ness shines o'er earth's Dark Night: No more war, nor



peace so di - vine. Messiah has come to this war-torn earth from Heav'n  
 held o'er the land. We wor-ship Mes-siah the Prince of peace-ful Realm,  
 o - live and grain. Ten thou-sand flow'rs in the bal-my bre-ezes sway,  
 hun-ger nor pain! Christ Je-sus reigns till Right tri-umphs o-ver Might



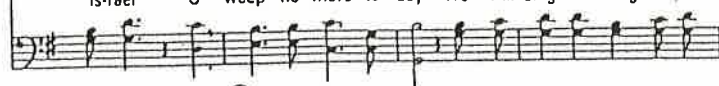
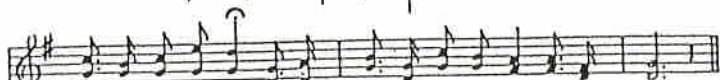
*Chorus*




Besto'ing rest to we - a - ry man - kind.  
 Who makes ros-es bloom a - cross the sand. Weep no more, O  
 While young men and mai-dens praise His name.  
 All res - plen - dent in Je - ru - sa - lem.

Is-rael O weep no more to - day We will sing this song to the

new Je - ru - sa - lem To the new Je - ru - sa - lem for aye.



# In the New Jerusalem

T. Tow

Bethel Hymns



- 1 We're a pilgrim band now headed for the glo-ry land a-bove. We are  
 2 In that land of glo-ry where the saints are gather'd round His Throne. No more  
 3 We are heading near-er near-er for the land that's now in sight. Will you



travelling thru the wil-der-ness be-low. We've a home that's far a-  
 sighs nor tears nor sor-rows nor des-pair. But an e-ver-last-ing  
 join us to the Ci-ty bright and fair? Is your name for-e-ver



way be-yond the blue sky and the stars.  
 song of vic-tory flows from e-very tongue. In the New Je-ru-sa-lem!  
 writ-ten in the Lamb's book of Life?



## Chorus



Hal-le-lu-jahs fill the heavens For the saints have all come home



To Je-ru-sa-lem! To Je-ru-sa-lem!



Joy-ful - ly they shout Ho-sannas Come and crown Him King of Kings!

In the New - - - Je-ru-sa - lem!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Joy-ful - ly they shout Ho-sannas Come and crown Him King of Kings!' are written below the first staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics 'In the New - - - Je-ru-sa - lem!' are written below the first staff. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature.

## Annie Laurie

WILLIAM DOUGLASS

LADY JOHN SCOTT

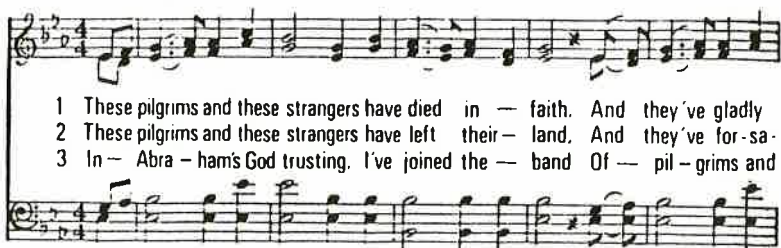
*Moderately quick*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Annie Laurie'. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The tempo marking 'Moderately quick' is written above the first staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature.

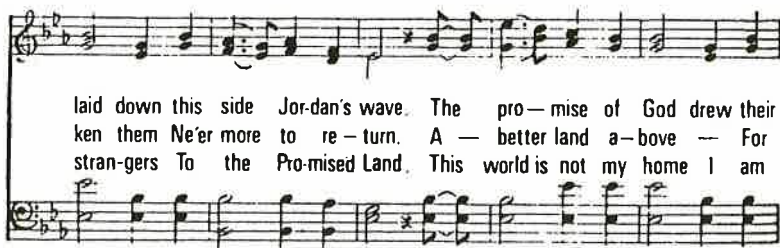


## The Pilgrims' Home Sweet Home

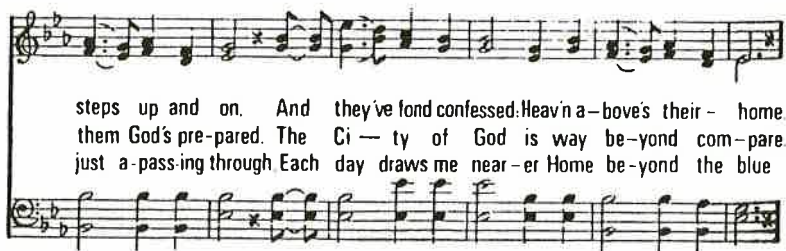
by Rev Timothy Tow



1 These pilgrims and these strangers have died in — faith. And they've gladly  
 2 These pilgrims and these strangers have left their — land. And they've for-sa-  
 3 In — Abra — ham's God trusting. I've joined the — band Of — pil — grims and

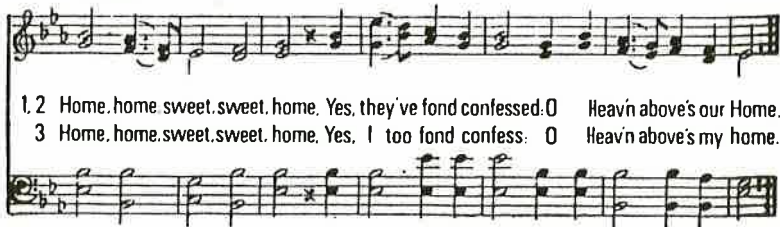


laid down this side Jor-dan's wave. The pro — mise of God drew their  
 ken them Ne'er more to re — turn. A — better land a — bove — For  
 stran-gers To the Pro-mised Land. This world is not my home I am



steps up and on. And they've fond confessed: Heav'n a — bove's their — home.  
 them God's pre-pared. The Ci — ty of God is way be-yond com-pare.  
 just a-pass-ing through Each day draws me near-er Home be-yond the blue

### CHORUS



1, 2 Home, home sweet, sweet, home. Yes, they've fond confessed: O Heav'n above's our Home.  
 3 Home, home, sweet, sweet, home. Yes, I too fond confess: O Heav'n above's my home.

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# APPENDICES

## PREFATORIAL NOTE

Having seen through so many rises and falls of Israel, the chosen people of God, and their appointed place in God's plan of redemption, the question might be asked, "What about Christianity the hidden mystery that was now revealed to the world to take the place of the Old Testament religion?" How has Christianity fared in the Holy Land from which the Jews were expelled until their recent regathering as a nation in 1948?

This writer, having stayed half a year in Israel and naturally becoming more interested in the religious history of the Land, thought it would be beneficial for some expert on this subject to give us a brief survey of "Christianity in the Holy Land." This expert we have found in Dr Howard Carlson, 12 years a missionary of the Independent Board for Foreign Missions in Bethlehem, with whom we have had sweet fellowship during our sojourn. Painting this history with fast and bold strokes he has given us a vivid understanding of Christians persisting through 2,000 years in the land of our Saviour's Birth. This page of Church History is most meaningful to members of Life Bible-Presbyterian Church who are closely linked to their Arab brethren in Bethlehem. May this master painting be enjoyed also by every reader of the earlier portion of this book.

- T.T.

# CHRISTIANITY IN THE HOLY LAND

*Howard Carlson*

## I. THE CHURCH IN THE ROMAN PERIOD 30-315 AD

There are five powers governing society: Eloquence, learning, wealth, rank and army. The church in its years of infancy had none of these; on the contrary, all five were directed against it. Yet the church conquered, "not by might nor by power but by My Spirit" (Zech. 4:6). Evangelization began by the Jews telling other Jews of the coming and atoning death of the Messiah. Gradually the church became wide-spread and predominantly non-Jewish, finally breaking with Judaism when all of Jerusalem's 25,000 believers left the besieged city in 70 AD and moved to Pella. In the revolt of Bar Kokhba in 132-35 Jerusalem was again totally destroyed, and the Jews banned from the area. From that point on the Jerusalem church was fixed as a Gentile body.

In the years following came ten periods of severe persecution with false teachers seeking to take the place vacated by the godly martyrs. Two schools of thought had arisen concerning the interpretation and teaching of Scriptures. The Alexandrian school explained away the plain meanings of Scripture by allegory, and Bible truth was "synchronized" with the pagan philosophies of the day. From this school of thought much non-Biblical teaching entered the old churches and has remained to this day. The reformers of the sixteenth century tried to rid the church of these corruptions. The second school at Antioch was more literal in its Biblical interpretations.

In 300 AD Armenia was declared a Christian state and in 313 the emperor of all Rome was won to Christianity.

## II. THE CHURCH OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE 315-640 AD

The Byzantine Empire was the Roman Empire in its Christian form. Its Churches were noted for three characteristics: 1. Orthodoxy 2. Imperial tradition (ie. the Emperor possessing many divine prerogatives) 3. Greek culture. Constantine's first act as a Christian Emperor was to stop the slaughter of Christians by the act of toleration of all religions. Realizing Rome could never be quickly Christianized, Constantine established a second capital city at Byzantium (Constantinople, and today called Istanbul), which was

to be the Christian capitol of the Empire. He then sent his mother to Palestine to discover the Holy Places and to rebuild Solomon's temple as the Temple of the Resurrection. He wished to make Jerusalem a Christian temple city. The church service in Palestine thus was altered from the original synagogue pattern to a liturgical, sacrifice-centred ritual. The Eastern churches have since canonized Constantine as the thirteenth apostle. Of the many Palestinian churches built in this period, over 124 have been located by archaeologists. This was the most glorious era of Palestine's history both intellectually and culturally, and in the seven Ecumenical Councils of this period Palestine's churches were major factors in the life of the Universal Church.

But the fall of Rome in 529 weakened the Empire's security. In 614, hordes of Persians raced from the desert and destroyed all churches, killing thousands of clergy and the monks who lived in the desert caves. Only the mosaic picture of three Persian wise men over the Bethlehem church's door saved this, Christendom's most ancient existing church, from sharing the same fate. The Persians were hardly driven back by the Byzantine Emperor Heroclius when Islam's hard arm arrived at the door with a resolute knock.

### **III. THE CHURCH IN THE SHADOW OF THE CRESCENT 640-1099 AD**

The Church in the shadow of the Crescent saw a difference developing between its East and West branches. This difference is great and primarily results from two factors: Emperor-church relationships and Islam. From Constantine's days the Emperor had exercised controlling power over the church. Augustine gained a victory for the Western church by placing the clergy in an independent position from the state, whereby the Pope became supreme. In the East (Byzantium) the Emperor maintained his predominant role. Some call this imperial supremacy "Caesar-papism". The second factor was Islam, a powerful, well organized monotheistic foe to the church. Omar had led Islam out of Arabia to conquer Palestine and his successor Othman drove deeply into Europe. But Islam was pushed back in Europe by Charles Martel at Tours while it dominated and continued to confront the Eastern church. These factors resulted in conflict which in 1054 AD brought the great division between Eastern and Western Christendom.

In this conflict four questions were involved: 1. Should the church worship statues or only pictures (Ikons)? 2. Is the bishop of



Rome the supreme Vicar of Christ or only first among equals? 3. Does the Holy Spirit proceed from the Father and Son or only from the Father? 4. Should unleavened bread or leavened bread be used in the communion service?

During this period, the church in the Holy Land fell into decline. Both Jews and Christians who were not killed by their Moslem lords were made third class citizens. Palestine became a remote, uncared for province of first the Ummyads in Damascus and then the Abbasids of Baghdad. Many left the churches.

In 1071 the Byzantine army was beaten by the Moslems in Armenia. The Turks were infiltrating into the Empire and Europe was again exposed to Islam's armies. The answer to this problem was the Crusades.

#### **IV. THE CHURCH DURING THE CRUSADES 1099-1291 AD**

The Crusades were a gross caricature of Christianity as well as a scandal to the Eastern church. Large armies of mostly ignorant men calling themselves Christians swept into the Holy Land to wage a Holy War, to restore the right of pilgrimages, and to recover the holy places from the Arabs. Arabic-speaking Christians as well as Moslems fell before their flashing blades. One has rightly said that the Bible is not a banner for a holy war but is rather a map for a holy walk. Instead of helping the Eastern churches as the Popes had promised, the Crusaders suppressed them and even sacked Constantinople, the Empire's capitol in their fourth campaign and set up a Latin kingdom. With the Arab success at the Battle of Hittin in 1187, the Crusaders' main fighting force was broken.

1260 saw the rise of the dynamic forces of the Mamlukes (Moslem slave-officers) in Egypt. From the East simultaneously arose the threat of the Mongol armies of Genghis Khan. The general of the Mongol armies was a Nestorian Christian and asked the Crusaders to help him defeat the Moslems. For unknown reasons, the Christian Knighthood of Palestine resisted the Mongols and even helped the Moslems. The Christian Mongol general's army was defeated at the valley of Armageddon and the Mamlukes were then free to turn their full power against the Crusaders. Finally in 1291, Acre's fall signalled the last of this "Holy" force expelled and the Christians of the land were left helplessly to themselves. Every Christian who fell into the Mamlukes' hands was cut to pieces.

## **V. THE CHURCH UNDER THEIR MAMLUKE MASTERS 1291-1517 AD**

While Huss and Wycliff were being condemned in the West, the ruthless and fanatical Mamlukes were grinding Christianity in the Middle East to poverty and despair. Churches were destroyed or turned into mosques. Those Christians who were left in the land were marked, and almost persecuted out of existence. 1349 brought the "Black Death" so that at the end of this period, war and plague and even great earthquakes had decimated the entire population of the Holy Land. In the midst of these troubles the re-established but weak Byzantine Empire, further threatened by a rising Moslem Turkish force, sent representatives to Florence and there in Council worked out and approved a plan for re-union with Rome in 1439. The hope was that the Pope would relieve their condition by launching another crusade. The suffering Eastern laity still had life, however. They rejected this action of the politicians and clerics and Jerusalem's representatives at the Council found the City's gate shut against their return.

In 1453 Constantinople the capitol of the Eastern Christian Empire was taken by the Ottoman Turks and the Byzantine Empire died.

## **VI. THE CHURCH IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE 1517-1917 AD**

In the first half of the fifteenth Century the pagans of Bulgaria were threatening the tottering Byzantium. For help they turned to the Northern Turks who, by invitation, marched into the Empire and conquered the Europeans. When asked to leave Byzantium after their victories they refused. Under Suleiman "the Magnificent" they soon wrested power from the Mamlukes in Egypt. While in Germany Luther was nailing up his 95 theses challenging the Papacy and preparing the way for Reformation of Western Christendom, Ottoman Turks were seizing Constantinople and setting up what we might call a Turkish Empire of Rome.

In Palestine the Christian population was now so impoverished and scant that we can hardly trace any spiritual activity in that period. The main church activity of these four hundred years had degenerated to fighting for control of the Holy Places. No attempt was made to evangelize. Through political manoeuvres the Latin church re-entered Palestine with wealth and power.

In 1833 a new spiritual force appeared in Jerusalem. The first

Protestant missionaries had arrived. Mission work among Moslems was not permitted but evangelization of Jews and Eastern Christians did not concern the far away Turkish rulers. By 1900, there were only 5,000 to 10,000 Christians in the Holy Land. Physically the land of milk and honey was a ruined, eroded, almost deserted pile of stone, with extensive stretches of desert sand and marshes. With the Allied victory over the Axis powers in 1917 the Turkish Empire was dismembered, and Britain received the Mandate to administer Palestine.

## VII. THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN ERA 1917 —.

The British Mandatory government ended Moslem domination of Jerusalem which had lasted since 1244. Its first task was to rehabilitate a land wasted by war and famine. Freedom, order and peace were established. Banished clergy were brought back to their posts and others were released from prison. Christians who survived the slaughter in Armenia by the Turks came looking for refuge. Jews began returning in ever larger numbers. Many missionaries entered to work under the new conditions of freedom and security. Scores of churches, orphanages and schools were built. The "Valley of Dry Bones" began to take flesh.

In 1948, upon Britain's Land withdrawal, the Holy Land was again plunged into war with new-born Israel fighting the Arabs for survival. The result was the division of Jerusalem and Palestine into Israeli and Jordanian sectors. In 1967 this division was erased with Israel's victory over the Arabs. Israel's victory spared the Christians of the Holy Land from annihilation. Israel has pledged freedom for everyone to practice his own religion without hindrance. The numerical strength of Christianity in the Holy land today is as follows:

|                   |        |                 |       |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------|-------|
| Latins            | 23,000 | Anglicans       | 2,300 |
| *Greek Catholics  | 24,800 | Protestants     | 2,500 |
| *Maronites        | 3,050  | Copts           | 1,500 |
| *Other Uniates    | 600    | Syrian Orthodox | 1,150 |
| Greek Orthodox    | 37,450 | Ethiopians      | 100   |
| Armenian Orthodox | 2,150  |                 |       |

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98,600

Christians in Israel

\*Eastern Churches who accept the Union reached at the Council of Florence (1439).

Of the hundreds of missionaries in the Holy Land, most are concentrated in Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem. To the author's knowledge there is no truly indigenous church in Israel. The Evangelical churches are very weak, and with many Christian families leaving the country, the hopes for a future indigenous Bible-believing church will only be realized by much labour, prayer and the direct intervention of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' words to the Ephesian church certainly clarify what has happened in the Holy Land's churches; "repent and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly and will remove thy candlestick out of its place" (Rev. 2:5). When Christ removes a church's spiritual vitality, who can restore it?

A question which must be directed to the reader is, "What direction are you and your church travelling?" Heed the lessons of history!



## EXODUS OF CHRISTIANS FROM HOLY LAND SPARKS FEARS

By Alan Cowell in *New York Times* Feb. 1992

JERUSALEM - In the land of its birth, Christianity is gradually losing its followers.

Over the past four years, a growing number of Palestinian Christians have emigrated from East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, leaving some 45,000 in a region that is home to nearly four million Israelis and 1.17 million Palestinians.

"My fear is that in 15 years, Jerusalem, Bethlehem - once centres of strong Christian presence - might become a kind of Walt Disney Christian theme park," Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey said during a visit to Jerusalem last month.

The archbishop is spiritual leader to the world's 70 million Anglicans.

His comments reflect a wide fear that the Christian Holy Land is losing its congregants and becoming a place where outsiders tend the shrines for the sake of visiting pilgrims.

Bishop Timothy Margaritis of the Greek Orthodox Church said: "We are much afraid of this. The church cannot exist only for those who come from abroad. If there are no people, there can be

no church, because the church does not consist of clergy alone."

Dr Bernard Sabella, a Palestinian Christian researcher at Bethlehem University, said a survey of emigration patterns indicated that 18,000 Palestinian Christians - or around 40 per cent of the total in East Jerusalem and the occupied territories - had departed since the 1967 Middle East war.

The study also showed that more than a third of those remaining in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank intended to leave.

About 50 Christian family names dating back to the Crusades had disappeared in and around Bethlehem, Dr Sabella said.

And Bethlehem itself, the traditional birthplace of Jesus and a town that for a time was almost wholly Christian, now has a majority of Muslim residents.

Some clerics attribute the exodus of Christians from the occupied territories to the strikes and violence associated with the Palestinian uprising, which began in December 1987. But the answer, as with most issues in the Holy Land, depends on whom you ask.

"The reasons," Bishop Timothy said, "are the instability, the political situation, the unrest. People are looking at the future of their children, to live in a more peaceful atmosphere and enjoy better conditions."

Although a pattern of emigration has also been established among Palestinian Muslims and among the 110,000 Palestinian Christians holding Israeli nationality, the rate of departures among Palestinian Christians living under Israeli occupation is much higher.

Since 1967, as many as 300,000 Palestinians had left the occupied territories, he said.

If the survey is accurate, the figures would suggest that one out of five Palestinians has emigrated overall and two out of five Palestinian Christians.

Many Israelis suggest that the Palestinian Christians are emigrating out of fear of Islamic fundamentalists, who have gained ground during the four-year uprising.

Such view of fundamentalism is contested by Arab religious scholars, who maintain that Islam calls for co-existence with Christians and Jews - NYT. Feb. 1992

## HIS LIFE WAS A POEM

*Bonnie Carlson*

The life of Dr. Thomas A. Lambie was characterized by the corn of wheat, which in dying brings forth much fruit (John 12:24). His daily dying to self brought forth sweet fruit of the Spirit in his own life, and sheaves of redeemed souls brought into the Kingdom of our Lord, of numbers which cannot be reckoned. Beloved for his selfless life and steadfast service, he was a man of faith and prayer.

He was born of godly parents in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1885, and from childhood dedicated his life to God. After completing medical school and two years internship he began his foreign service at the eager age of 22. Despite malarial mosquitoes outside and ants indoors, Charlotte Claney became his bride and much-valued companion. Together with their two children they entered new territory in southern Sudan on the upper Sobat River, bordering on Ethiopia. Here, a pioneer missionary in the truest sense, he exercised great faith in God, a keen sense of humor, and a contagious enthusiasm.

He buried himself in those Sudanese jungles, undaunted by wild beasts and disease. Eventually, in 1919, he was invited into Ethiopia, a land virtually untouched by the gospel. The Lambies were the first Christian missionaries there, with the exception of one who was confined to Addis Ababa, the capital. The doctor began more than a dozen new stations and a large hospital (the first worthy of the name in all the country) in Addis Ababa. Within a few years there were fifty stations with eighty workers, and Dr Lambie was appointed the emperor's personal physician.

Then Mussolini attacked Ethiopia, and the emperor asked Dr Lambie to organize and head the Ethiopian Red Cross. Eventually, with Ethiopia's defeat, the Lambies were forced out of their adopted country for good, and Dr Lambie became "the doctor without a country." For he had died to himself again in relinquishing his American citizenship and taking the oath of allegiance to Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia; this to secure property-holding rights for his mission, and to demonstrate his complete identification with the Ethiopian people. By special acts of Congress he regained his American citizenship and returned to the Sudan.

Ordered to retire, with broken health at 57 years of age, he chose to obey the Great Commission to the end, rather than serve and witness at home. "Swords up to the gates of Heaven" was his watchword.

He went on to found the Holy Land Mission consisting of a 95-bed tuberculosis sanatorium, a clinic and nurses' home in the Baraka Valley; and a church in Bethlehem. This he accomplished solely in the strength of the Lord, as he suffered the loss of his first wife en route to Palestine in 1946, another health breakdown, and loss of all possessions in the partition of Palestine. In 1947 the Lord gave him a second help-mate, Irma Schneck, an associate of missionary days in Ethiopia. With humility and tenderness, following the example of the Master Physician, he made himself always available to minister to the souls and bodies of his 7,300 neighbours in the Ain Arrub refugee camp. The stimulating influence of his beautiful testimony was further multiplied as he spoke in churches and conferences around the world, penned six books, and made the Bible live for visiting pilgrims.



April 14, 1954 the indomitable spirit, which had long ruled the frail body, took its flight. He was resting at the Garden Tomb, scene of the Lord's resurrection, and speaking of his Easter message he was to give there in four days time. Even as he spoke, he quietly answered his Lord's summons to that Celestial City.

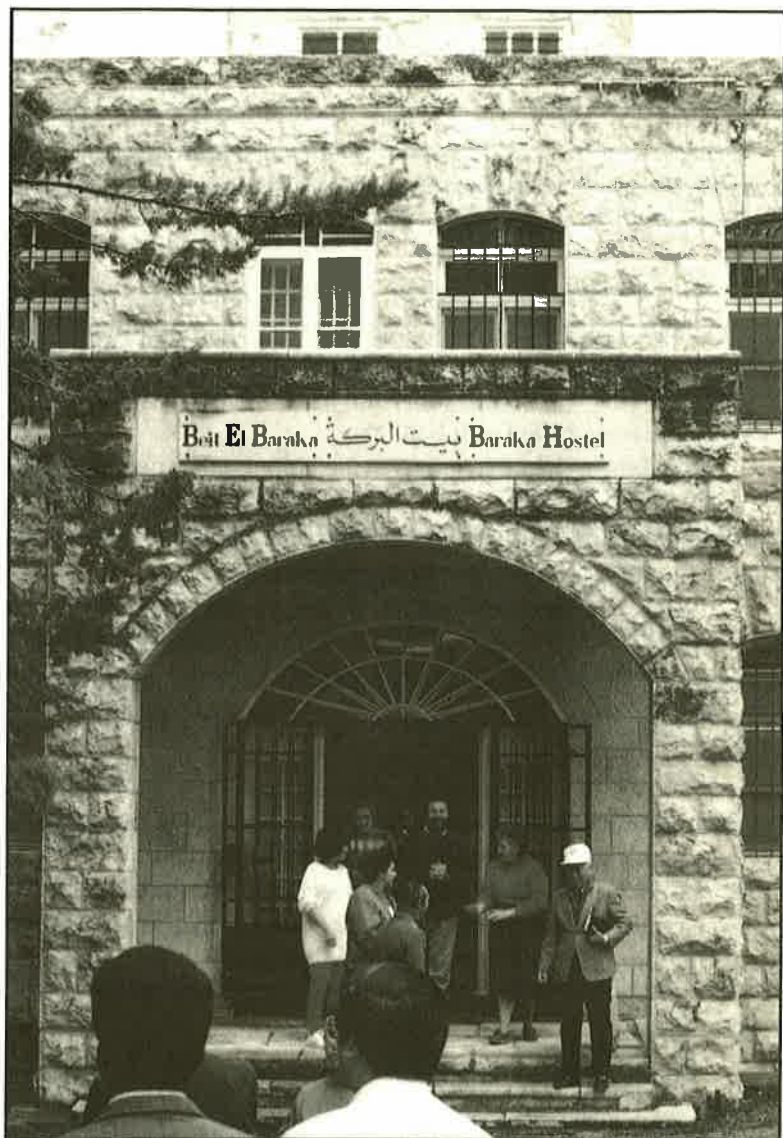
"With Christ, which is far better."





Author Before an Ancient Olive Tree.





### Baraka Sanatorium

*founded by Dr Thomas Lambie under the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions in 1950 is now a Hospice for Pilgrims to the Holy Land and a Bible Conference Centre*

## TWO SEAS AND TWO PHILOSOPHIES

*(Message delivered by Pastor Tow at Baraka BP Church, Bethlehem,  
March 15, 1992)*

**Text:** Proverbs 11:24,25 *"There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth: and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."*

This Land is a land of sharp contrasts. While it is shivering cold in Upper Galilee, it is balmy spring at the Red Sea port of Eilat. And what a contrast between Jerusalem at 2600 ft and Jericho, 1300 ft below sea level. The greatest contrast, however, is between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea.

Speaking of these two seas in the Holy Land, I perceive they are a fitting representation of two philosophies. Galilee represents the philosophy of a brimming Christian life but the Dead Sea the philosophy of a worldly, grasping, selfish kind.

Let us examine what makes Galilee so lively and Dead Sea so dead. In a word, while the Sea of Galilee gives freely what it receives, and therefore is a fresh waterlake teeming with life, the Dead Sea only receives and conserves, and therefore becomes a Sea of Death, as its name implies.

But you will retort, "How about its wealth in the minerals it has accumulated through the centuries? With 30% of its water content being salts of all sorts, the Dead Sea's mineral wealth is worth \$1270 billion. Its tremendous reserve is estimated at 22,000 million tons of magnesium chloride, 12,000 million tons of common salt, 6,000 million tons of calcium chloride and 1,000 million tons of magnesium bromide. (Encyclopedia of 7,700 illustrations by Paul Lee Tan)

But all this staggering wealth belongs only to the State which is mining it for its own enrichment. The most you can gain of the Dead Sea is to go for a dip or to bathe at one of its spas, and that at a costly price. This hoarding of wealth is reflected in Jesus telling the story of the Rich Fool:

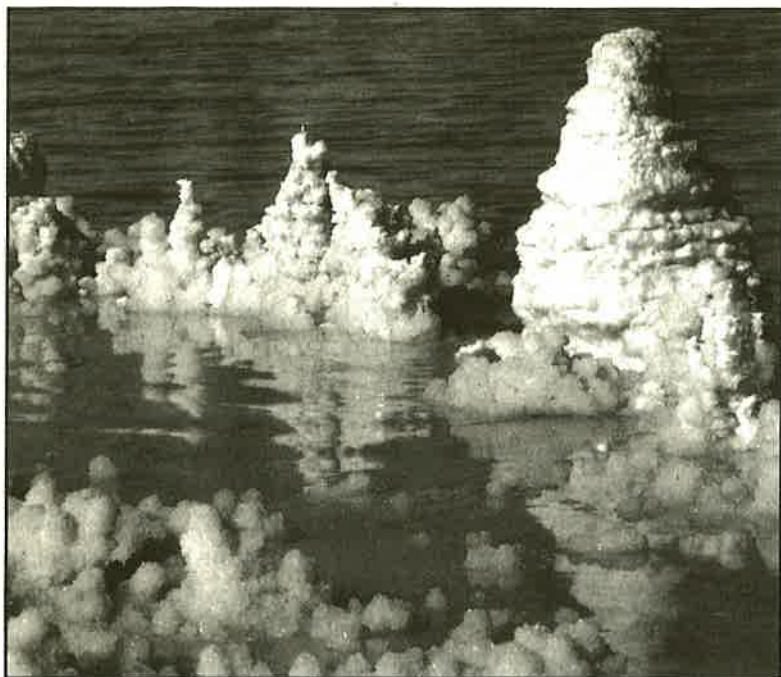
"The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I

have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. But God said unto him, thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:16-21)

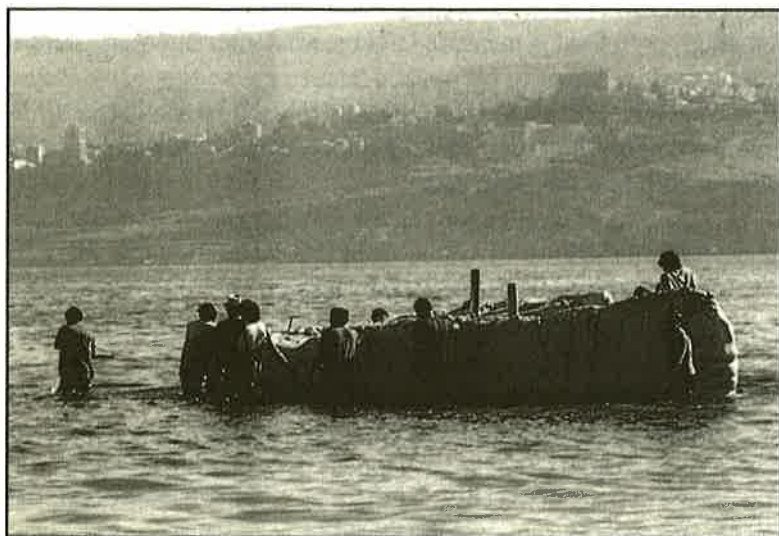
Now Jesus did not say the Rich Fool was a non-Christian. It may well be that the richer a Christian gets, the more miserly he becomes. The more covetous he grabs his wealth, like backsliding Lot growing rich at Sodom. He might be rich, but in God's sight he is very poor. It is not what you keep that makes you rich. Unused talents are dead talents. It is what you spend for a good cause, for the glory of God, that enriches your soul and your standing before God. Or, let me restate in the words on a tombstone in England, "What we gave, we have; what we spent, we had; what we left we lost." How many a miserly Christian millionaire will be shocked when he meets God to hear Him say, "... cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness..." (Matt 25:30).

Though he himself shall be saved, yet it will be as by fire" (I Cor 3:15). The wealth he hoarded for himself on earth becomes burnt wood and hay and stubble (I Cor 3:12) when he appears before the judgment seat of Christ (II Cor 5:10). Someone says the amount a man gives to God is measured not by what goes out of his pocket but by what he keeps in his pocket. Hence the widow's two mites, silent and mute, far outweighed the gold the rich and powerful threw into the Church Treasury, making a loud noise. Are you hoarding your wealth like the Dead Sea?

The Sea of Galilee, on the other hand, is a fresh water lake. It receives its supply of water from the mountains of Lebanon, prominent in the range being Mount Hermon, 9220 ft high and clad with snow. As the rains fall on the mountain slopes and snow often abundantly, they become a constant stream of water that flows into Galilee. This fills up the Lake, 14 miles long and 8 miles wide, and what a reservoir for a thirsty nation. Apart from sending her waters into the Jordan, the Lake is tapped by gigantic conduits and aqueducts to irrigate the land. The Sea on one hand teams with fish and on the other brings life to the land. Vegetables, fruits, grain, trees, flowers and palm trees cover what was once a barren land.



The Dead Sea



The Sea of Galilee

What a picture of the happy Christian life, whose philosophy is giving in contrast with the world's grabbing.

Now, giving is loving. God sets us the example by giving us His only begotten Son to die for our sins that we might live. Jesus says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35) and he laid down His life for us, saying, "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends" (Jn 15:13).

By our Christian philosophy of life, we will cheerfully give to God and men, from a heart constrained by His love. In so doing we are acting like God! We are on a more positive level of life than what Socrates has observed: "To have need of nothing is divine." This more positive level of life, we repeat after our Lord, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The more we give, the more we receive! Listen to what St Paul says to the Corinthians, "For God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (II Cor 9:7,8). When God has found us faithful stewards of the talents He has entrusted us, He will increase our capacity to give that more will be blessed. As the text of our sermon says, "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty" (the Dead Sea and the Rich Fool). "The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself" (The Sea of Galilee and the generous Christian).

In our drive along the northern shore of Galilee we crossed the bridge that spans the upper stream of the Jordan River. That was only one channel of water flowing into the Lake. But, we also noticed other streams, though minor, but numerous that supplied the Galilean Sea. What a vivid illustration of God's promise that when we give cheerfully, He will make all grace to abound toward us, so that we will have abundance to give further, and always able to do it.

What a contrast between the two Seas. What a contrast between the two philosophies. Which of the two do you belong?



## TRAVELLING ON THE HIGHER PLANE

(Message delivered by Pastor Tow at Baraka BP Church, Bethlehem,  
March 8, '92)

*"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book ...  
even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and  
knowledge shall be increased" (Dan 12:4).*

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the  
gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).*

The prophecy of Daniel may be restated thus, "In the last days shrouded in mystery, many will be travelling from one country to another, because of advancement in science."

Yes, many will be travelling, many people will be on the go from one country to another. This is made possible by modern means of transportation, particularly the airplane. When I went to study in America in 1947 it took me 42 days by cargo boat from Penang to New York via the Suez Canal. Now you can do it by jet in 24 hours flying time! What are the reasons for this escalating worldwide travel since after WWII?

First I can visualise the hundreds and thousands of students from Third World countries heading towards the West to seek a higher education. Hundreds and thousands for a better economic future. It's a means of survival.

Second, I can see the refugees. Some time ago I heard from BBC that the world had 14 million refugees. With famines and wars still erupting, the picture is one of grim increase and not of decrease. Refugees from war, from hunger and disease, from persecution. But economic refugees cannot qualify like political refugees for help. How sad to read of 26 people killed a few months ago in Hong Kong's refugee camp. To end up like that, dying in a foreign country to escape death itself! Won't it be better to have stayed at home in Vietnam? Do we pity them? No, Hongkongers want these boat people sent home.

Then there are thousands upon thousands from the richer countries flying here, there, everywhere for tourism. Many go for sexual pleasure and spread AIDs around. How desperate! How the poor Thai girls for example, suffer just to earn a bowl of rice. Are prostitutes happy people? You should have seen the misery written

on their faces. "Is it nothing to you all ye that pass by?" (Lam 1:12).

Last but not least, there are the pilgrims. We are pilgrims too in the true sense of the word. We have come from Singapore to the Holy Land to learn more of what God had done here through His son. To walk where Jesus walked. We came also to worship with Baraka BP Church, to fellowship with Arab Christians, "for there is neither Greek nor Jew ... for Christ is all and in all" (Col 3:11).

But we still fall short of God's standard if we have no sense of mission. Having come all this way through three countries, through Jordan, Egypt and the Holy Land and never heeding the Saviour's command to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15)? Have you ever thought of contributing to the Gospel enterprise in the Land of our Saviour's Birth, where Christianity paradoxically is a fading force?

Why did our pilgrims of 1987 give hilariously to help the Arab brethren buy a piece of land at the Shepherd's Field? It was in obedience to the Great Commission. Can we do less implementing our Lord's command to extend the Gospel to Earth's end? (Acts 1:8). If we obey Him, then we are travelling not like all those we have mentioned before us. We will be travelling on the higher plane God intends for His Church. Like the Boeing 747, flying on the higher plane reaching to the stratosphere!

We will not think of lavishing on ourselves the many attractive things we'll buy. We will set aside a portion for the advancement of His Kingdom. We will be mindful of the people we meet walking in darkness. We will shed some light to lead men and women and children groping in darkness to Christ.

The story is told of Dr A B Dodd, missionary of the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions in China (I was a student of his in Nanking then). It was his custom to leave behind a Gospel tract at every point of contact he made with the people on his way. One such tract converted a young girl who became one of ten most famous female writers of China. She wrote not for self-glory but for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

If in this pilgrimage we come solely for selfish enjoyment without raising a finger for the cause of missions, then there is no difference between our travel and that of others. We have not ascended to the higher plane God has intended for us. Wherever we

travel, let us be conscientiously involved in missions. Every pilgrim is a missionary! Every Christian whether he travels or not is a missionary. How can you contribute to worldwide missions according to Mark 16:15? How can we hasten the work of the Lord, inasmuch as our Saviour has prophesied of the end-times in which we live, "And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt 24:14).

Go into the world into all the wide world

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

Adapted by  
JANE B. WALTERS

THÜRINGIAN FOLK SONG



Go into the world, into all the wide world,  
And tell the joyful news to ev'ry perishing soul,  
And tell the joyful news to ev'ry perishing soul.

For you I have sent into all the wide world,  
And you shall be my witnesses from Jerusalem,  
And you shall be my witnesses from Jerusalem.

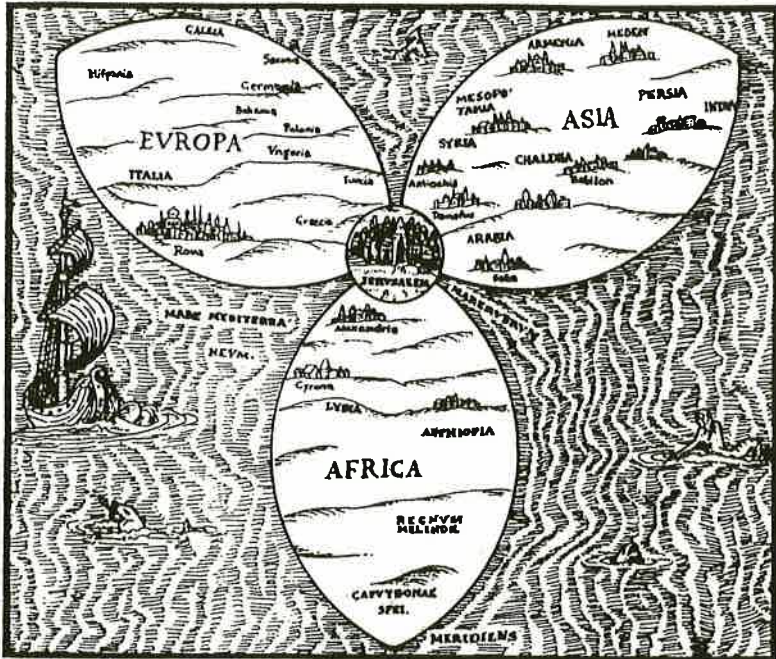
But first receive power, the Spirit of God,  
And you'll go through Judea, Samaria, all the earth,  
And you'll go through Judea, Samaria, all the earth.

Go ye into all, into all nations,  
And make them My disciples, and baptise them for Me,  
And teach them all My Word, for I'm with you to the end.

(Scripture: Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46, Acts 1:8, Matt. 28:19,20.)



## Israel at the Centre of Three Continents



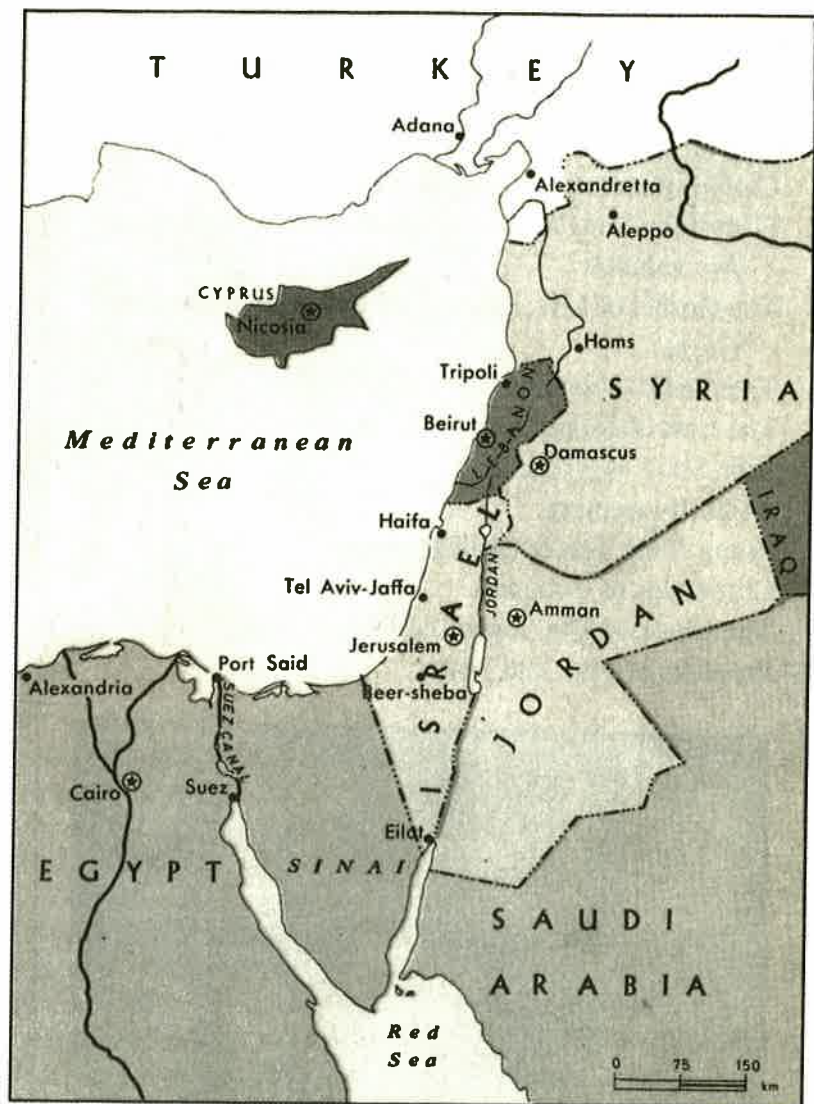
Ancient Map showing Jerusalem at the centre of the world, 1580.

*"Thus saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her" (Ezekiel 5:5).*

*"For out of Zion shall go forth the Law and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa 2:3).*



## Israel and Neighbouring Countries



## BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Pioneering in Dyak Borneo

*by Jason Linn, translated by T. Tow*

In John Sung's Steps (*The Story of Lim Puay Hian*)

Calvin's Institutes Abridged, Vol. 1, Bk I & II

Forty John Sung's Sermons, *translated by T. Tow, in two volumes*

The Gospel of Life, *An Applied Commentary on John's Gospel*

The Gospel Prophets

The Law of Moses And Of Jesus

John Sung My Teacher

Asian Awakening

Wang Ming Tao & Charismaticism

Chronicles of Conquest

The Clock of The Sevenfold Will of God

Prophets of Fire And Water





## About the Author

Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow is pastor of Life B-P Church and principal of Far Eastern Bible College. For 30 years he has taught Theology, Hebrew, Old Testament History and Prophets. This has given him keen insight into the life and fortunes of God's chosen people.



In 1969-70 he spent six months in Jerusalem to study modern Hebrew at the American Institute of Holyland Studies and graduated from the Ulpian course. He has led three Pilgrimages to the Holy Land which further qualifies him to write this book on Israel.

This book not only endeavours to awaken Christians to the imminent coming of Jesus the Messiah by the prophecies fulfilled in the Jews in these end-times, but also vividly portrays the history of their wanderings, and persecutions under Hitler, whereby six million were exterminated. It warns of the next prophecy which involves not only Israel but also Planet Earth in a Third World War, climaxing in the Battle of Armageddon. That will be the end!

*Prophescope on Israel* is a thriller, but more important, it brings salvation to you if you believe what it says. Amen.

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*"I count it a privilege to recommend **Prophescope on Israel**, written by my friend, Rev (Dr) Timothy Tow.*

*This study of Israel in history and prophecy should stir the hearts of God's people all over the world. It is rich in Biblical references; and it also provides very helpful perspectives on Israel's tragic, yet divinely-guided history from the call of Abraham to the crises of the present hour." --- Dr John Whitcomb*