

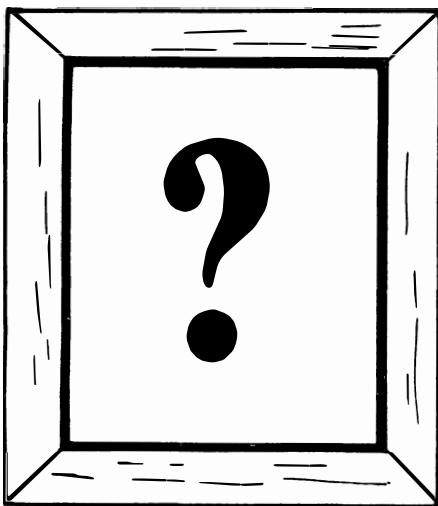
THE LEVITT LETTER

ZOLA LEVITT MINISTRIES Vol. 3, No. 1

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MAN OF THE YEAR



Every year *TIME* Magazine selects its "Man of the Year" for the cover of its New Year issue. People everywhere have ideas and suggestions and quite a poll is taken to choose that man who most profoundly affected world affairs throughout the previous year.

It might be interesting for us to speculate on who would qualify as the Man, or Men, of 1980 where Christianity was concerned. Our influential men might make up a slightly different group since our biblical view of world politics is quite different than that of the unbelieving world. For one thing we believe there are only a few years left and that greatly affects our thinking about just who has been really influential. And also we are interested in a different quality of life than the highest dreams of those who rule or conquer the nations of the world.

From the point of view of the American Church certainly the Men of the Year were Jerry Falwell and James Robison. The two led a movement that

changed the United States government. They stood fast before mockers and doubters, claiming that the majority of Americans are moral and wish to live in a moral land. In my view it remains still to be seen whether the sort of government they helped elect is going to bring real solutions to all of the problems of this complex nation, but there can be no doubt that history has been changed because of their efforts. The National Affairs Briefing in Dallas, an event covered by *ZOLA LEVITT LIVE* on two programs, was derided by some of the media and generally downplayed as unimportant partisan politics. In reality it marked a significant turning point in the campaign of President-elect Reagan, propelling him toward the Oval Office. President Carter should not have turned down that opportunity to address the American voters from a Christian platform.

On the other side of things, Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet President, also profoundly affected world affairs. If he had his way the Kremlin would control all the nations of the world and presumably we would all be as well off as the people of Afghanistan or Poland. This is a man with high ambitions and a marvelous survival record. He might be called "The Real Estate Speculator of the Year" since he managed to gather up a whole country in 1980 (Afghanistan) and set up several others for future Soviet domination (Iran, Iraq, Syria, Jordan). Southeast Asia has largely fallen to the Russians under Brezhnev's leadership as well as numerous African nations. You have to give Brezhnev credit; that's a lot of real estate.

We might also consider the Polish strikers for "Men of the Year" awards. In the face of almost certain disaster they have stood up for human freedoms and dignity and they have won their point, at least until the tanks come. They are courting a major tragedy in opposing the might of the U.S.S.R. but, in the manner of the Apostles, they are not overly concerned about the odds. They are largely believing Catholics, probably of varying levels of Christian sincerity, but compared to their Communist overlords they constitute an army of real saints. At any rate they are hardly atheists and it is quite believable that the freedoms that inspire them to rebel were taught to them initially in church doctrines. Communists are born and bred to believe that there simply are no human rights but the Church invariably teaches otherwise. Poland has always been a strongly Christian country and it is interesting that that nation would be the one to stand up and fight at a time like this.

When all is said and done, however, probably the Man of the Year is the Unknown Witness, the born-again believer known only to the Lord who goes about his service through it all. Like the Unknown Soldiers of past wars, the Unknown Witness studies the scriptures, gives a good account of the Lord, steps forward when he sees a need, promotes the Christian ethic in his prayers and in his daily life, and ultimately makes a real change in the world. In the end it will be this small group of unsung heroes who will make the most difference. When the coming

Kingdom takes over this world that unheralded testifier to Jesus Christ, present and past, will be responsible. He is the Man of this and every other year.

THE OLD SOLDIER

The Begin government is about to fall in Israel. It seems that Prime Minister Begin has lost his majority in Parliament and new elections will soon be held to replace him.

This is nothing unusual with the Parliamentary sort of government that Israel has. It's a democracy closely resembling our own except that the leadership can be changed at any time that the Parliamentary majority feels it is lacking. Rather than having set 4-year terms as we do, the Israelis carefully dispense with the reigning government when they feel it's time to do so.

Menachem Begin had led a long and distinguished career in service to his country. Beginning as a front-line revolutionary in the days of the 1948 War of Independence, he has risen to the highest post in the land, only to be toppled by untenable economic situations. Israel's terrible inflation rate, now 135%, has become too much for the citizens to bear.

The Old Soldier has done well over all. He is the first king of Israel since Solomon to conduct trade on a peaceful basis with Egypt. He is the first Hebrew to make a friend of Pharaoh since Joseph! Through much criticism, a series of critical heart attacks, and extremely difficult times with terrorism and Palestinian relations, Begin has stayed at his post and given his all. When his government falls it will be said that all of the problems finally outdistanced the leader. But in the hearts of his countrymen the truth will be known. He is old and sick, and it is time for him to rest now. But Israel will look long and hard for one as devoted and talented to replace him.

Shalom, Prime Minister Begin. We will continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

"WE'RE NUMBER ONE!"

This is the time of year when football teams all claim "We're Number One!" but ZOLA LEVITT LIVE really is!

In Arbitron ratings taken in November, 1980 for our home channel in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex, ZOLA LEVITT LIVE was the number one religious program, outdrawing both the First Baptist Church of Dallas and The 700 Club. This sort of overwhelming blessing can only be the Lord at work.

Presumably we are doing just as well in every place that we are shown but ratings are not taken for the satellite and cable networks so we don't actually know. The Arbitron sampling of the metroplex area, however, is absolutely reliable and is meant to compare the

relative audiences of the competing programs. The thanks goes to you, our supporting audience, for giving us the prayers and the funds to continue this ministry to such an impressive level of success.

Of course, Christian programs don't really "compete" since we are all working for the same Lord. The testimony of Jesus Christ can be presented in infinite ways and formats and the important matter here is simply that the information gets out, far and wide. We are very pleased that our program has received such overwhelming acceptance and we can only promise that we will strive to maintain our leadership position.

To God be the glory!

READY OR NOT

Greece has officially been accepted into the 9-nation European Common Market and so the alliance now makes up 10 nations. There has been an empty tenth flag pole in front of the headquarters building for many years but the Confederacy is now complete.

Books such as *The Late Great Planet Earth*, *Things to Come*, *Satan in the Sanctuary* and so many other standard works predicted for years the oncoming establishment of the ten-nation confederacy foreseen by Daniel and Revelation. As of the beginning of 1981 the prophecy is now perfectly in place.

If you are not aware of the role of this Confederacy, immediately obtain one of the books above (*Satan in the Sanctuary* is available from this ministry). Though this very climactic prophetic event has passed quietly, almost without international notice, it emphatically sets the stage for the end of the age and the coming of our King.

Without carrying the idea to a fault, we should all be watching the Confederacy of Europe to see if a powerful leader begins to arise who might well be the Antichrist!

REAGAN ON RUSSIA

It's somehow refreshing to have a government leader point out that the Soviets believe they have the "right to commit any crime, to lie, to cheat," to attain their goals. When that leader is the President of the United States, it gives one confidence in him.

President Carter seemed to think that the Russian leaders would honor their promises, tell the truth and otherwise conduct themselves with the integrity he himself possessed. It can never be said that Jimmy was completely foolish but he was far too trusting. The Baptist deacon from Georgia seemed to think that all men everywhere want to do the right thing, but the fact is that some men want to maliciously do the wrong thing as efficiently and ruthlessly as they can do it.

President Reagan is not at all so credulous. He said in his first news conference January 29th that the Soviets had made no secret of striving for world domination. "I know of no leader of the Soviet Union since the Revolution and including the present leadership, that has not more than once repeated their determination that their goal must be the promotion of world revolution and of a one-world socialist or Communist state," he said.

Those final words above very closely echo the Book of Revelation in its description of a one-world controlling force under the leadership of the Antichrist. Lying, cheating and committing any crime would be characteristic of that horrible Tribulation government as well. The Antichrist will have no more consideration for the rank and file population of the world than do today's Communists for

the workers of Poland or the dispossessed citizens of Afghanistan. The Antichrist will feel too that he knows what's best for the whole world and that "might makes right". The Antichrist, like Russia today, will gather territories with little resistance and he will institute a new ideology which all men will be compelled to accept.

But interestingly, scholars of prophecy realize that the Antichrist will not come out of Russia nor promote a Communistic ideology. His home base will be Western Europe—the revived Roman Empire—and prophecy implies that he will rise out of Rome itself. Thus something must happen to the Russians before the Tribulation Period, or just at its beginning, to eliminate them from the scene of world domination. The prophet Ezekiel makes it clear that Russia will attempt to invade Israel in the latter days and students of prophecy widely agree that this will be the Russian Waterloo. Perhaps the defeat of Russia and her allies in the invasion of Israel will give the Antichrist his cue to step forward and make his 7-year peace treaty with the Israelis. His reasoning may be, "You were lucky this time but you need protection. I am close by with my 10-nation Confederacy of Western Europe and I can help." The Israelis will sign up because they'll be good and scared and because they will have played their trump card, their nuclear weapons. They will realize that the next assault will be a nuclear one and they simply would not have the means to repel it without help from considerably greater forces.

Thus the picture of things to come

is quite clear from the biblical reckoning. Russia will proceed to gobble up territory in the manner she has always done, finally coming to Israel. When the Communists attempt to overrun Israel they will be all but wiped out and no longer a factor in world affairs (Ezek. 39:2). The Antichrist will step forward and make his covenant, and so on to Armageddon.

It is good to hear a clear, unvarnished assessment of the Russians from our new President. Now if only the world could be convinced that something even worse is following closely behind the Russian Bear.

If President Reagan thinks the Russians are criminals, liars and cheaters, I hope he never meets the Antichrist.

"SIR, WE WOULD SEE JESUS"

One of our viewers recently pointed out a subtle lesson in prophecy that I had never thought of. There is a place in the Gospels where the Lord is approached by people from a foreign nation and a curious scene ensues.

In John 12:20-28 we have the following:

And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

Father glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

The curious part of the scene is that the Lord goes on to pronounce one of His most solemn sermons concerning His ultimate mission to die as a sacrifice for all mens' sins. But he never comes back to the Greeks who wish to see Him and they drop out of the story, evidently without an interview with Jesus. The usual speculation is that the approach of the Greeks symbolized that people of foreign nations were already coming for the Gospel and this was a signal to Jesus to leave the matter with His apostles.

There had to be an end to the witness to Israel and a beginning in the foreign nations. And so the Lord died and was resurrected, and beginning with Pentecost, the Gospel was sent overseas from the Holy Land. As Paul was to later point out:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Rom. 1:16).

That much I had understood previously, but the real enlightenment came when the lady pointed out that the last and most recent nation to join the European Common Market was Greece. As of the beginning of this year, Greece became the tenth nation, completing the picture of the Antichrist's European confederacy. As we know from prophecy, that confederacy consists of ten nations of a revived Roman Empire

"Thy Kingdom Come"

After the "500-Year" program many of you wrote in to obtain a chart of how I had divided biblical and modern history. We had not offered such a chart, and frankly the divisions are my own and quite arbitrary. I just happened to notice that biblical and modern events affecting Jewish affairs seemed to fall into approximate 500-year cycles. Below is the chart outlining the major events which begin each cycle. I have refined the study somewhat since the program aired.

and therefore is normally construed to involve the European territories.

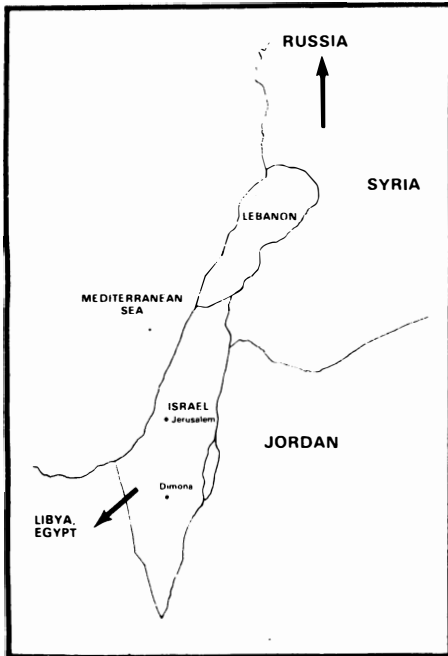
Could it be that the coming of the Greeks is still a sign of a cataclysmic change in God's plan? When they came the last time, Messiah was crucified and resurrected, and the Gospel proceeded to overwhelm the empire and the world. Now that they have come again, are we ready for that fatal change into the Tribulation Period, which we all expect in the very near future?

It may just be a coincidence, of course, that Greece was the nation that completed the picture and that the folks that wanted to see the Lord on that Palm Sunday were Greek. On the other hand, those aware of biblical subtleties are very sensitive to such workings of our God. It's just possible that our studious viewer who enlightened us on this point has had a real revelation. It's certainly something to think about.

4000 B.C.	- Adam
3500 B.C.	- Noah
3000 B.C.	- The Flood
2500 B.C.	- Tower of Babel
2000 B.C.	- Abraham
1500 B.C.	- Moses
1000 B.C.	- David, Temple I
500 B.C.	- Temple II
0	- Jesus
500 A.D.	- Mohammed
1000 A.D.	- Crusades
1500 A.D.	- Inquisition
2000 A.D.	- Holocaust-Antichrist-Kingdom (1,000 additional years)

The dates are all approximate. The events are all cataclysmic, for better or worse. The whole system describes 6,000 years of work, 1,000 years of rest (the Kingdom) making up a cosmic "week." The Father worked with men 2,000 years; the Son 2,000 more — culminating in His actual appearance — and the Spirit the last 2,000 years. Evidently the final 1,000 years are coming very soon. Food for thought, in 1981 A.D.

RED ALERT!



The presence of Russian military advisors in Lebanon, as revealed recently by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, is one of those startling bits of news that very much excites prophecy watchers. In recent times, the appearance of the so-called "advisors" has time and again preceded a full scale invasion by the regular armies of the advising nations.

So it was with American advisors in Vietnam, Russian advisors in Egypt before the Yom Kippur War, and so on. Some Americans today fear our sending military advisors to El Salvador in the full knowledge that our advisors may be followed up by our actual fighting men. It is no secret that military advisors have a way of escalating local conflicts, giving much more than mere advice. Regarding biblical prophecy, we must suppose that these Russian advisors on

Israel's northern border simply preview the coming Russian invasion of Israel (Ezekiel 38-39).

An interesting supporting feature has to do with another revelation of Begin's — that of the presence of Libyan troops at missile bases in Lebanon. The Libyans are given as one of Russia's allies by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 38:5).

We have continued in this newsletter to keep you abreast of this developing prophecy, and thus far Ezekiel hasn't been wrong about anything. The Russians are quite where he expected them to be, firmly entrenched in "Persia" (Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria, etc.) and now utilizing their Libyan allies. Common sense, if not biblical knowledge, tells us that we are on the brink of the actual invasion.

A few weeks ago, the ABC news program 20-20 detailed the presence of nuclear weapons in certain Middle Eastern nations. It seems that Israel is well armed with atomic bombs and delivery systems, obtaining most of its supplies covertly from the U.S. The Israeli atomic works at Dimona in the Negev is turning out an arsenal that will deeply impress the Russians when they arrive. Iraq, with technology from France and Italy, is also progressing toward nuclear readiness and Pakistan, largely a Moslem nation, is doing the same. French and Belgian technology has been made available to Pakistan and that formidable power is well supported and encouraged by Libya. The politics are complex, but one can see at a glance that the Moslem countries tend to take their nuclear knowledge from the European confederacy of nations. This situation previews the alignment of the Antichrist's coming regime with Israel's enemies. Not only is the Russian invasion of Israel being set up but long term preparations are underway for

Armageddon, to follow seven years later. Even Egypt, it is suspected, is capable of delivering atomic warheads but will not use them in the Russian invasion (Egypt is omitted in Ezekiel's alignment of the invading powers. But Egypt will surely be a protagonist at Armageddon. She is arming now and will be ready when the time comes).

So, to simplify all of the above; the Russians are *already in Lebanon*, to Israel's north, and so are the Libyans. The Israelis are busy at fortifying their northern front and knocking out anti-aircraft missile emplacements in Lebanon. The peripheral powers are preparing nuclear weapons as fast as they can for an ultimate confrontation. And the stage is set for a major Russian move on the Middle East.

We should update our scenario of the Russian invasion of Israel at this point but it really needs no updating. The original prophecy by Ezekiel is still absolutely accurate, nation by nation, step by step, and we continue to rely on it completely.

"It is written".

"Ye Shall Know Them By Their Love"

This is a general thank you to all of those who have volunteered help, services, cookies, and whatnot to our ministry. Many local folks have come to our offices and done a day's work—or many days—in envelope stuffing, recording of gifts, phone answering and the like. To those we are tremendously grateful.

Out-of-towners have offered odds and ends of goods and services that have many times helped this ministry get through some pretty painful times. All of you have asked nothing in return for what you have given and your good works are generally known only to the Lord. You have stored up much treasure in heaven.

Any help with the outreach of the gospel of Jesus Christ is precious to God, as He made so clear in the Scriptures time and again. We can't remember every one of you personally and so we take this public method of expressing our thanks for your love. God, who does remember every one of you personally, must be extremely proud of you.

MASADA AND JERICO

Everyone is very excited about Masada these days due to the TV mini-series. It's as though that unparalleled story of courage and fortitude were just discovered.

I rather liked the TV version for its faithfulness to the facts but like most secular television it certainly had its tedious stretches of "high drama". Nobody is very sure what the Romans or the Jews were really thinking or talking about during that long siege and I rather doubt if the Roman 10th Legion, assigned as it was to that mundane and difficult desert assault, had so dashing a leader as Peter O'Toole.

The important lesson in Masada is the Israeli attitude toward freedom and possession of their own land. The Romans rather underestimated the tenacity of the Israelites to hold on to even a barren rock, and in our own future the Russians will underestimate that same tendency. The Roman Empire as a whole thought it could wipe out Judaism, a scripturally impossible task. The Russian empire supposes it will wipe out Israel and it won't even be as successful as the Romans. As a matter of fact the Russians will meet with the same fate—extinction!

The Masada-like mentality of modern day Israel is well known to anyone who's ever visited the place. The people are more than pioneers. They are driven by an almost fanatical dedication to their land brought on by 19 centuries of dispersion, the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Holocaust and a host of other persecutions. Jehovah has inspired His people to regain and fortify their promised land and they will do just that. An assault on Israel by any power is absolutely hopeless.

Near Masada lies beautiful Jericho, very much a symbol of heaven itself.

Despite the terribly barren terrain around the Dead Sea and Masada, Jericho is the very picture of beauty and plenty. Cold water courses down its gutters from faithful springs which the prophet Elisha purified, and oranges and grapefruits hang from the trees. There are flower boxes in many windows and the whole place gives a feeling of nothing less than the Garden of Eden. (Some people suppose that the Garden was indeed right at Jericho, which is archeologically the world's oldest inhabited region).

Jericho is the end of the Passover story—the grand finale of the Exodus. As such it is the symbol of Christian translation, or our deliverance to heaven in the Rapture of the Church. First in the Passover study comes the bitter herbs—the bondage of slavery. Then comes the blood of the lamb and salvation; then the water of the Red Sea, our baptism, and finally our journey through the wilderness—this discouraging earthly sojourn. But ultimately we are all headed for beautiful Jericho. The children of Israel took that city with shouts and trumpets (Joshua 6:5) just as the Church will rise to heaven with shouts and trumpets (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). Even the name of the leader is the same; Jesus' name in English is of course, Joshua, the name of the general at Jericho.

They say Ireland is "a little bit of heaven" and I have seen it and turned green with envy at its beautiful hills and fields. But Jericho thrills me even more since I understand its symbolism. There's simply no other place like it on the face of the earth.

And so they sit there side by side, Masada and Jericho, the hope of the Jew and the hope of the Christian. There is a road connecting the two, one of many

two-lane desert trails which lead out of the arid plains to more settled parts of Israel. The way is narrow indeed but the Jewish people at Masada were within sight of complete deliverance!

There's certainly a lesson in that. Before the world overtakes us—before the Roman traps us at the summit of Masada—we must plan our trip to Jericho. We must be sure that when Joshua sounds that trumpet again we will be ready to enter that heavenly city and occupy our promised land.

SADAT ON PROPHECY

In my last personal letter to you I analyzed the assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in the light of biblical prophecy. We did not find that his death was predicted in some given verse of the Bible, but rather was one of those "catalytic events". In this case his passing seemed to have spurred Libya into dangerous military action in the direction of Israel and qualified her eminently as an important Russian ally. This situation, in turn, leads us to the coming Russian invasion of Israel as outlined in Ezekiel 38-39.

I recently studied over an interview with Anwar Sadat that I have saved since August of 1980. Three editors of the Readers Digest caught the ex-President of Egypt in a very candid mood and he spoke plainly on the Russian situation. Sadat's view of the coming invasion leads one to think that it's already happening. The Russians are not in Israel, of course, but they are consolidating the territories all around her. President Sadat felt that "the situation in Iran gives the Soviet Union every opportunity to infiltrate." He also said the same thing in reference to South Yemen, near Israel's southern border, and he lived to see his theory vindicated in Lebanon and Syria later on. Sadat's conclusion was, "The Soviet Union will just wage war with this infiltration policy."

Mr. Sadat was a bit caustic about his friend, Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, in this particular interview. He said, rightly enough, "Mr. Begin can't bring himself to leave what he calls 'Judea and Samaria' because it is the 'the land of the fathers, and it is biblical.'" The quotes are Sadat's, not mine. I think like Mr. Begin. As a matter of fact, the idea of Judea and Samaria being biblical is not open to question. All the same, Mr. Sadat's political posture required his styling of Prime Minister Begin as some sort of biblical fanatic. I confess to the same fanaticism. The situation came to a head later in the interview when Sadat was asked about whether there would ever be peace in Israel, and his answer was, "If Mr. Begin drops all these Judea/Samaria claims, yes."

And there we have the whole problem. Israel is supposed to choose between God's Word and war. In that case, unfortunately, the choice is very clear. Ironically, Sadat laughed off suggestions by the interviewers about public hostility and terrorism. He felt quite safe, evidently,

from any violence in Egypt, and he chose to annihilate Libyan dictator Khaddafi verbally on this occasion. He also deplored violence in the name of Islam.

In that connection he predicted that Iran would turn to the left—that is, toward communism—and this is what readers of prophecy expect. He said that the fighter planes and tanks that Egypt got from the United States would be necessary for use in the Middle East "after Iran has vanished." And he asked the interesting question, "What am I to do if anything comes from the South, from the direction of Ethiopia, instigated by the Soviet Union...?" Ethiopia is of course, one of Russia's allies in the coming invasion (Ezekiel 38:5).

Sadat said the United States is declining and its credibility is shaky in the world. He said that Europe is weakening, "relaxing". As for China, he said, "In the next ten years they will be the third superpower." This would jibe with the prophetic view of the King of the East not being quite ready for the Russian invasion of Israel but marching in Armageddon 7 years later.

Asked about his courage and strength, Sadat said, "I am a true believer in God." But he stylized his view of God as strictly the Islam view.

The interview concluded with a self-evident commentary on the veracity of Moslem scripture: "God tells us in the Koran that if the whole world chooses to end your life and God doesn't agree, it will never happen".

On that, God said, "Blessed are the peacemakers..."

MORE NEW MORALITY

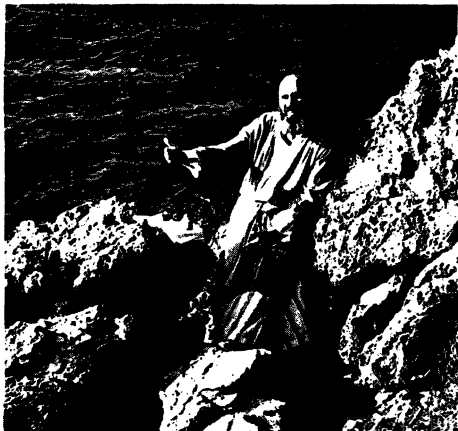
TIME magazine recently ran a rather naive article called "Aftershocks of the 'Me' Decade". The item was a review of the book by Daniel Yankelovich, the pollster whose opinions frequently appear in that magazine.

Author Yankelovich thinks that the "me" decade is over with and he predicts a new "ethic of commitment" on the American scene. "We are no longer selfish," thinks the poll taker, who termed the last Presidential election "too close to call". We are now going to become a nation concerned with the common good, full of self-denial and a "search for community". But even TIME thinks "this rosy vision is fairly flimsy".

While most of us would readily agree that the seventies were a selfish decade, thinking people are aware that the sixties were pretty much the same and so were the fifties. As a matter of fact a long line of those "me" decades started with the serpent in the garden. I wasn't aware that America of the 1980's had as yet found the solution to selfishness.

There is one way in which TIME's predictor of things to come may be right after all. If the Rapture of the Church comes sometime soon, the decade will finish off nicely with "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men".

THE FALL SHOWS



Isle of Crete—Bible teaching on the rocks.



Filming the Mount of Olives.

The Cairo Connection—Zola in the land of the Pharaohs.



We can give you a pretty good projection of our new fall programming at this point. We have about eighteen shows in the works with six finished and about 12 more in editing.

The season will begin in the second week of September (for most of you) with the Wax Museum shows I described in the previous newsletter. We utilized wax figure displays at the Southwestern Historical Wax Museum to depict teachings on the Last Supper, the birth and death of Christ, and His burial and resurrection. There are three shows in all with some very fine and very original video footage. The advantage of the wax figures, of course, is that they are three dimensional; we didn't use them as backdrops, like paintings, but rather I was able to walk among them in the shows. The effect is sometimes utterly startling.

Following those shows we will present three studio programs on our usual set. Two are interview shows of more than routine interest and the third is a Bible teaching. One of the interviews is with Ron Helm, a converted Mormon, whose outspoken criticism of the Church of the "Latter Day Saints" always raises controversy. This outspoken believer is thoroughly knowledgeable in Mormonism and it seems to be his ministry to reclaim those who have been seduced into this decisive error. Anne Murchison, who appeared on our program previously, discusses praise and worship from an Old Testament point of view on the other interview program. She is a well-studied Christian with a lifetime of worship behind her—including the worship of other gods before her salvation. The teaching program is on the subject "How Can a Gentile Be Saved?" This particular talk has raised questions and hackles everywhere I've presented it so I decided to take a deep breath and send it out nationally. We have just completed publication of the new book by the same title and we'll be offering it along with that program.

The other programs will have to do with our Middle Eastern tour in August and, of course, we have location footage that is truly superior. Though we were not able to get our cameras to some of

the actual sites we used still photos and we may be able to edit shows around those one-of-a-kind scenes, such as Mars Hill and the sumptuous ruins of Ephesus. We were able to complete taped programs on Patmos, Cyprus, Mt. Carmel in Israel, the Sea of Galilee, the Western Wall, the archeological diggings at the Temple site, the East Gate, and the pyramids in Egypt. Just how many programs all the footage will make is still a little bit unclear to me; I was staggering around in the sunlight making show after show, and not really laying them down on tape as complete programs. Sometimes we could only stop for a ten-minute teaching but other times we were able to stay at a site by the hour. A particularly uproarious and entertaining show will be the Western Wall program, where I joined a local Bar Mitzvah and ended up riding on the shoulders of a Greek Jew whose son was just becoming a man. The Israelis were glad to hype it for our cameras and we even got a chorus of little tots singing hymns in Hebrew there at the Western Wall. We were also grateful for the services of the head of the archeological Temple digging, Meir ben Dov, for a learned commentary on the latest discoveries at the Temple. These programs should answer many of your Temple questions and lend themselves nicely to discussions of prophecy. In Egypt I climbed a portion of a pyramid for one program and came back to the hotel feeling like one of my ancestors who spent his days building the Egyptian monuments before the Exodus. Pyramid climbing is an illegal Egyptian hobby which will never be totally popular.

We also got odds and ends of beautiful scenes shot from the ship in the Mediterranean and sundry "wild shots" throughout Israel. I think I can safely say that our programs will feature more original and beautiful footage than any other Christian program this fall. God was good as we travelled.

Please urge your friends to tune in because in all good faith we've never had shows of the value of this upcoming fall season. If you liked ZOLA LEVITT LIVE in the past, and your response shows you did—you'll just love it this fall.



Approaching the Parthenon



Overlooking Mars Hill

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF WASHINGTON

It took the near assassination of the President of the United States to make it happen, but the federal legislators of this country recently turned to prayer. And it was valid, godly prayer offered "in Jesus Christ, our Lord."

It was the day of the assassination attempt and of course we all had a great deal to pray about. The President survived by a matter of inches and we were grateful. We were also very apprehensive and very much reminded of our own mortality.

But we could desire a little more prayer in the United States Senate; prayer that might be offered at less critical moments. The prayer leader of the Senate implored God "in time of need" but I think we can assume that God would like to hear from the Senate even on dull and ordinary days. The Old Testament is filled with stories of kings

and high priests who seemed to turn to the Lord only when nothing else would do the job. King Manasseh of Judah worshipped pagan idols for fifty-five years but then remembered "from whence his help cometh" when he was taken prisoner by an Assyrian army. No less a personage than King David knew enough to turn to the Almighty when facing Goliath, but would later approach God in repentance only after the fact. Last minute entreaties to a patient and faithful God are a major theme of all scripture.

But before we criticize such worthies as the kings of Judah and the senators of the United States we might all ask ourselves if we were in prayer the day before the day the President was shot, or the day before that. A survey would probably show that millions of prayers rose to heaven as our leader lay in surgery, but on some previous day

heaven wasn't kept very busy at all. Christian prayer ought not to vary with the circumstances. We are admonished to "pray without ceasing."

Probably something good would happen if we each picked out some Tuesday or Friday when church is not in session and the President hasn't been shot and offer up some earnest prayer. We might even offer up some praise and thanks. We fail constantly to count up the good things. Think of all days that have gone by during which the President was not shot, nor we ourselves for that matter.

The prayers of the Senate have been answered. Our President and the other victims are enjoying wonderful recoveries as of this writing. Perhaps we should all contact our Senators and remind them that God is available even on off days.



FOR SINNERS ONLY

I finally heard a “St. Peter at the Pearly Gates” story worth repeating. This one had to do with a rather learned and pious minister of a large church.

The good pastor was quite confident as he approached Peter, seeking entrance into heaven. “I’m sure you’ve heard of me,” he told the apostle. “I’ve occupied a very important pulpit for the past forty years and sent quite a few people your way. I imagine my good works have been noticed up here and I’d now like to come in.”

“Actually, we haven’t heard of you,” Peter replied, “but we have a point system in heaven in order to be fair to everyone. Perhaps you could outline your career in the ministry for me and I’ll give you the appropriate score for each of your actions.”

The pastor was very cooperative. For the next hour or so he regaled the patient Peter with work after good work, especially emphasizing his unblemished character and his forgiving nature. At the end of it all Peter was duly impressed. At length he told the minister that he would award him a “10”.

“Does that mean I can go into heaven now?” asked the minister.

“Not at all,” said Peter. “You need 100 points”.

The church man was aghast. “Are you kidding?” he exclaimed. “I spent my whole life in the service of the Gospel and you’re giving me a measly 10 points!”

Peter said, “Can you offer me anything more that we might credit you for?”

Well, as the day wore on the minister kept digging around for every conceivable good service he had ever done for the Lord—his church, his community, his denomination, etc., etc. The hour grew late. The pastor’s jacket was thrown over a chair and his tie was loose. Perspiring, he finally looked up at Peter piteously and said, “Dear Apostle, surely there’s mercy in heaven. How many points do I have now?”

“20 points,” Peter told him.

“Oh, I just don’t understand this,” exclaimed the pastor who was extremely frustrated. “Where will I ever get 80 more points? If it weren’t for the grace of God nobody would ever get into this place!”

“That’s 80,” replied Peter calmly. “Go on in.”

30 AND COUNTING

I just had a birthday and I turned 43. This wouldn’t be a landmark in most peoples’ lives, but as I was reflecting on it I realized that it is an anniversary of sorts. In December of 1951 I had turned 13 and on Jan. 12 I had my Bar Mitzvah. On that day, then, I became a man.

The Bar Mitzvah service, of course, makes the Jewish youngster a “Son of the Commandments.” The Jewish people consider that the male has reached his maturity, or at least his responsibility under the law, at age 13. During each Jewish youngster’s 12th year he studies the Torah (the Pentateuch) very assiduously and prepares to do his first public reading from it shortly after his 13th birthday. Thus we see Jesus in the Temple, in the Book of Luke, being cited as a particularly brilliant student at the age of 12. It was perfectly logical for him to be studying Bible during that particular year in order to fulfill this custom.

Therefore on Jan. 12, 1982, I will have been a man for thirty years. Frankly it feels longer than that at this point, but they have been very interesting years.

If there was one thing I could change, it would have been to bring the church around sooner in my life. I didn’t meet the Messiah until I was 32 because there really was so little witnessing to the Jews. I knew many Christian people but no one ever “offended” me by telling me about the Messiah. Well, I would change all that and I hope it will be changed in your lifetime. Witness to your Jewish friends now so that they won’t have to wait 32 years to find the truth.

The fact is, they might not have that much time left.

A Note From Ken . . .

Ken Berg, the Producer of ZOLA LEVITT LIVE, has many fine memories of our sojourn in the Middle East, during the making of our "Holy Places" series. He submitted the following recollection and I thought you'd enjoy his view of things.

I remember thinking to myself, "I hope when we get back to the States we have the pictures to prove it." At the time the situation was most amusing. It was late in the afternoon on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and I wanted so much, in the short time we had before the sun set, to have Zola present his next teaching in a small fishing boat. In Tiberias, during the summer season, there are plenty of highpowered speed boats, water skiers and sun bathers, but ancient fishing boats are hard to come by. Once we found one we didn't have time to ask Zola if he knew how to start the motor. We simply pushed him away from the shore and started our countdown, 5-4-3-2-1 ACTION!

Zola was wearing a wireless microphone, so there were no cables or cords between us and the boat. The wind was whipping up considerably and the sound man indicated that Zola's voice was breaking up. My concern for the technical quality of the sound was growing. The telephoto lens showed an ever decreasing image of Zola, his robe billowing in the wind, his note sheets one by one blowing out of his Bible. The boat was going around in circles, hopelessly at the mercy of the sea. CUT! BRING BACK THE BOAT!

Easy for me to say. The picture of Zola trying unsuccessfully to start the motor and unable to control the huge oars was classic. He was halfway across the Sea of Galilee, well on his way to the Golan Heights, when the owner of the boat finally made the rescue after a marathon swim. A few adjustments to the motor and the boat was soon on its way back to shore. Zola was somehow able to gather his composure and present an excellent teaching about the disciples and their encounter with the sea. The boat this time was anchored and held by two men, five feet from shore.

Our efforts to present "The Holy Places" as a fresh approach to Christian television left Zola in other precarious situations as well. In Egypt, he took on one of the seven wonders of the world, the Great Pyramid. The desert heat in August is enough to contend with, but Zola climbed up the side of this majestic monument (well, at least part way up). After each step I would hear, "Is this far enough?" To the negative reply he would turn and continue climbing. As in the show at the Sea of Galilee, the one we did at the Great Pyramid proved successful because of some extra effort and attention given to authenticity.

For years I've watched, with great interest, TV evangelists present specials from the Holy Land. Usually they are nattily attired in three-piece suits, accompanied by equally fashionable musical groups. I've admired them for their creative programming, but for me the final production has, more often than not, been little more than a successful effort in using Israel as picturesque backdrop. The significance of the Jewish feasts is rarely mentioned. The message of pain, the blood, the agony of Calvary and the Garden Tomb, is lost in the efforts to impress the viewers with the beauty of it all.

It was our intention in producing "The Holy Places" to present the Word through an honest relationship between Zola and the location. Such shows as the one at the Wailing Wall would never have been effective if Zola had been immaculately wardrobe or heavily scripted. Wearing a simple prayer shawl and unpretentiously mingling with Jewish worshippers at the Wall, Zola was able to present a refreshing look at the history of that area and of its importance to the Christian. I believe to effectively communicate the essence of the land you've got to get some of the dirt under your fingernails. Yes, the Children of Israel must have sweated and thirsted in the Egyptian desert -- we did. We know from experience at Tiberias that the disciples had good reason to fear the sudden wind on the sea. Christ must have been a man of enduring strength to have walked the valleys and hills of Jerusalem. Climbing the hill to the East Gate just once nearly wore me out.

In making "The Holy Places", I guess we were much like the Children of Israel. Zola and his crew wandering from one location to another, without script, not knowing what lay before us, exhausted and sometimes complaining. The letters so far have assured us that our sacrifices were not in vain. As the series continues, your letters of encouragement are most important.

On the last leg of our tour Zola had arrived in Cairo early. He had felt the heat, seen the immense desert and, I think knew what lay before him in the steps of the Great Pyramid. When the camera crew arrived the next day he was most anxious to inform me of a "fantastic" location from which to shoot a teaching of the pyramid. "On top of the hotel," he said hopefully. "There's a terrific view of the desert and the Great Pyramid. I can do my entire teaching without leaving the (air-conditioned) building!"

"Wrong" I said. Looking at each other honestly we knew in an instant it was just too easy.

Now that we're home we're glad for 3 things: We're glad we served the Lord; we're glad you'll get to see the marvelous "Holy Places" scenes; and we're glad to be back!

COLONEL KHADDAFI'S FLYING CIRCUS

After so much bullying of the small nations in their immediate vicinity the Libyans finally bit off more than they could chew. The reckless engaging of two American Navy fighter planes by two Soviet-built Libyan planes was certainly a foolhardy and hopeless exercise that ended very predictably. Whether Col. Khaddafi seriously thought he could "humiliate" the U.S. with an aerial victory remains in doubt. What is completely clear is the power of the U.S. Navy and the resolution of our nation in general. If the Libyans thought we were a sleeping giant they shouldn't have awakened us.

After the Iranian hostage situation and the abortive rescue attempt, Americans can't help a feeling of pride in what our men can do when they have to. We did not provoke this attack. We were fired on first and we responded in kind. The Libyan declaration that the huge Gulf of Sidra was to be regarded as a Libyan waterway is as ridiculous as the United States claiming the Atlantic Ocean. Our airplanes, flying over international waters, were attacked and defended themselves admirably. Arab delusions of military might will have to wait a little longer while we are in the area.

But our interest is in the biblical significance of things, and the emergence of Libya as a power that could even dare to attack two airplanes is the part that intrigues us. Libya, of course, is listed as one of Russia's allies in Ezekiel's prophecy on the invasion of Israel (Ezk. 38-39). We have detailed this prophecy in this newsletter in many past issues but things keep happening to update it. The focus over the past year or so has been on Persia, another of Russia's allies mentioned by Ezekiel (38:5). But now Libya, the nation mentioned just after Persia by Ezekiel, is coming to our attention.

A few years ago Libya was the sort of country that made people scoff at the Bible. If Ezekiel thought that this backward, unsophisticated nation would ever be a serious threat to Israel then the Bible must be crazy, people said a decade or so ago. It was unimaginable that pre-Khaddafi Libya could ever pull itself together enough to even feed its own people, let alone embark on

the adventure of a foreign invasion. But how things change!

In a mere ten years Khaddafi has consolidated his power, at the price of friendship with Russia, and now he is fully armed and ready to play his part in Ezekiel's scenario. He certainly knows where the target is, too, having placed troops along Israel's northern border in Lebanon and having allied himself with the most radical and vicious of Israel's enemies in the Palestinian problem. Khaddafi is one of those Arabs who still lives only to "push the Jews into the sea". His view of things is surely as dangerous and intractable as the Ayatollah's. Russia can make good use of such sentiments in the future, and so she is placing her weapons in willing if not capable Libyan hands.

The important factor for students of the Bible to realize is that Libya's progress toward pure power and anti-Zionism is no accident. That nation is keeping in lock step with Ethiopia, Persia, Eastern Europe and Russia herself as the invasion gets organized. Ezekiel must have quoted God as accurately as he says he did because everything is coming out at the same time. The Moody Press book *The Coming Russian Invasion of Israel*, which I wrote with Dr. Thomas McCall eight years ago has seen greater sales in the past year than ever before. People who previously thought Tom and I were being just a bit too literal about our Bible interpretation now have to eat lots of words, and they would do well to eat the words in that Book.

We are not concerned for Christian safety in the coming invasion since it is almost certainly a tribulation period event and the Church will be gone via the Rapture before that time. But again, the call to witness in the time we have left becomes imperative. If a nation like Libya now has the unmitigated audacity to engage the United States of America in a military battle, how long will it be until she feels capable of taking on miniscule Israel, along with many allies?

Don't sit back and count on your salvation like a wise investment you've made. This is the time for action. The Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation." Go forward now and "tell it on the mountain". Use this demonstration of Libyan aggressiveness to point out the accuracy of biblical prophecy and relate it to the soon coming of the end of the age of faith. Salvation is free "for a limited time only".

You have it and it's up to you to pass it out.

"OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE"

Some months ago this newsletter ran a complimentary article about Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin entitled "The Old Soldier". I predicted, in view of Israel's difficult inflation rate and Begin's ailing condition, that the Prime Minister would have to step down. New elections were being called and it looked as if his long time of service to his country was finally concluded.

Now I have to eat those words since it looks as though Begin will begin again. Old soldiers never die and this one doesn't even fade away. God be praised!

Of course the election isn't really over yet. In Israel when the peoples' choice has been so very close between two candidates, those two then have to court important members of Parliament in order to seat a majority so they can run the country efficiently. (One major flaw in the American system is that the President and the majority in Congress may be of different parties and therefore spend most of their time bickering. Then again, no system is perfect). The calling

forth of disciples hasn't quite concluded yet and so I'll still reserve comment about the Prime Minister. Suffice it to say at this point that he's in no way the loser I thought he would be.

We sent a copy of our newsletter to the Israeli Government and received a courteous thank-you and also a sharp reprimand for predicting an election too far in advance. I will be writing back to that government official and apologizing duly in enclosing this newsletter.

But I'm going to check things out for myself next month. I'll be in Israel in August and I have certain friends who give me the low-down. When I get back I'll give you some better idea of what the people are really feeling and thinking.

But in the meanwhile, if I could vote over there, my mind would be made up. Count me in for The Old Soldier.