

“I Will Bless Them that Bless Thee (and curse him that curseth thee)”

by Zola Levitt

*During my December visit to Israel I was contacted by Yehuda Levi, the President and Publisher of the **Jerusalem Post**, the widely respected English-language newspaper. I was asked to write an article appropriate to the National Religious Broadcasters Convention held each January in Washington, D.C. I was honored, of course.*

I wrote the following piece, which turned out to be a history—spiritual and political—of Israel since the 1st century. I am glad to share it with you.

There was probably a kind of “National Religious Broadcaster’s Convention” back in 67 A. D. when the Romans besieged Jerusalem in one of those seemingly endless Holy Land holy wars. The organization was probably called something more like the “The Empire-Wide Spiritual News Broadcasters’ Association,” and the location was probably on a comfortable Greek island. The “broadcasting” was largely in writing and largely by ship and by runner, but the job was the same in principle: cover the religious world of the day in light of Scripture, history, various sectarian points of view, etc.

And interestingly, the major news issue of the day was probably very similar to one of our major issues: Do the Jews really own all of Israel, or should the country be partitioned, or should they clear out altogether?

The same factions were divided over the matter in the same ways as they are today. The biblical group practicing the brand new Judeo-Christian ethic must have argued, “God gave the land to Abraham and his seed forever. He said the covenant was ‘everlasting’” (Gen 12:3). A secular contingent who did not view the Scriptures with favor probably pointed out that “the Jews haven’t been in control in Israel for centuries. Let the Romans administrate the place. They can let everybody come and go as they please. Jerusalem will be an ‘international city.’”

And then there were probably myriad non-biblical religious sects saying everything from, “My ancestors were here since the time of Ishtar and Moloch,” to, “The Jews took my grandfather’s farm.”

Naturally the fate of Israel wasn’t up to the members of the media, but, then as now, their views were influential. Some probably tried to “broadcast” even-handedly, as some do today, and some probably broadcasted partisan views and propaganda, as some do today.

In any case, with hindsight we can see the results of what happened with Israel at that critical time and for the following nineteen centuries. The Roman siege came to a bloody ending at Jerusalem, the rest of

Israel and Masada, and the empire administrated the Holy Land with an iron fist. If people could come and go freely, they surely weren’t Jews, whose members were thinned with Holocaust-like precision. By the time the lunatic emperor Hadrian consummated his personal final solution to the Jewish problem, the Israeli nation virtually went out of existence. Israel was Palestine, Jerusalem was Aelia Capitalina, and the Jewish people, with Roman blessing, became a pesky footnote in history. A small number persisted with their Yom Kippur wailing at their indestructible Western Wall, but God’s covenant with His friend Abraham was effectively null and void.

The land itself didn’t do very well under Roman rule. It declined and fell with the decline and fall of Rome until a newly minted religion took it over entirely. The Moslems with their long swords and short supply line came to stay. They resanctified Jerusalem in the 7th century, making it significant in the career of Mohammed, who, they claimed, traced his lineage back to father Abraham. This strange rereading of the ancient patent prevails today.

Thus the world had a long look at one of the three original alternatives for the fate of the Holy Land—giving it to the secular forces of Rome. Broadcasters who originally held to that view would have wanted to change their position with hindsight. The place never prospered because its original owners, the children of Israel, had been run off. No one else treated it with much love. The ensuing centuries of Moslem rule were a story of almost nonstop bloodshed. The Arab tradition of settling disputes with the teeth rather than the tongue dominated middle eastern affairs. The land was contested constantly, and as a result, it suffered.

Relatively brief appearances of the self-styled Christian armies of Europe brought no improvement. Lessons in love from the Crusaders were lost on those they massacred.

When the Turks rode in, reforestation received a new meaning. These crude conquerors replaced the precious trees of the Holy Land with saltwater swamps. In the absence of its true owners, Israel was desecrated. Not until the arson of today’s *intifada* was the Holy Land so purposefully reduced in beauty, value and comfort. God’s country became barren and very nearly uninhabitable.

Israel in pagan religious hands proved no better than Israel in Roman hands. This solution was not workable either. The rest of the sad story of Israel under occupying regimes is within modern recollection. The armies of two world wars used the

Promised Land as a battlefield when convenient. The British made every possible effort to keep the true owners out, valiantly postponing the moment of recovery that would finally ensue when Abraham's rightful descendants returned. But finally, in spite of the Romans, the Moslems, the Crusaders, the Turks and the British, the children of Israel did return, in an amazing fulfillment of voluminous biblical prophecy. And at last the land that they loved received a little overdue care. The real solution to the dilemma of who ought to have Israel was finally obvious.

The land truly received some healing when the Jewish people took it back in 1948. Trees were planted by the hundreds of millions. Swamps were drained, and one of mankind's deadliest foes, malaria, was eliminated from Israel. Irrigation was utilized wholesale to reclaim fertile territories from the wilderness, and soon the most magnificent visions of the prophets could be seen in the Promised Land; truly, "the desert blossomed as a rose." The local populations prospered. Arabs who had lived in the land for centuries suddenly had the modern world delivered to their doorsteps—or, in some cases, to their tents. Water became plentiful and clean; doctors appeared within reach of every village, inoculating children and treating their parents. Schools were constructed throughout the land. Lifespans increased dramatically. The Jews, wanderers for almost two millennia, brought the 20th century back with them to their land.

Thus the world has seen some 600 years of Roman rule, about 1300 years of on-and-off Moslem rule and 41 years of Jewish rule in the land of Israel. Thank God for those last 41 years!

Nobody loves a land like its rightful owners. If we are the new generation of religious broadcasters and if we again have the task of opinionating about the land of Israel, then let us learn from history. The secular forces who have controlled this ancient land merely exploited it. The alien religious forces abused the land and failed to keep up with the times. Only the chosen people of the Bible, to whom the land was given scripturally, have really cared for it.

Biblically, a great new kingdom is coming, and it will be headquartered in Israel. After millennia of strife, the land really does need this 1,000 years of peace. If our religious-broadcasting brethren of the first century were divided over who should control this important land, we should not be. As Israel is prepared for its greatest role, the earthly home of the Kingdom of Peace, let us give it to those to whom God gave it at the beginning. The children of Abraham will care for His land. And as the Psalmist admonished: "Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper who love thee!" (Ps. 122:6).

Hebrew Lesson

va'avaracha m'varcheycha
oomkalel'cha a'or

וְאַבְרָכָה מְבָרְכֵיךָ וּמְקַלְלֵיךָ אָאֹר

**"And I will bless those who bless
you, and curse those who curse
you."**

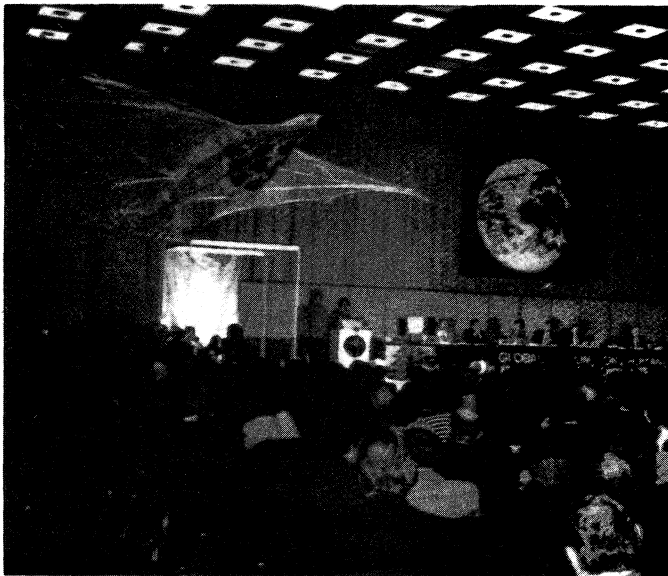
(Genesis 12:3a)

Zola's Own "Russian Summit"

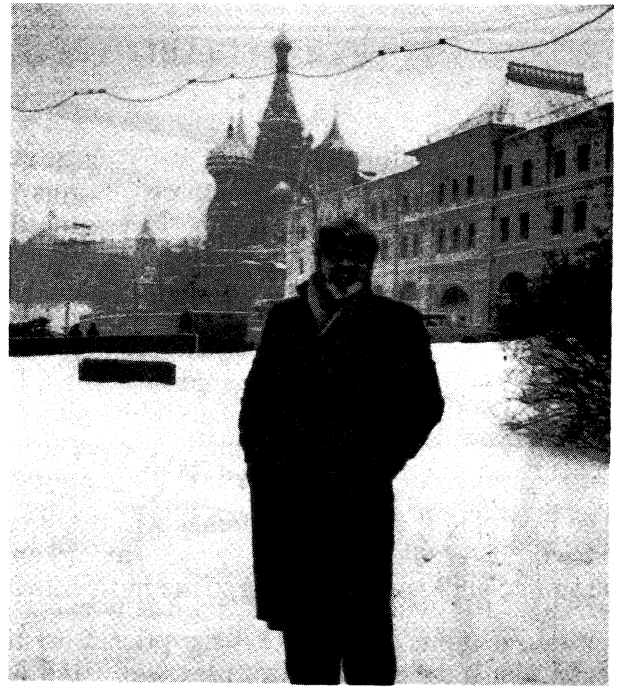
ОРГАНИЗАЦИОННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ
ГЛОБАЛЬНОГО ФОРУМА
ПО ПРОБЛЕМАМ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ
И РАЗВИТИЯ В ЦЕЛЯХ ВЫЖИВАНИЯ
ПРИГЛАШАЕТ ВАС
НА ЗАКЛЮЧИТЕЛЬНОЕ ЗАСЕДАНИЕ
И ПРИЕМ,
КОТОРЫЕ СОСТОЯТСЯ В КРЕМЛЕ
В 17.00 ЧАСОВ 19 ЯНВАРЯ 1990 ГОДА

The Organizing Committee
of the Global Forum
on Environment and Development
for Survival requests
the pleasure of your company
at the closing ceremony and reception
which will take place in the Kremlin
on January 19, 1990 at 5 p.m.

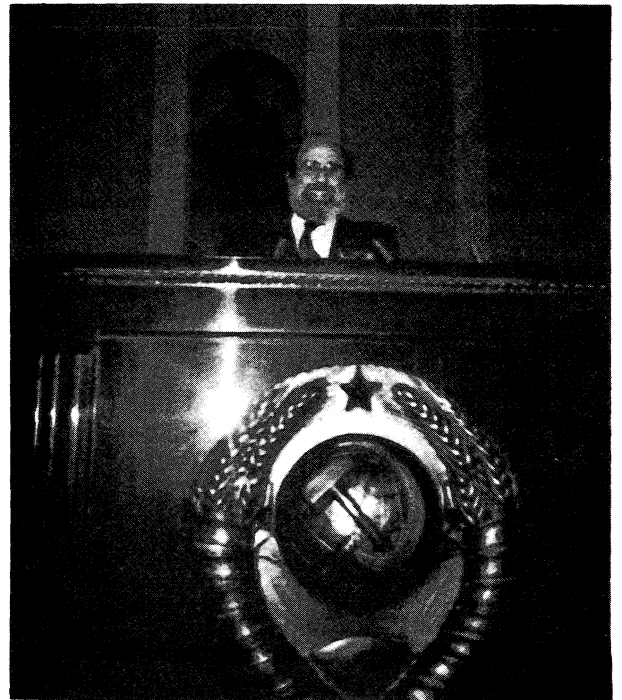
In Russian and English, Zola is invited to hear President Gorbachev and other world leaders.



Huge mobiles of birds, land animals and fish hang over the heads of the delegates at the Moscow conference as they discuss the chances for human (and animal and plant) survival.



Testing his overcoat—Various members of the media were photographed and video taped in frozen Red Square, with the famous spires of the 16th century Cathedral of St. Basil in the background. Cultivating that anchor man look, Zola braves the 22°C below zero temperature.



Benevolent Dictator—Zola poses at the massive podium that dominates the Palace of Congresses at the Kremlin. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had just finished addressing the conference. The definitive statue of Lenin is visible in the background.

Exodus III

by Zola Levitt

It seems that a third Exodus of the chosen people to the Promised Land is now underway as an enormous amount of Jewish immigrants from Russia arrive on Israel's shores. Some Christian commentators have been predicting what they call "A Second Exodus," referring to a predicted situation much like the present one. To be fair to Jewish history and the almost eternal wanderings of the children of Israel, the Jews were exiled from their land and were returned to it almost repeatedly. If the original Exodus from Egypt was number one, then the return from captivity after the destruction of the first temple might be number two and 1948 number three, and the present release of perhaps a million Russian Jewish refugees the fourth exodus. But whichever it is, I am borrowing the title of an excellent essay by William Safire in the *New York Times* called "The Third Exodus," and I want to refer to some of that brilliant commentator's thoughts.

Safire began his column with a joke:

In Leningrad a few months ago, a Jew who hopes to join the new Exodus to Israel told me this poignant joke. Scene: a state butcher shop in Leningrad. The butcher comes out and says to the long line of customers standing in the cold: "There won't be enough meat today to go around. Jews go home." The few rejected Jews trudge away.

Couple of hours later, the butcher reappears to say: "Meat is coming, but less than we thought. Everybody go home except loyal party members." Most of those shivering on the line leave. At the end of the day, the butcher comes out and says to the few remaining: "Sorry, Comrades, all the meat was diverted to the black

market; we have none at all. You'll have to go home, too."

One half-frozen Communist turns to the other and says: "See? The Jews always get the best deal."

Communism had frozen a number of attitudes which are now thawing out, and one of them seems to be anti-Semitism. There is much in the way of ethnic strife throughout the Soviet Union today, and the Jews will historically get their share, as Safire points out. His unfortunate joke is one of the stories that illustrates the historical habit of blaming the victim for some calamity. The Jews in Russia are scared, and they have some reason for fear, and they want to leave. They feel that "glasnost" will turn into anarchy or new repressions, according to Safire.

The United States will not be accepting these Jews since we have created a convenient pool for the extra

runoff in Israel. Since that country was created for the express purpose of providing a haven for Jewish refugees, we avoid the duty of helping these unfortunates among our fellow men by paying for their billeting elsewhere. This keeps down the number of Jewish immigrants to America, although I don't know when Jewish immigration was any detriment to this country. The Jews seem to have done extremely well among minority groups for any nation who has adopted them. They arrive under a promise by God Almighty, after all: "I will bless them that bless thee. . . ." The Israeli's are thinning out their own poor finances to take in their brethren, and indeed the balance of populations in the middle east is now going to change. As Safire puts it:

But many Arabs who have not stopped fighting the second exodus are enraged at this third wave of Jews into "their" neighborhood. They blame the victims of Soviet oppression for dooming Arab plans to create an independent state run by the P.L.O. terrorcrats now in Tunis.


That's why the Arab League representative at the U.N. wants the Security Council to declare the escape of Soviet Jews to Israel as a "threat to international peace."

Arab dictators are heartless but not stupid: the prospect of a million more Jews in Israel over the next decade changes all demographic assumptions. Israel will be more Jewish, not more Arab.

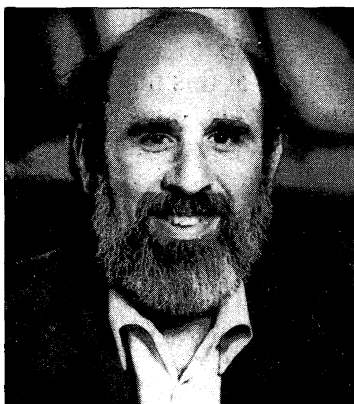
As things stood until very recently, the Arabs were winning their war of attrition, at least by demographics; they out-bred the Jews considerably and would have in time simply outnumbered them in the land of Israel. But now it seems that the population will be re-balanced in favor of those to whom God gave the land in the first place, and the terrorists in Tunis can just stamp their feet. Or perhaps they will blow up more airplanes to convince the unarmed innocent of their frustration.

I had announced in a previous letter that I would be writing several articles about the situation in Russia since I was able to visit there in January. I was part of a group that actually entered the Kremlin and was addressed by President Gorbachev. Although the conference had to do with ecology, human survival, etc., I learned quite a few things about the arcane situation in the Soviet Union today from simply being there on the ground and talking to the people. I will report in more detail about Russia as we go along, but the content of this article seemed more germane to the biblical view of things than the present disarray in Russian politics.

We are living in really unusual and unpredictable times. There has never been a better moment to be informed about biblical prophecy.

Stay with us. We'll give you the Word! 

A NOTE FROM ZOLA



In His name, and in the name of many Bible-believing Christians, we extend greetings—for a happy Hanukkah to the Jewish people, and a happy Christmas to our Christian brethren. May God's blessings be with you all, in the coming year.

We offer thanks to Israel for the Bible, our hope too, and for holding to its standards and truth, despite so much misunderstanding in a hostile world.

This is a land that you just have to see to appreciate.

Dear Friends,

I'll be home in the U.S. by the time you read this, but I'm writing it in Israel where I spent the Christmas and New Year's holidays. New Year's isn't celebrated on January 1 here, by the way, since the Orthodox Rabbis consider it to be a pagan festival (St. Sylvester's Day, whoever he was). Some of the hotels hold a party with some other excuse to make their foreign guests happy.

The Rabbis aren't biblically accurate with their own New Year's celebration, which they hold on the Feast of Trumpets each year in September. Compare Lev. 23:24 with Exodus 12:3, etc. The biblical New Year's day is Nisan 1, in March, roughly coinciding with the spring equinox (March 21). Anyone can see that this makes a fine and appropriate time to start a new year!

The nicest "Christmas" greeting I saw over here was an advertisement in **The Jerusalem Post** paid for by some very biblical folks. I quote it in full:

HAPPY HANUKKAH, ISRAEL

With "shepherds fields" Beit Sahur nursing a tax grudge, instead of rendering to Caesar the means to protect them from HAMAS; with Bethlehem honoring the intifada, instead of itself, and the birth that makes it significant; with certain patriarchs dampening their celebration because of the anti-Bible intifada politics; and with Desmond Tutu now here to preach ungodly politics against the people to whom the Bible says both Jesus and Bethlehem belong—this year, Israel may get a distorted picture of Christian attitudes to Christmas, to anti-Bible pretensions of so-called Palestinians, to Israel and, especially, to Jesus.

The New Testament (John 10:22) records that, at this season, He Himself celebrated Hanukkah.

Your messenger,

HEBREW LESSON

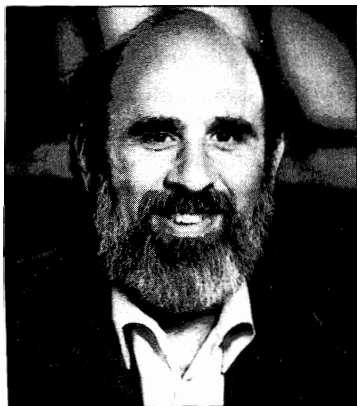
אֵין-קָדוֹשׁ כִּי הוּא וְאֵין צוּר כְּאֵלֵינוּ:

**Ain kadosh ka'adonai v'ain tzur
kelohanu**

"There is none holy like Jehovah, and there is no rock like our God."

(I Samuel 2:2a,c)

NOTE FROM ZOLA



Dear Friends,

My church speaking ministry gives me a chance to hear what American Bible readers are thinking about the world situation. It is a very interesting exercise.

I recently visited a superlative Bible-studying church in Fairfield, Texas, where in an hour-long question and answer period, I could easily see how aware biblically-read Christians are about the relevance to prophecy of our unusual world situation. In plainer words, the ordinary Bible-reading Christian is more likely to give a reasonable analysis of world politics than is a government leader nowadays.

One fact that emerged is that the Antichrist would do best to arrive during a scene of chaos. That is, this powerful global leader needs a situation where people are crying out for leadership to achieve his most effective entrance. Perhaps we are seeing the beginning of a kind of anarchy and mob rule, as in Romania and certain parts of the Soviet Union these days, which will ultimately cry out for some kind of firm guidance that will pull it all together. Sheep that are scattered begin pleading for a shepherd. Are we seeing the stage being set for the entrance of the final actor in God's ongoing biblical drama?

It is a truth that the Lord well knows that teachers like myself learn more from their students than from their own studies, and I am ever more informed when I visit the churches to speak. Talking to a television camera I learn very little, although the letters we receive are very informative. If you have any commentary on the world situation, or if the Lord has told you where things are going, please let us know without delay. I am serious. I could use the advice.

Our upcoming programming will include some reruns of *The End of the Age* series and of the very popular *Israel My Promised* programs. The programs on "The

End of the Age" gave the latest prophecy developments at least up to a few weeks ago and probably bear repeating at this time. As soon as world events start to make some sense, we'll put out still more end-times prophecy programs, and we'll do this on a regular basis as previously promised, until the King comes with His final answers.

Our location crew will accompany us on the Summer Tour which will take in Greece, Turkey and Egypt this year, as well as Israel. We'll be able to make programs at Corinth, which we have never covered, Athens, the Greek Isles, Turkey (if we can unravel the red tape it takes to enter that tedious country with a camera) and finally the Pyramids and the other wonders of ancient Egypt. Of course, we will include Israeli programs based on Russian immigration and the idea of rebuilding the Temple.

This upcoming series will be a major one, and I hope you can contribute toward that effort. It seems that lately we have put out a lot of new products that people enjoy, and we are very glad of it. It is part of our task to educate people with biblical study materials, and we have always done that. However, if you only make purchases and do not donate to this ministry, we quickly run out of funds for production and the like. We have to create, produce and ship each all of these wonderful opportunities. Please stick with us as we make the new programs. You will soon be enjoying a new series we were able to film back at the Feast of Tabernacles called *Israel, My Promised*. Stay tuned and keep the faith.

Your messenger,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Zola". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.



“THE LIONS ARE FREE”

by Zola Levitt

Russia is getting awfully hard to write about. Changes there are literally happening faster than computerized typesetting. We often go to press with crossed fingers hoping that something big doesn't happen between our final editing date and the day the U.S. Postal Service finally stumbles up to your mailbox with our latest thoughts on these volatile but crucial matters.

I know I promised to issue a series of articles reporting on Russia because of my visit there a few weeks ago, but again, news there changes so fast and is so critically important that I'd rather write about developments more timely than my observations. My visit was very recent, but there have been quantum leaps in Russian thinking since then. I left Moscow the week before President Gorbachev made his cataclysmic appeal to the Communist Party to share its power. Since then Russia is practically another world.

The world I saw was primitive and sad, to tell the truth. It reminded me of my hometown of the 1940's. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was smoggy and sooty then, chock full of steel mills pumping at full strength to supply our various armed forces during World War II. I was only a child, but I well remember the acrid smell of the air and the fact that you could almost taste what you were breathing. Hugh trucks and heavy buses gave off enormous clouds of black smoke in all directions in Pittsburgh, and if you bathed twice a day, the water came off of your skin dark gray each time. I had not even remembered these things since Pittsburgh has had a wonderful face-lift over the years and is now as clean as any American city (halfway clean). But Moscow took me back to my youth immediately. The sun almost never

shines in that very polluted and backward place, and people trudge about beneath man-made clouds virtually all the time.

The temperature was very low in January, 22 degrees below zero centigrade the day I arrived. A permanent impression was made on me by a nighttime bus trip that we took to an art gallery on the first night of the conference I attended. We drove through the whole snowy city and out into the suburbs, and at every intersection we encountered frozen policemen rocking back and forth miserably in the wind, their black and white striped batons tucked uselessly under their arms. They were simply too cold to move to direct the sparse traffic, and they weren't needed to direct it anyway. I finally ascertained that these underemployed police represented some of the make-work jobs provided by a stymied communist economy. Everyone ignored the police and the police returned the favor, simply freezing away their hours for a pitiful wage.

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The simplest jobs that our ministry offers pay more *per day* than the most highly professional Russian earns *per month*, given the state of the present economy there! The people at the conference spent some time trying to shop, but the stores were largely empty, with many of them closed. Prices were ridiculously low on the merchandise we could find, but most of it wasn't worth having. It was clear that there were restricted areas and an attempt was made to keep us tourists in circumstances where we would only see good things, but that was an impossible task. The hotel, prescribed for tourists only, was supposed to be a good one but was impossibly uncomfortable by American standards. The food we were served was plentiful and passible, but we understood it was available only to us visitors and not to the common folks who were working away outside that hotel. Our waiters and waitresses continued to try to sell us black market goods from right out of their own kitchens—tins of caviar and the like.

In the near future I will be working on a new book having to do with observations made in Russia, the Orient, Israel, Europe, etc., reflecting the various travels I have done. I'll include more of my personal

observations on Russia in that upcoming book, which you will see advertised in this newsletter. For the moment I would rather get on to the impact of the latest political situations in Russia.

The title of this article comes from a foreboding remark made to me by a conference delegate in Moscow. He was well-traveled and highly cultured, and he felt that the new outbreak of "freedom" throughout Eastern Europe and Russia was not all it was cracked up to be. He was a little bit afraid of it. When I asked him what his problem was with approaching democracy, he smiled and said to me, "Isn't it wonderful, the lions are free!"

It's true that when a hugh soporific drug like Communism is discontinued, society wakes up all at once. It's as if sunshine has suddenly melted a hugh glacier and out from under the ice comes all sorts of thawed out, living creatures with all sorts of ideas and attitudes. People have come out shouting for democracy it's true, but they've also come out shouting about their neighbors, their ethnic differences and supposed injustices frozen solid by the long sleep and now released. Anti-Semitism has reared its ugly and pervasive head, especially in a Russian organization known as *Pamyat*, which means "Memory." This is Russian fascism of the worst kind—something that was rampant under the Czar at the turn of the century and sent my father, for one, fleeing that society.

Apart from the expected puff in the newspapers about the Russians learning democracy overnight, we are experiencing a curious Soviet-style dissent which has been crushed under for decades. The Russian people are angry. Tens of millions of them died unnatural deaths—shot down, incarcerated, thrown away in hopeless prisons for decades. All these thinking people had no offspring, and because of their lack Russia is weak. The situation is not unlike that of Europe after World War II. When the smoke had cleared, it could be clearly seen that the Germans had slaughtered the lifeblood of Europe, and Europe remained weak for decades because of it. The barbaric crimes of an earlier Germany and an earlier Russia are difficult to forget even when friendly winds seem to be blowing.

Russian people on the news have a great deal to say these days. A woman stated, "After seventy years of Communism, we have been robbed of our belief that we can bring about change." That certainly wasn't the only robbery that communist governments of seven decades perpetrated on their own people. The labor and produce of two generations were utterly stolen by those who lived high on the hog, having comfort for themselves and using tax money to build mental hospitals and prisons for their opposition.

Another man-on-the-street commentator deplored the fact that today's Communists have such short recollection of what previously had gone on, but concluded, "After Romania, their hearing improved." That was a most threatening remark. The dictators of Romania were stood against a wall and shot, with few regrets from anywhere in the world.

There is a certain Russian exuberance evident today, rather like the renewed thrust of a rocket when it has jettisoned a useless old canister; Communism has been blasted off the back of the Russian missile, but who knows where this missile is headed?

As a prophecy teacher who has been expecting and predicting the end of the age on a regular basis, I can tell you that I am on the edge of my seat. It is no comfort to me, believe me, to see an emerging but unpredictable new Russian civilization, or a strong and re-unified Germany. I don't know how you feel, but between the two of them those powers snuffed out a hundred million innocent lives in a few short decades in the past, and I am terrified that they are capable of the same blood-thirstiness again in some new and unforeseen circumstance. Naturally, if this is the end of the age, we believers have nothing to worry about, and the coming holocausts are unfortunately

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all prophecy fulfillments and will take place presumably under the leadership of the Antichrist. Another possible scenario is that the Antichrist will ride up and stop impending holocausts and thus be considered the “man of peace” who rescues the world. In either case, “It is written,” and believers will ultimately find out just what we were saved *from*.

I’m from the generation, and so are most of you, that was taught that Russia was the enemy, but now that the Communists are evidently losing their power, I don’t see that that was ever true. I heard it said recently on the news that the American taxpayer won the cold war by outbuilding the Russians in terms of weapons, and that sounds elegant and true on the surface of it. But it seems that we paid for and built those weapons for nothing. Some of the big money paid for expensive hardware tends to drop through cracks. It seems that our politicians and our defense contractors robbed us just as the Communists robbed *their* people, and in both nations common citizens toiled a lifetime to manufacture useless ordnance only for the profit of the governors and the manufacturers.

My enemy was never Russia. The Russians never fired a shot at me. The Russians never took my people hostage; the Russians never hijacked my airplanes nor blew them out of the sky loaded with unarmed innocents. The Russians never pulled my citizens out of wheelchairs and threw them into oceans from cruise ships. The Russians never stormed airports where my citizens were simply standing in line with valid passports and paid tickets, and machine-gunned them to the floor. I paid hundreds of billions of dollars to hold off the Russians, but the Russians never came, and during all of that non-war I was humiliated by my real enemy who has evidently no fear of me and constantly buys me off with oil so that I will not place my strength and vengeance where it really belongs.

The weapons that I have paid for with the sweat of my labor are blown up in grand ceremonies of peace while my enemy continues to mock me every day of the week. My government gives soothing speeches about “Morning in America” and a new level of peacetime relationships with my supposed former enemies while my *real* enemy sends me video tape of my captured military officers, who he taunts and murders at will. If he cares to hang an unarmed colonel on a peace mission, well he just goes right ahead. If he thinks poison gas would serve his cause, he creates it while my government watches, demeaned and intimidated by virtual lunatics.

I am tired of being told who my enemy is. I *know* who my enemy is. I am insulted when my government spends my tax money and wastes my time pretending

to negotiate with one of the most treacherous of my enemies whose latest disguise is as a head of state. There is one group of people in this world who thinks it is perfectly all right to murder unarmed noncombatants. That group of people is my enemy, and everyone else’s enemy as well.

The spiritual significance of all this is not only that we must be informed about this world to spot the prophecies developing. We must also watch for an age of lies, which characterizes the end times just as surely as prophecies about the Russian invasion of Israel and the coming of the Antichrist. The Antichrist is first and foremost a liar, and he will father a short but devastating age of lies. The lack of truth is the spirit of the Antichrist just as surely as the Lord said, “I am the Truth.” Those who buy the deceptions of modern governments, be they their own or their supposed enemies or those of their real enemy, are simply not of “the Truth.” Our Lord said that His followers were “of the Truth” and that “The Truth will make you free.” “My sheep hear My voice,” the Lord said, and certainly meant that His sheep wouldn’t be fooled by the many voices of deception on all sides.

Paul sounded a warning most specifically directed at those “upon whom the ends of the age are come,” and that was simply this:

*“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:4)*

2

HEBREW LESSON

דַּרְפוּ וְדַעוּ כִּי־אֲנִי אֱלֹהִים

Harpu udyukee anochee elohim

Be still and know that I am God!
Psalm 46:10

A NOTE FROM ZOLA

Dear Friends:

My main thoughts these days are on our major ministry and travel projects coming up. As I have announced previously, we will be taking a Summer tour which will include Greece and Egypt along with Israel. It is a rare year in which all of this can come together in terms of security, scheduling and price. We used to do this at least annually in better days, but we haven't undertaken it for some five years because any one, two or three of the previously mentioned essentials were out of order at the time. The significance this tour will have for our television ministry is that we will be able to place our cameras in locations that we haven't shot in many years and some never at all.

I am most eager to show you what can be found at the very biblical city of Corinth, which we will visit on June 3. Not only does Corinth still have the very *bema* or Judgment Seat at which Paul stood to address the crowds, but it has ruins going back far before the advent of Christianity. These majestic ancient structures give quite a perspective of the beautiful but sinful city that was there when the message came about a certain penniless preacher of Galilee.

There are massive one-piece pillars at Corinth. A monolithic pillar is something that has not been built for some 2800 years because even modern machinery would find it difficult to work with these incredibly huge and heavy construction pieces. It is almost unbelievable to realize that the people of ancient days made these things, transported them and somehow stood them up to create monumental temples to pagan gods. It gives one perspective to realize that Paul was confronting a civilization that had put its lifeblood into such projects to honor heathen deities of all sorts. What a world he came into, this rabbi of Tarsus, in order to take the message of Christ throughout the Empire.

And of course the mighty deserts and pyramids of Egypt are germane to biblical study, and we will be able to chronicle those as well on this tour. Naturally, we will make our usual series of programs in Israel as well, this time probably covering the massive new Russian immigration into the Holy Land. God has confounded His enemies once more by thinking of a way to strengthen the Promised Land against the latest onslaught of the Canaanites. Israel will receive as many as a million people with willing hands and hearts to build a new land and good lives for themselves. To me that just helps balance the forces, and I am very glad to see it. In a remarkable way, too, these Russian people will have so much greater a

chance at salvation by the Jewish Messiah. Not only will they have a much enhanced witness in the Israel of today where Messianic Congregations meet and intrepid evangelists are willing to toil in the very streets where our Lord walked, but they will evidently become a part of the end times. Scripturally, Jewish people in Israel who survive the tribulation period, even if they were not saved before can, at least "...look upon Him whom they have pierced, and mourn for Him as for an only son" (Zechariah 12:10) and receive a dramatic eleventh-hour gift of salvation.

While the above is biblically accurate, I am often asked, "Why do the Jews get a second chance?" Actually, it is not because they are Jews but because the Lord comes to Jerusalem in the second coming: "And His feet shall stand that day on the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east" (Zechariah 14:4). Wherever the Lord would come, whether Russia or California or Israel, certainly the people on the ground who see Him come will believe at that moment and therefore be saved. How patient and longsuffering is our God in heaven, and how compassionate! Even at the last second when the King is on His way to touch the earth at the Mount of Olives, massive salvation will take place among those who see Him come (Gentiles at the scene will also be saved, by the same reckoning).

Our tour information is on the bulletin board page. Those of you who can come as Pilgrims this time will get a most complete and luxurious tour.

But those of you who are unable to attend will still enjoy the tour at home on television if we can film it adequately. Again, this is a matter of budget, and without belaboring the point I do ask for your support for a project of this magnitude. We have a chance to bring back a dozen or more programs from marvelous biblical locations we have not seen for years, and some of which we have never filmed. Please be generous with us at this point, and as usual I will show you marvelous results.

Seriously friends, time is running out. We need to witness to what seems to be a world gone crazy, with the rules changing day by day. Support us or support whatever ministry you choose, but, brothers and sisters, we can't take it with us. This is the time to give it all for the Lord and look up because His coming "draweth nigh."

Thank you and God bless you.

Your messenger,



LEVITT LETTER

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." - Romans 10:1

May, 1990

Volume 12, Number 5

"...weeping and gnashing of teeth."

by Zola Levitt

It's becoming very difficult in a monthly newsletter to keep up with those nations concerned with end times prophecy. Truly, more happens between letters than we can cram into these articles, and I'll try to just survey in this letter the variety of events suggestive of the end which took place in the Middle Eastern nations, Russia, Eastern Europe and China. Forgive me if a lot seems to be missing.

Our own nation is not directly concerned with end times prophecy except as a kind of "event maker." We still have considerable influence in this world, and our interactions with the nations of prophecy may be significant. At the moment, we seem to be practically bowing down to the Middle Eastern nations that are hostile to Israel. I almost called this article "Our Arab Masters." I think that at the bottom line we have an addiction to an Arab product—oil—and, like other addicts, we simply can't choose our friends. Alcoholics and drug addicts are obliged to move in bad company in order to have the things they are dependent upon, and that seems to be our position. I hope it doesn't come to Americans someday pronouncing the equivalent of "I pledge allegiance to the terrorists and the Arab dictatorships for which they stand."

At press time we are being humiliated by one of those dangling hostage release stories. As I write these words, we have been teased by the hostage takers of Beirut with a withdrawal of their original promise to release one of our citizens. It seems we did not behave precisely as they dictated in that we didn't send the specified official all the way to Damascus to pay obeisances to the kidnapers' kindness and compassion.

Watching President Bush trying to mouth statements like "We are grateful to Syria for their mediation efforts" is downright embarrassing. One wonders how long we will bow down to lunatic regimes.

Jeane Kirkpatrick on CNN's program "Crossfire" simply stated that the Russians, Israelis and Europeans are the only ones who get results with Arab hostage takers. As she put it, "The Russians and Israelis retaliate and the Europeans deal."

We deal too, if I understood the Iran Contra hearings correctly, but we simply don't get results. We gave an enormous amount of weapons to Iran and a hostage was released while another was taken captive: We practically specialize in dealing with the wrong people and being on the wrong sides of the issues. At the moment we are selling out the nation of Lithuania in order to stay friends with Premier Gorbachev, and we bowed down in obsequious (and secret) obedience to the butchers of Tiananmen Square in Beijing last summer. The picture of high federal officials drinking toasts to the decrepit octogenarians of Chinese communism was a little too much for most Americans' stomachs.

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However the present hostage offer comes out, we will not have solved the long-term problems. France gave three state-of-the-art jet planes to Gadhafi of Libya, a transaction which might eventually trade thousands of lives for three, and that's not the answer either. It's surprising how little we get for our kowtowing to tyrants around the world. With Gorbachev we may see the Russians disarming, but they are flat broke anyway and probably couldn't maintain troops or weapons in any great numbers anymore. Whatever it was that we gave Iran, besides a nice cake for the Ayatollah Khomeini, we certainly didn't get value as far as the hostage situation goes.

Writing about our docile subservience to the Chinese communists who mowed down the students last June, William Safire pointed out in his column in the *New York Times*, "When we sell our soul for a mess of pottage, and no pottage is served, let's at least learn a lesson.... In diplomacy, as in life, cooperation is encouraged when it is clear that contempt has consequences." The biblical image is more than clear: Jacob at least had the good sense to actually get the birthright; he didn't serve Esau only to be turned away in derision, as we often are. The title of Safire's column was "Our 'Open Doormat.'"

As for other Arab misdoings of the past month, Yasir Arafat, that great peacemaker, was in the news again, twice defending the indefensible president of Iraq. The poison gas threats we discussed in our past *Personal Letter* were followed by the British discovery of Iraq's attempt to ship a huge cannon, evidently to fire their gas, or something worse, at their near neighbors, especially Israel. Arafat resolutely spoke up for Iraq's rights on both occasions, making one wonder what the rights of barbarous aggressors really are.

In the meantime, the Eastern European nations nervously tested the transport of Jewish immigrants from Russia to Israel without getting Arafat's express permission. He had, of course, threatened sabotage recently to prevent the immigration of these oppressed ones. These days we don't hear much about our government's pretense of dealing with Arafat. Through some alchemy we were turning the killer into a statesman, but it seems that we have been dealing with the devil.

One of the factions fighting over who should get the credit for shooting down the American missionary Reverend Robinson in Lebanon was intimately connected to Arafat, and one wonders if murdering the unarmed innocent would someday get one admittance to a Palestinian museum of heroism, as a *Jerusalem Post* article put it. Museum space might be shared with those who perpetrated the cowardly attack on 241 sleeping American marines, or the sending of millions of Moslems against the British

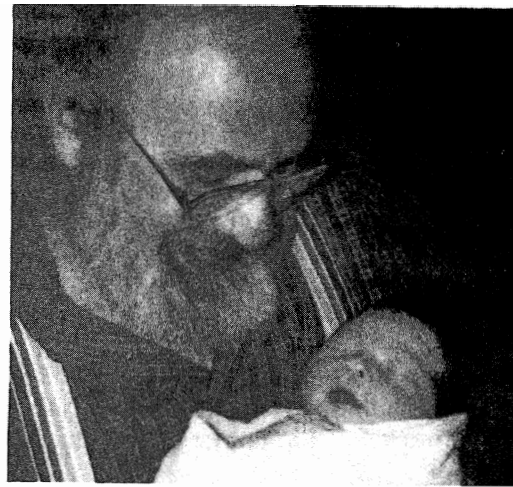
author Salman Rushdie, or the conviction and execution without appeal of the Iraqi journalist last month in Baghdad, or the former atrocities of Hama, Syria, the athletes at Munich, the school children at Ma'alot Israel, and we could go on and on. Missionary Robinson was undoubtedly trained to expect deadly attacks, but this was in the jungle, not in a sovereign nation. Beirut might be a good example of what happens when Arab hostility is allowed to express itself unabated, under no government and no civilized caretakers.

President Hussein's gigantic gun, which was to be shipped from Great Britain to Iraq, is something that should be taken seriously by nations everywhere. Here we have a national leader who has stepped forward and stated in clear, one syllable words that he intends to wipe out half of a sovereign nation, Israel, with poison gas. This is an announcement of the murder of millions of non-combatant civilians, not an act of war or a defensive act. It has the typical terrorist characteristics—brutality, overwhelming force, the targeting of innocents, no provocation—but

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GRANDPA ZOLA?

Yes, Zola's finally a grandfather! His grandson David Mark Levitt was born at 7:45 P.M. on Monday, May 7. The young Levite, with a full head of hair, weighed in at 9 pounds, 7 1/2 ounces and was 21" long. He likes being held and fed and dislikes costume changes.



"...and he saw his sons, and his son's sons..."
(Job 42:16)

"...WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH."

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without a purpose of any sort other than the expression of hatred. If there is any international law in this world, why is it not now invoked? Who has threatened Iraq? Why is the capture of Noriega a "Just Cause," as we called it when we broke the national economy of Panama and invaded the country with U.S. troops, while the apprehension of Hussein would be some kind of violation of national sovereignty?

It all comes down to our addiction. We need the oil. Pushers have privileges.

We should not think that our leader was idle during Hussein's harangue. *CNN News* showed him guiding a tour of the White House for entertainer Michael Jackson.

Our publication month ended with the sad bombing of a school bus in Lebanon, with the killing and maiming of small children whose short lives did not show them much of the world other than the battlefield of insanity that Lebanon has become.

We did criticize Libya for their poison gas factory, but this brought a theatrical censure from some gang called the "Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine." One wonders how many armies with how much righteous indignation there are in the Middle East. To whom do we send an apology? The way the record of the last few years stands with our government, we talk a lot but we find ourselves bowing to Russian dictators, Chinese tyrants, the reunification of Germany, and all Arab dictatorships. But we're pretty tough with Panama, and we take no lip whatsoever from anyone in Grenada.

How does all this work with prophecy? We have to see several global phenomena coming together to promote that final seven years under the Antichrist which we commonly call the Tribulation Period. There has to be

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Waffles by Farouk

by Zola Levitt

The Lord's work has always taken me far and wide, and I have met some very interesting people along the way. A typical example was a recent Sunday when I was called to the little hamlet of Fairfield, Texas, to speak to the First Baptist Church. I decided to have breakfast along the old highway from Dallas in a small town called Corsicana. I knew Corsicana from the fact that it contains a turn-of-the-century wooden synagogue built by a very early immigrant from Russia who wished to worship in the style of his forefathers, but in Texas! The building has since been restored and is there to see today.

But on my mission I was more concerned with the Waffle House where I chanced to stop for a very good breakfast cooked and served by Farouk Qubty, the sole employee of the place. The diner was something out of the classic "Places-in-the-Heart" style movies that purport to show a nostalgic rural Texas that hailed from generations before the invention of the multi-lane expressway or the pop-up toaster waffle.

The first clue that Farouk's father was not a cowboy was the manner in which he carried the dishes to the table on his forearm without a tray. I remarked that I had seen Arab waiters in Israel with the same skill, and he smiled and began speaking to me in fluent Hebrew.

Farouk, it turned out, was an Egyptian Christian who watched my program every week and had come to Corsicana some twenty years previously. He was now running for justice of the peace and claims he is the first Republican to do so since reconstruction days. I remarked that he is probably also the first Arab Israeli Christian to do so; we had a few smiles together on that quiet Sunday morning.

Farouk recalled some very interesting stories of Israel before the Six-Day War. He worked with a Christian mission primarily witnessing to Arabs but open to any Jewish person who might happen by, and evidently the mission was effective. The local Orthodox Jews sent a contingent of observers to be sure no Jew tried to enter the mission! Farouk claimed that there were cat-calls and even beatings for those seeking the Jewish Messiah in Jerusalem at Farouk's assembly. To witness for Christ is perhaps easier today than in Farouk's time, or in the Lord's time for that matter, but it has never been really easy.

The witness to the Arabs has been steady however, and I am thankful to some unknown missionary to Egypt of the past who brought the ancestors of Farouk to Christ so that he might tell me those stories early on a Sunday morning in Corsicana, Texas, where if it were my privilege to vote in the next election, I would favor a Republican Arab Israeli Christian Justice of the Peace.

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rampant anti-Semitism, and we are certainly getting plenty of that from the Arabs, the Russians, and, in some cases, our fellow Americans. There has to be tremendous antagonism between nations, such as to cause people everywhere to throw up their hands and plead for a common leadership not liable to any particular flag—in other words, a worldwide leader or dictator of a new age, a one-world government. Thirdly, we have to see an escalation of hostility and weaponry which suggests something like the battle of Armageddon. This, too, seems to be taking form.

The Bible will yet prove to be the accurate forecaster of the age. In better days the Russians compared the works of Lenin with the Bible, saying that Lenin's works were more popular, even though we in the West said that the Bible was the world's best selling book. Well, it turns out that Lenin's works are quite discredited now and the Bible is still the best seller. Khrushchev warned us, "We will bury you," but the Russians can't even make shovels now and seem to have no will to dig any graves but their own. Russia is truly a leading contender for a nation seeking leadership, and if its citizens were polled one by one, it's doubtful that Gorbachev or any other present leader would win the approval of the majority.

With Russia we are seeing subtle preparations for the coming Russian invasion of Israel, which is a theme of end times prophecy and the next major fulfillment to be expected on the prophetic horizon. We are seeing the building animosity between Russia and Israel, which is necessary for the invasion to come. In the news of the moment, Russia is deploring Israel's settlements in the West Bank and warning that new refugees must not live in occupied territory. At the same time, Russia blithely occupies Lithuania and has for fifty years, punishing that country for its obviously rightful claim to independence. The Russians can't stand press coverage in Lithuania, so they threw the press out. Israel seems to be able to stand press coverage in the West Bank. What have we been watching on television—news of the West Bank, or have you seen the Russians in Lithuania? In reality, we will probably get less and less news from territories that Russia still occupies, and we are watching the remaining communists being backed into a dangerous corner.

Could it be that the Russian invasion of Israel will actually be an action by communist reactionaries who feel that this is a "last ditch" effort to get their dreams going again? After all, anti-Semitic factions in Russia have radically increased with Perestroika. Communism must always expand to survive, and the Middle East would be a fine direction in which to go.

Gorbachev and his policies were necessary because of the failure of Russia to expand through Afghanistan.

Perhaps an invasion of Israel and the Persian Gulf region (to control that all important oil supply) would be a shot in the arm to the communists. We have always pictured invasions on a national scale, but conceivably a terroristic invasion by the remaining communist belligerents of Russia and Eastern Europe, in league with a Persia made up of Iraqi and Iranian radicals, along with a Libyan/Ethiopian flank, could satisfy the prophecy. The prophecies must be fulfilled despite what we perceive to be happening to our world day by day. There is still plenty of animosity left over for an invasion of Israel under Glasnost.

Soviet anti-Semitism, always reliable and dangerous, has received a kind of vote of confidence with Russia's latest troubles. "The Jews are responsible," the historic battle cry of some of Satan's favorite people, is being heard far and wide these days. A group of Russian writers, month-long guests of the U.S. Information Agency, has recently embarrassed our government with their outspoken anti-Jewish views. One Jewish spokesman commented, "This is like inviting a group of Ku Klux Klan leaders to talk about ethnic diversity in the southern United States."

In all candor, friends, I'm just not sure where we are going these days. Our government seems well beyond its depth, the whole world is constantly full of awful surprises, and we are evidently cascading toward a sudden disastrous ending.

Our Lord, discussing the end, put it very well: "...there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Mt. 24:51).

HEBREW LESSON

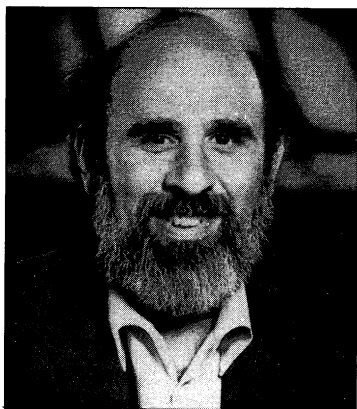
אָמַר נָבֵל בְּלִבּוֹ אֵין אֱלֹהִים

Amar naval b'libo ain Elohim

"The fool has said in his heart,
There is no God!"

(Psalm 53:1a)

A NOTE FROM ZOLA



Dear Friends,

Recently I received a letter from the senior pastor of a very large and famous church. In his humility, this good spiritual leader wrote to me to ask about end times prophecy, specifically the coming Russian invasion of Israel. I hope he wrote to some other teachers as well because I don't feel as comfortable with the subject as I once did.

I think we're all a bit uncomfortable with Russia these days because our old enemy (or at least who we were *told* was our old enemy) has so radically changed (or at least we are being told has changed). Life seemed simpler when the Russians were the bad guys and we were the good guys. Israel, former good guys, are now changing into bad guys, we are also constantly being told, and terrorists like Arafat are now good guys, according to those who tell us these things.

To tell the truth, I'm not convinced that anybody has changed that much. I'm going to tell the pastor that things are really pretty much the way they were and that if we unplugged our television sets we would probably see that. (Please don't unplug your set during *our* television program. Thanks.) I will be telling the pastor many of the thoughts written in our cover article in this issue. In short, I think the Russians, the Israelis, and we ourselves are basically unchanged, and as for the prophets—their Inspirer is “the same yesterday today and tomorrow.” More on all of this later.

For those of you who couldn't join our summer tour, we'll be going again in the last week of September for the usual gala Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Israel. I'll keep you posted in this newsletter. Brochures will be ready after the summer tour.

And folks, I announced previously that we will be making a dozen or more programs during the summer tour. As it happens, we're going to have the considerable expense of a new computer system at

the same time. This necessity will give all of you quicker and more accurate service, but it is costly. Again, if you can help at all, this would be a wonderful time for it. You'll see immediate and convincing results.

Thanks, and may the God of Israel be with you.

Your messenger,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Zola'. The signature is stylized with long, sweeping lines, particularly on the 'Z' and the final 'a'.

DEALING WITH THE DEVIL

(AGAIN)

FLASH! In former days journalists wrote “Flash” when some major event came just after press time. They forced the news into their publications just as the copy was being carried out for printing. We have to do the same this time. Just as we submitted the lead article for typesetting, a hostage was released after all, so let me add some thoughts on that.

It seems we have been trading arms for hostages again, just as in the Iran-Contra situation. Of course, we made it look as though we did nothing to influence the kidnappers, even to the extreme of having our President televised in a fishing boat at the crucial moment.

This time we traded what we call “better relations” to the Iranians for our hostage. That means lifting the trade embargo and unfreezing Iranian assets in American banks. And that, in turn, means that the Iranians can rearm after their devastating eight-year war with Iraq.

It seems to work like this: 1) We announce that we will never trade anything for hostages—we're above that sort of thing; 2) We offer to give the Iranians free trade with us so that we can sell them some new weapons, and we unfreeze their bank accounts so they can pay us; 3) We tell the President to go fishing; 4) We accept delivery of our hostage with all sorts of huffing and puffing about the other hostages while we dicker with the hostage takers behind the scenes over what we are going to have to trade for *them*.

I'll say this as plainly as I can. The last time we attempted to appease dictators the whole thing backfired. Those dictators were Stalin and Hitler.

We are cultivating a habit of dealing with the devil that could lead directly to the reign of the Antichrist.



June, 1990

Volume 12, Number 6

ANTS ON A PAINTING

by Zola Levitt

Recently we received the following letter from the pastor of a large and well-known church.

Dear Zola:

I know that all of us are caught up in the significance of the recent events taking place in Eastern Europe. But the question that is still unclear to me is the prophetic significance of the changes taking place there.

We are aware that the old Roman Empire must be revived, but Bible scholars have generally said that East Germany is Gomer and therefore will side with Russia in the invasion of Israel. In other words, it seems to me that both Daniel and Ezekiel's prophecy could have been nicely fulfilled even if Eastern Europe had remained Communist and under the control of Russia.

Your insights on this matter are deeply appreciated. I've done some recent studying about prophecy, but I'm simply not clear regarding how today's headlines should be interpreted.

I mentioned receiving this letter in our past issue and now I would like to take it up. It was difficult to get to before this because of the onrushing series of news events, which also seemed to require immediate comment.

We might define some of the pastor's terms. His theology is quite accurate in that Scripture indicates a revival of the former Roman Empire in the same territory (Western Europe), and it indicates that the area we call Eastern Europe is where the people called Gomer migrated after the flood. On old biblical maps, Gomer is found to the northwest of Israel and modern commentators have associated it

with Eastern Europe. To specify the nation of East Germany to be Gomer is a bit too specific, but the Eastern European area is meant. Some teachers refer to it as the "Danube territories."

The prophets specified, respectively, that the Empire would be revived (Dan. 7: 19-28) and that the disposition of Gomer toward Israel would be hostile (Ezek. 38: 5 & 6).

And truly the prophecy would be clearly understood if everything had stayed the way it was last winter—that is, if the old rules of communism had remained and Eastern Europe was still, in effect, a Russian satellite and ally. People are now asking what happened to the prophecy of the coming Russian invasion of Israel and the participation of Eastern Europe, just as this letter indicates.

Well, first of all, we ought to understand that all prophecy will happen as written, whether or not we

Hebrew Lesson

karov Adonai l'chal - koraviv

קָרוֹב יְהוָה לְכֹל-קֹרְאָיו

**"The Lord is nigh unto all them
that call upon him . . ."
(Psalm 145:18a)**

ANTS ON A PAINTING

(Continued from Page 1)

understand it or are skillful in applying it to what we observe of the world situation. When Dr. Tom McCall and I first published our book on this subject, *The Coming Russian Invasion of Israel*, Moody Press, the publisher, was skeptical of the theory. Was Russia really going to invade Israel, the editor-in-chief asked, and should we just state it that way in black and white? Once we explained our analysis of Ezekiel's invasion of Gog and Magog (Ezek. 38 and 39), that careful and conservative publisher accepted the book. It was an immediate best seller then and still is now. What's fascinating about the book are the things seen by Ezekiel, not the observations of us modern writers. In every age, Christians attempt to fit the prophecies into their own worldly situations, and this is probably a worthy thing to do. We are not to be asleep as the children of darkness (1 Thess. 5: 3-6); we are to observe the world around us and draw conclusions. We can draw wrong ones and we can miss subtleties in the prophecies, but we are to be thinking about these things and not ignoring them, as are the non-biblically-studied people around us.

In its time, World War I looked just like Armageddon. World War II and Hitler looked to many believers like the tribulation period and the Antichrist. In both cases, important pieces of the prophecies were missing in the worldly events.

HEBREW LESSON

וַיָּבֹא יְהוָה וַיִּתְיַצֵּב וַיִּקְרָא

**Vayavo Adonai vayityatzav
vayikrah**

“And Jehovah *came* and *stood* and *called*.”

(I Samuel 3:10a)

Israel, for example, was not back in its land until after the Second World War, so key Tribulation prophecies like the rebuilding of the Temple could not reasonably be foreseen. Bible readers adjusted their scholarship accordingly, but didn't drop the idea of watching for the prophecies to be fulfilled. In like manner, the former configuration of the states of Eastern Europe looked very good in light of the pictures of Daniel and Ezekiel of the end times, but other configurations may work as well in these prophecies. We must finally remember that all will be fulfilled because, as the Lord put it, “It is written.”

The tendency of Bible readers to want to place prophecy fulfillments in their own times has been at work here with the prophecy of the Russian invasion of Israel. Teachers have taught throughout this generation, and I am certainly one of them, that the prophecy seems imminent, and it still does, in my view. But biblically speaking, we have only the evidence that this prophecy will be fulfilled between the restoration of the Jewish people back to their land, Israel, and the inception of the Kingdom to come, when the sanctuary will be rebuilt in Jerusalem (see Ezekiel's “dry bones” vision in chapter 37). We have seen, and are still seeing, the restoration of the Jews back to the Land. This is an ongoing process that began in earnest in 1948 and is receiving an enormous impetus now, with the Jews coming out of Russia bound for Israel.

The tension between the formerly communistic Russian Empire and Israel was obvious until last winter, but anti-Semitism persists and in some ways is even greater in the Soviet Union of today. An increase of freedom means an increase of both positive and negative elements in a society. The Russian anti-Semites called Pamyat are every bit as vicious as were the Nazis of the 30's, and if they had their way, Israel would be torched tomorrow. The same elements persist throughout Eastern Europe.

The problem with trying to fit a prophecy fulfillment into the huge picture of ongoing contemporary events is that we have little perspective as individual human beings of the tapestry of global affairs. Imagine tiny ants walking on a gigantic painting, each one trying to judge what it depicts. Add to that the fact that we seem to be in an uncomfortable period of transition in certain crucial parts of the world, most notably Russia and Eastern Europe, and it is difficult to anchor our wishful prophecy thinking on any solid ground.

But a few things are clear even in this transitory time. First, the road to democracy is overwhelmingly strewn with obstacles. We can see troubles even now in Romania, which last December was a most refreshing example of a land in which freedom seemed to spring forth from the very stones. Now the Romanians are picketing again and lambasting the

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ANTS ON A PAINTING

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new government as being too much like the old one. The entire Soviet Union itself is having enormous troubles, which I don't have to list here. When Zbigniew Brezinski was the guest of Ted Koppel on *Night Line* recently, he pictured three different futures for the U.S.S.R. and sadly stated that all of them involved major violence. If the U.S.S.R. is headed for democracy, he reasoned, there will be much resistance and many calamities over that. If, on the other hand, it splits off into nationalist regimes, as the Baltic governments are now trying to do, then there will be much rivalry and still more trouble. And finally, if there is a reaction against the present Perestroika and a form of communism returns, then there will be much rebellion against restoration of the old order.

It is in this third theory, the reactionary force theory, that one could see a spiteful Russian invasion of a small country like Israel as logical in the Russian mind. I have previously said in these pages that a foreign adventure could be a communist way of galvanizing the Soviet people under one flag again. And, of course, the takeover of Israel would be a very profitable adventure, if only they could get the job done.

We might also look to a whole new view of what an invasion amounts to in the modern world. Until recently, whole nations attacked other whole nations, but the newest look in warfare has to do with small but extremely deadly forces with devastating weaponry out of all proportion to their numbers. In other words, a small force of Russian and East European reactionaries could well join with terroristic forces already well established in Persia, Ethiopia and Libya to launch a potentially lethal invasion of Israel. With weapons like nuclear ballistics and poison gas, one could see how relatively few people, not necessarily authorized under the central governments of their nations, could affect a death blow on a tiny nation like Israel. In fact, in the past, commentators have wondered why Russia, with all its might, fully one hundred times the size of Israel in population, would need a lot of allies to carry out such an invasion. Perhaps the small force theory better fits the times.

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ANTS ON A PAINTING

(Continued from Page 3)

All of the above is only an exercise in speculation, of course. I'm one of those ants on the painting, and I don't know what the whole picture is about either. But I can say this: Ezekiel's prophecy still looks imminent, and the configuration of nations that he selected in his foresight is still perfectly reasonable for this deadly undertaking. I've never been convinced that Russia and Eastern Europe are less dangerous now than they were before. As a matter of fact, the desperation of their economic circumstances might make them behave very foolishly at some future point.

In a very interesting article in the *Jerusalem Post* recently, Gary Kasparov, the Russian world chess champion and certainly a master of strategy, gave his very informed point of view on the situation. First he chastised President Bush and the other Western leaders for saying, "Who could have imagined it?" He continued with, "Well, *he* should have imagined it for a start. You don't pay Presidents of the United States to be surprised by situations they have been trying to bring about for forty years. You pay them to be ready. That is what political leaders are for." Kasparov went on to sound a warning. "The West is right to be cautious about arms cuts. People with the same Cold War mentality are still there."

As a chess player myself, I am deeply respectful of a grandmaster who makes a profession of out-thinking his opponents day by day.

In summary, I would recommend to you our book, *The Coming Russian Invasion of Israel*, available through this ministry. I will keep you posted as best I can on the ever-shifting developments in today's complex political scene. I know that many of you ask the same questions as the pastor, in his humility, sent along to me, and I hope the above thoughts help in some way. **Z**

Hebrew Lesson

**Boneh y'rushalaim adonai nidchae
yisrael y'chanes**

בִּנְיָה יְרוּשָׁלַיִם יְהוָה נִדְחֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יִכְנָס׃

**“The Lord doth build up
Jerusalem: he gathereth together
the outcasts of Israel”
(Psalm 147:2)**



July, 1990

Volume 12, Number 7

A KINDER, GENTLER NATION

by Kelly Catanzaro

In mid-June Zola and I met in the Athens airport; he on his way to New York from Jerusalem, where he was working on a new film, and I on my way back to Dallas after our tour of Egypt. Knowing that he'd be out of town for a time, he was concerned about this month's *Levitt Letter* article. He reached into the black bag he uses in the Middle East to carry such things as his Bible, musical instruments, a hat suitable for television filming, his "real" hat (equipped with a solar-powered fan), etc. and pulled out a stack of newspaper articles. He had highlighted and underlined sections of each article and scribbled notes and observations (mostly indignant with lots of exclamation marks) in red in the margins. During the forty-five minutes we had together in the terminal, we discussed the articles and went over more notes that he had jotted down in the tiny notebook he keeps in his shirt pocket at all times.

Zola "waxed eloquent" for quite a while, as is his custom, and when I left him I took with me pages of notes I had written while he talked—phrases like "Palestinian doublespeak," "barbaric dictatorships," and "peace through terrorism," which I will try to interpret for you here.

As usual, there was quite a bit of Arab activity in the Holy Land during our visit there. On the day that Zola and I left Dallas to lead the Summer Tour of Greece, Israel and Egypt, the Palestine Liberation Front launched an abortive sea attack on the coast near Tel Aviv. Representatives of the Arab organization pronounced that U.S. interests might be endangered if Washington's "aggressive" attitude toward the Palestinians did not change. Their official statement was: "The central committee warns the American administration against continuing its

aggressive stands towards our people. Thus, American interests will not be out of danger if it continues its aggressive acts."

Although it's difficult to feel any satisfaction in the fact, Zola's predictions about the results of dealing with terrorists as if they were diplomats have once again proved accurate.

A recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* compared Israel's restraint in responding to continuous attacks with the "freedom of action the U.S. allows itself." It reads as follows:

This past year, the president of Panama had a bounty placed on his person and as a result of the death of one marine and another getting kicked in the groin, the U.S. sent a 20,000-strong invasion force to deal with the matter. Almost 2,000 anonymous Panamanians were killed.

Israel, suffering declarations of its illegitimacy and years of terror attacks with dozens of casualties, has been limiting itself to baton-striking,

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A KINDER, GENTLER NATION

(Continued from Page 1)

shooting rubber and plastic bullets, and other methods of normal police pacification of rioters. Anything else is immediately denounced by some spokesperson or another of one Washington office or another. After thirty-one months, Arab casualties number one-third of those caused by America in one week.

This does not mean that Israel is immune to criticism. What it does mean is that the criticism should be tempered and proportionate to what is happening.

The writer goes on to say that if there is a solution to the Palestinian problem, it certainly could not follow the course the U.S. took in dealing with the "Indian problem." When our own settlers were under attack, we simply massacred the Indians, placing the survivors on "reservations (refugee camps)." With the "Japanese problem" within our borders during World War II, we utilized concentration camps to intern American citizens of Japanese descent. We are in no position to criticize Israel, which is, in reality, a "kinder, gentler nation."

He concludes that "In the struggle for survival in the face of an implacable enemy, and in the face of those within the American system who sympathize, for whatever reason, with that enemy, Israel, unlike the U.S., is not permitted to be wrong."

Back in the Athens airport, Zola reiterated these sentiments. He was confounded by recent examples of what he calls "Palestinian doublespeak." He

marveled at equivocal statements such as that made by the Palestinian schoolmaster who assessed their system of education as "worse than Israeli schooling but better than Arab schooling anywhere else." (Evidently Israeli occupation does better by people than government by Arab dictatorship.) And Zola was equally baffled by complaints about the elections in Israel from its Arab neighbors. As he put it, "The vote is unknown to the Arab citizen anywhere." Moshe Arens, Israel's newly elected minister of defense, commented similarly that "Arab leaders need have no fear of a democratically formed government. When the day comes that we see their governments formed by democratic process, I think we will have no reason for concern in Israel."

To illustrate the lack of logic in current "peace proposals," Zola suggested that perhaps the U.S. administration, in light of the on-going drug war, should offer to give up twenty-five American states to the drug dealers in order to cultivate their friendship. This would amount to a "land for peace" deal like that one our government proposes to Israel. The difference is that while Israel would be giving up what was really its own land to begin with, we Americans are only an occupying force on this continent. When we start appeasing our terrorists with lavish rewards, then we can advise others to do the same. In the meantime, we ought to be more reticent on the subject of land occupation. "People who live in glass houses..." or, as our Lord put it, "...cast out first the beam out of thine own eye."

Of all the articles that Zola clipped, he was particularly interested in the *Jerusalem Post* stressing the current concern in Israel about an invasion by an eastern coalition of nations. The writer contends that "Israel's real security concern is the possible emergence of an eastern front, a hostile coalition in which Syria, Iraq and Jordan will participate alongside other symbolic forces from the rest of the Arab countries."

We, as believers, understand the relevance of this concern in light of the words of the Hebrew prophets pertaining to the coming invasion of Israel. Ezekiel's specification of Persia as an ally of Magog (Ez. 38:5) pictures just such an eastern force. Once again we are looking to our daily newspapers for evidence of the fulfillment of prophecy.

I hope that I have adequately put down all that Zola wanted to tell you this month. Of course you'll miss his hit-the-nail-on-the-head analogies and his inimitable manner of exposing duplicity, but he has probably already begun making notes for next month's article.

In the meantime, I trust that you will continue to pray for the safety of the Chosen Ones until the time of Messiah's return, when "...all Israel shall be saved (Rom. 11:26)."

HEBREW LESSON

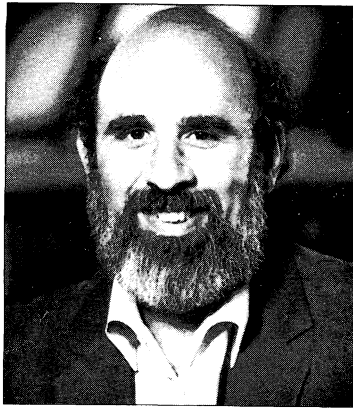
הָאָרֶץ וּמְלֹאָהּ תִּבְּל וַיֵּשְׁבִיּוּ בָהּ:

**Ha'aretz oomloah tevel
v'yoshvay vah**

**"The earth is Jehovah's and the fullness of
it; the world and those who live in it."**

(Psalm 24:1)

A NOTE FROM ZOLA



Dear Friends,

I believe that the deepest shame that can come upon a believer in Jesus Christ is to be seen as hating His brethren, the Jews. He said, after all, "Inasmuch as ye have done it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Mt. 25:40)."

I was terribly disheartened to see that some American Christians have been noticed in Israel for their anti-Semitism. Imagine my embarrassment as I try to win souls among "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" to whom our Lord was sent (Mt. 10:5-7). If somehow we are unable to love those whom God loves, let us at least not hate them!

The following paragraphs appeared in a *Jerusalem Post* article on American anti-Semitism.

Another sign of an anti-Jewish groundswell is the increasingly bold effort of some church offices to mobilize political support for the PLO. The customary show of "even-handedness" is wearing thin, and demonstrations against Israel and the American links to Israel are growing bolder.

One illustration was a strenuous effort to turn out hundreds of church people to pressure Congress against Israel. The May 13-15 "Washington Advocacy Days" promoted by "Churches for Middle East Peace" was based in the Washington office of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It linked its appeal to the February appeal for "attention to the plight of the Palestinian people" circulated by the Middle East Council of Churches, as well as to "the Palestinian Prayer" proposed for use in churches at Easter time.

President George Bush's reported remark to reporters on Air Force 1 that it is time to forgive the Holocaust may indicate a trend. He is apparently unaware that the only ones save God who are entitled to forgive are the dead. Bush's

dramatic telephone calls to families of the victims of a deranged Israeli gunman make some of us wonder when he last telephoned the families of victims of Shi'ite or PLO terror. What are the political implications of a pathos that is so selective?

Fortunately, the Washington "rally" was a failure, with fewer than 200 participants, in spite of the large quantity of mailings, advertisements in church journals, and commendations by certain denominational and ecumenical bureaucrats. But during the same time period there were meetings in local congregations across the U.S.—wherever a preacher or prominent layman took the time and effort to set up a pro-PLO/anti-Israel session. Reports by telephone and letter indicate that in some instances, at least, these local meetings lent themselves to the most open and unrestrained anti-Semitic attacks.

It is a common error to think that anti-Semitism consists mainly of obvious and malicious vandalism or terror. Anti-Semitism is a malaise in Christendom, with deep cultural and theological roots.

In open societies, the "higher anti-Semitism" of the moralists and the pious carries the chief danger to Jewish survival. But it is precisely this covert and unexamined anti-Semitism that opens the doors to the lies of the deniers, and the vicious politics of the terrorists and their fellow travellers.

(Professor Little, of Philadelphia, is founding president, National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel; board member, Vidal Sassoon International Centre for the Study of Anti-Semitism, Hebrew University; national president, American Professors for Peace in the Middle East; author, The Crucifixion of the Jews: The Failure of Christians to Understand the Jewish Experience.)

In order to combat such unfairness in our churches, I am hereby volunteering to speak, without compensation of any kind, in any Presbyterian or other church which is anti-Semitic. It must be understood that I will quote profusely from Scripture and I will attempt to bring the congregation to true belief in Jesus Christ, which seems to be necessary in such cases.

And, of course, I will teach about Israel, the land of our Lord and the home of the thousand-year kingdom to come. Anti-Semites will be welcome and I will have a question-and-answer period open to all. Again, however, I will emphasize three things: Bible, Bible and Bible! I have found that anti-Semitism can only flourish in a non-biblical atmosphere. A

(Continued on Page 6)

A NOTE FROM ZOLA

(Continued from Page 5)

strong application of Scripture is usually enough to fumigate the place and get rid of the hatred of those of whom God said, "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed (Gen.12:3)."

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is especially welcome to request my services, since they were obnoxious enough to be singled out in Jerusalem. In answer to their "Palestinian Prayer" I might introduce them to some Israeli prayers. They're found on any page of Scripture.

And for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters who love our Lord and His people, I am bringing home some marvelous footage of the four great Bible lands. Could you perhaps help us through this summer as we post-produce these dozen new programs? Donations are presently lagging and we really need the help right now. Sometimes donations absolutely dictate how many programs and of what quality we can produce out of location footage. Please help right now and you'll get the results of your giving almost immediately.

Thanks, God bless, and, to mention one of those Israeli prayers, "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper who love thee."

Your messenger,



HEBREW LESSON

אֶת-לֶחֶם חֻקֵּנוּ תֵן-לָנוּ הַיּוֹם

et-lechem chukenu ten-lanu hayom

"Give us this day our daily bread."

Matthew 6:11



August, 1990

Volume 12, Number 8

THE PARTY'S OVER (?)

by Zola Levitt

It looks to some trained observers as if the Communist Party is all washed up, and it may well be. The problem is not whether some mindless ideas of central government control, socialism, or clap-trap about the workers owning the means of production are over with, but whether Russian expansionism, anti-Semitism, and barbarism are finished. I'm less interested in which party's in charge than in whether the Soviet Union is going to keep her Jewish people incarcerated or is going to invade Israel after all, as we have always supposed.

Major defectors from the Party are making headlines in American newspapers. Boris Yeltsin made a grand show of throwing off the Party line, and was followed by the heads of government of Moscow and Leningrad. Insurgent forces have begun forming a national coalition in opposition to the Communists, but President Gorbachev, along with President Bush, thinks communism is alive and well and still a force to be reckoned with.

"Good riddance," says the vast majority of people, both under the yoke of communism and far away from it. One of my favorite columnists, A. M. Rosenthal, in his article called "End of the Party" stated with clarity:

The Communist Party imprisoned the Soviet people in 70 years of terror, corruption and exploitation. Do Mr. Gorbachev and the other leaders of the Party really believe the future still belongs to the organization that turned the country with great natural riches and human

talent into a wasteland, shameful and ashamed? Or are they simply afraid of the accounting?

That last remark has some meaning. If anyone ever totaled up the number of human beings murdered and rubles stolen from the vast population robbed blind by a few gangsters at the top, they might not look so kindly upon ringing speeches favoring the continuation of communism. The whole idea of socialism seems dead. It hasn't worked anywhere in the world, and it has achieved just the reverse of all its promises. The workers were exploited far more under communism and socialism everywhere. They lost more, suffered tremendously, and, in turn, brought agony to millions more on all sides of them as they tried to achieve the Party's

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HEBREW LESSON

כִּי לֹא
תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לֵאלֹהֵי אֲחֵרִי

For thou shalt not worship another God

THE PARTY'S OVER (?)

(Continued from Page 1)

stated goal of world domination. Now we have what Rosenthal describes as “a Soviet economy shattered, desperate, and rudderless.”

I've told a few anecdotes of my own trip to Moscow and how the economy was working. I purchased a wool hat, well made, for 80 cents, and a pair of leather sandals for \$1.28. It was -22 degrees C. outside, but sandals were on display in the only shoe store I found with any merchandise. The asking price for washing and ironing laundry in the hotel was less than 50 cents. An American embassy official told me that because of the lack of windshield-wiper fluid he had poured quarts of Russian vodka into his car's washer reservoir.

The shift for a waitress at the hotel was 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. daily, for 300 rubles per month (\$48). Most of the stores were empty and closed, and many of them (I'm not making this up) would not accept Russian rubles in payment for Russian merchandise.

But our interest is not in the economics of communism, which were always a disaster, but, rather, ambitions and hostility. The Communists sewed the

idea of world domination into communism as the Nazis sowed it into the German soul. There are people in the world who believe they ought to rule this world, and these are the most dangerous people of all. They typically accuse the weak of having such pretensions (the Jews, for example), and they trample all in their path whenever they can. And my problem is that I am not sure that the idea of world domination that has been deeply sown into the Russian soul will die with communism. I think the Communists have had it, but the anti-Semites, the would-be world conquerors, and the simply dispossessed are angry and so strong that they may well act.

I discussed in my previous article, “Ants on a Painting,” the theories as to the continued imminence of the prophecies of the Russian invasion of Israel. I tried to explain that prophecies don't depend on our ability to solve them, but on the fact that they are written in Scripture, and Scripture is batting 1.000, so far. I have seen the Russians come apart economically and politically, but I have not seen them dismantle their major weapons, or come forward with peace proposals. All I see them bargaining for is some equity of strength in Europe so that they can prevail if war breaks out. They continue to supply Cuba and other obnoxious communist dictatorships with loads of foreign aid. Whatever misery they are capable of sustaining anywhere, they are sustaining. With what poverty they have left and what few rubles they can spread around, they are making sure that the imprisoned stay in bonds and the hungry stay hungry.

With the columnist, then, I think that the Party's over, and that communism itself, at least by name, will not give us so many worries in the future. On the other hand, I am deeply concerned with the mentality behind communism: that iron fist, that Stalinist conceit, that twentieth-century Russian/German view of a central superior society crushing a world of the unfit that somehow still lurks in the realm of possibility.

Stay tuned and don't lose track of your Bible. In the end it gives the only true report of the things we may all have to face.

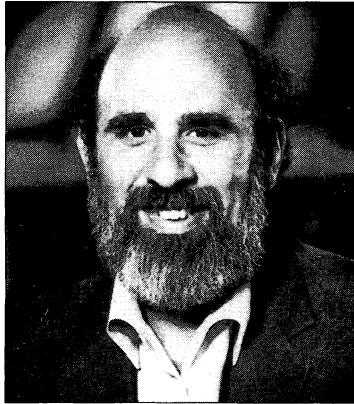
Hebrew Lesson

**Key-*chol* asher yik'rah b'shem
Adonai yimalet**

כִּי-כֹל אֲשֶׁר-יִקְרָא בְשֵׁם-
: "יְהוָה יִמָּלֵט:

**“For whosoever shall call upon the
name of the Lord shall be saved.”
(Romans 10:13)**

A NOTE FROM ZOLA



Dear Friends:

An anniversary of sorts is coming up for me this year, and another one next spring. In October I will take my 30th tour of Israel, and, believe me, I am looking forward to it with perhaps more excitement than any except the first tour. (My first tour is chronicled in my book, *Israel, My Love*, and if you can't get to Israel in this life – or if you're planning to go someday – I think you would enjoy reading it.)

It's not that the land changes all the time – in some ways, the charming part of it is that some of it hasn't changed in 3,000 or 4,000 years! It's just that the excitement of walking in the footsteps of the Lord Himself and standing at the sites where the prophets spoke and the priests sacrificed and the kings reigned simply never dims or fades. Israel is an evergreen tree, like the evergreens our ministry has planted in our groves in Judea and Galilee. It never loses its color, its beauty or its function in God's plan. It is ever young, ever fresh, ever old and ever new. It is understandable that God chose to rule there Himself for 1,000 years in the Kingdom to come.

And next March 14 will be my 20th birthday as a believer. I never went to Israel before my salvation; I never really cared to. There are plenty of Jewish people around who have no comprehension of

what the Land of Israel means, other than as an ancestral homeland (like the original European countries of fourth and fifth generation Americans, for example). It is one of the ironic twists of history that the people chosen to live in the Promised Land have lost sight of its meaning and the ultimate meaning of that great promise.

Of course, there are a lot of Jewish people who faithfully return to the Land for each of the biblical festivals, and we shall observe them at their celebrations and their prayers on our Feast of Tabernacles Tour, September 30 - October 18. We have finalized all of our plans, and much of what I have been hoping for is now firmly reserved for our pilgrims. We will offer the three options we mentioned in our previous Personal Letter. You can choose between our Basic Israel Tour, much celebrated and very well attended each time, providing a ten-day guided excursion covering all of the biblical sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Masada, the Sea of Galilee area, Megiddo, Caesarea, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, etc. This Basic Tour, all-inclusive from New York, takes from September 30 through October 9 and costs \$2,299, as it did this past summer. (All-inclusive means all air fare, all meals except light lunches while sight-seeing, hotels, buses, guides, and all other accommodations.)

To that Basic Tour we have now added our second option, the Extended Israel Tour. This tour provides two weeks of the Holy Land, including the Basic Tour plus extra days on a most relaxing and picturesque excursion through southern Israel and three overnights in the magnificent blue-water port of Eilat, one of the world's most delightful beach-front resorts. Situated on the clear-water Gulf of Aqaba, Eilat has been compared to the Riviera and Hawaii for its pristine beauty and unspoiled, natural setting. Our tour to and from this one-of-a-kind site will take us through the fascinating Negev Desert and includes such rarely seen biblical sites as Ashkelon of Samson's time, and Beersheva, where Abraham lived. Adding all these days to our basic tour means that we will have loads of leisure

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A NOTE FROM ZOLA

(Continued from Page 5)

time for strolling, shopping, jeep and camel rides in the desert, a cruise on the Red Sea, etc. This option will last until October 15 and costs \$3,299, all-inclusive from New York. The brochure gives all the details of this extended tour.

And finally, our third option is the Grand Tour, which adds an excellent, guided Egypt excursion to the above Extended Israel Tour. Folks choosing this option will fly from Tel Aviv to Cairo on the evening of October 14 on El Al Israel Airlines and enjoy five-star accommodations on the Nile River. The complete tour includes all the wonders that Abraham and Moses saw, with the addition of the fabulous Cairo Museum, which holds the original Ramses and King Tut exhibitions. This is a particularly educational part of any biblical tour. The Grand Tour will probably offer twice as much Bible teaching as the Basic Tour offers. If time and money permit, I really recommend the Grand Tour to those of you who have been to Israel before, or those of you who watched our Israel programs and loved to see the Holy Land in all its glory. The folks on this Grand Tour will fly back to Tel Aviv and have one more night on the Mediterranean Sea coast before debarking for the U.S. on October 18. Full price for the Grand Tour, including all air fares and accommodations, as above, is \$3,999. Considering the very complete and luxurious Israel tour, and adding the Egypt excursion into the bargain, this is probably the best tour buy we have ever offered.

We have had very good acceptance of our extended tours, such as the summer Greek cruises and Egypt extensions, but this is the first time that we are adding the Negev and Eilat to our Israel experience. I hope that many of you will take advantage of this excellent opportunity. Frankly, dollar for dollar, the Middle East is an excellent vacation buy. Those people who travel to New York City or Hawaii, for example, are aware that you can go through \$3,999 in one good week in either place, including air fare, and you wouldn't be able to say that you had seen "God's country," for sure! Your refundable deposit of \$200 for the Basic Tour, \$300

for the Extended Tour, or \$400 for the Grand Tour will hold your reservation. To discuss the features of any of the options, call Kelly at (214) 690-1876.

Well, enough of that. I think my own personal excitement shows through as I plan to undertake this particular Feast of Tabernacles tour.

There's much else to talk about, and of course that involves our new series, *Living Waters*. I did tell you previously about the individual programs. Please also know that we will be producing another music album to go with the new shows, also named *Living Waters*. This one will be without lyrics, like our previous *Beyond Words*, and we can receive your pre-orders immediately. Please realize that we will not have the tapes produced until the programs are beginning to air, but if you wish to place your order now, we will fill it on a first-come first-served basis. I can't say yet if the Lord will send along a book to accompany this new series, as well as the music album and the video tapes of the programs, but if He does you will be the first to know.

I can't tell you how delighted I am to be working for the people who believe that "With God, all things are possible." Thank you so much for your help. Please do keep up your support through this summer of post-production, when we have to outlay a great deal of money for the video and audio studio work. Please know that the production value of this series will equal or surpass all of that of our past series, and I know you will be delighted with what you ultimately see.

Thanks again and God bless you.

Your messenger,



“Wrong is wrong is wrong!”

by Zola Levitt

The cover article in this issue is based on a new publication by our ministry called the “Levitt Letter Extra.” The “Extra” will be issued immediately by first class mail on the same day that any major prophecy event happens anywhere in the world. Actually, it’s expensive to produce and mail this kind of publication, but we were encouraged by the response we received to the first edition. It was sent to a small number of people from our mailing list selected for their interest in our prophecy books. The order blank we enclosed appears at the end of this article, and we invite you to use it as you like.

In times like these, writing an article for the *Levitt Letter* is a frustrating experience. What I write today may be old news tomorrow, and not relevant at all by the time it reaches you. Perhaps a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Middle East will have been found by then, or an unpredictable development may have overshadowed the present situation altogether.

One thing that will not change, no matter how much time passes nor how many atrocities Arab dictators, “kings” or self-styled field marshals commit against each other, is that Israel is the real target. It always was and it always will be. Iraq’s original plan may have been to overrun Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, controlling vast oil reserves, then blackmail the U.S. into abandoning Israel, but what it has actually accomplished is to alienate itself from the rest of the Arab world, instantly dissolving the illusion of “Arab unity.”

Not that we should be surprised to learn that true Arab unity doesn’t exist; if it ever had, then a portion of land would have long ago been gladly donated by Jordan, or some other of the twenty-two Arab countries as an appropriate homeland for their Palestinian brothers. This would be an especially reasonable solution to the West Bank situation considering the fact that Israel has one-sixth of one percent of the land in the Arab world and everywhere else Arabic is spoken and the Moslem god is worshipped.

Flora Lewis, in a recent *New York Times* column, commented on the “brotherhood”:

Despite all the talk about Persian Gulf solidarity and Arab loyalty, relations in the area are always undermined by jealousies and shifting maneuvers. Mr. Hussein understands this well. He plays the game, but trusts only force and fear of his ruthlessness.

Another *New York Times* columnist, A.M. Rosenthal, concluded that “Saddam Hussein lied to every Arab brother he could put his arm around.”

He is running out of friends. Only Ghadafi and Arafat (that great American-made peace lover) are on his side. All that is left to Hussein now is to court Iran, preferring to make concessions to his country’s long-time enemy rather than to his formerly amicable brothers in Kuwait. Perhaps he will win the favor of Iran with his attempt to hold the U.S. hostage by corralling thousands of American citizens and depriving those he manages to capture of water and food. The Ayatollah Khomeini would have wanted it that way.

In siding with Iran, the Palestinians have picked another loser. Columnist Rosenthal also commented that some Iraqis think that Saddam has to be retired, “however these things are arranged in Baghdad.” The Palestinians are paying a high price for choosing the P.L.O. in the first place. Ironically, their best friends in the whole world are the Israelis, who brought them the 20th century, providing clean water and medical care, educating their children and tremendously elevating their quality of life. But like the dog who bites his caretaker’s hand, the Palestinians are working fervently to bring about their own downfall.

Aligning themselves with Saddam Hussein just might do the trick. Hussein looks like the typical lunatic Arab dictator: chest-thumping speeches about Arab unity and a heart filled with larceny. He conquers the weak, oppresses the poor, accuses the just. Considering the atrocities he has committed against his own citizens (his much celebrated poison gas was first employed in Iraq itself), the indiscriminate robbing and raping of his neighbors in Kuwait are not surprising.

Saddam Hussein has accomplished the impossible: He has united the rest of the Arab world in refusing an opportunity to assault Israel! Only the most despicable of Arab leaders could have failed to rally the rest of the loose wires into cries of annihilating Israel and driving the Jews into the sea. But as Crown Prince Bandar bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia put it, “Wrong is wrong is wrong!”

“Wrong is wrong is wrong!”

Never one to ignore a chance to level accusations at Israel, even Assad of Syria has broken his long-standing alliance with Libya in protesting Iraq's actions! Ezekiel's prophecy of the invasion of Gog and Magog omits Syria as an ally of Persia and Libya (see Ezekiel 38:5). We therefore expected a time when Syria and Libya would choose different sides, and this appears to be it. Considering that Egypt, also omitted in the prophecy, has a peace treaty with Israel, this would be an opportune time for this invasion. The possible coming together of Iraq and Iran adds another convincing touch to the whole scenario. The two combined pretty much comprise Ezekiel's "Persia."

Bush has done well. The Arab understands "...a line drawn in the sand." If that's not clear enough, the U.S.S. Independence, with seventy jet fighters and bombers, is standing nearby to explain further. And that's only the beginning. Enough American weaponry to stop Iraq cold is now in place, and more is arriving by the day. Despite Iraq's announcement in response to the U.S. buildup in the gulf that "We will fight your criminal force. The blood of our martyrs will burn you," Hussein is probably not crazy enough to attempt war with the U.S. or with Israel. At least not now. He may eventually play his part in the invasion of Gog and Magog.

Bush has *not* done well to contact Hafez Assad, dictator of Syria. When will we learn?? *Terrorists make awful allies*. We cultivated Saddam Hussein himself throughout the 80's, selling him wheat, ignoring his use of poison gas. Now we are getting the bill. We romanced Arafat, among the bloodiest of them all, and now we are getting the usual Arab kick in the teeth. Our only faithful Middle East friend is Israel.


This is a good time to remember that.

Bush has also not done well to vacation right now. Somehow I shudder to see him golfing and fishing as prophecy marches on. Also, he wears out the young secret service guys who have to jog with him every morning!

Whatever happens, Israel is mobilized for any Iraqi provocation. They have done their homework. They understand their enemy. They are armed to the teeth. President Hussein's threat to destroy "with our chemical weapons half of the Jewish state" did not fall on deaf ears. The occupation of buffer zones like the West Bank and the Golan Heights was necessary because of just such threats from unstable Arab tyrants in the first place, and the plan is proving out, despite the intifada. The Palestinians are making big noises about siding with Iraq, but it's mostly business as usual in Israel.

End times events seem right on schedule. No matter what happens in the world, Israel is at the center of the conflict, being prepared for its place at the head of the nations in the Kingdom to come.

Rest assured that none of this is confusing to our patient Lord, who said, "... lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Mt. 28:20).

"The Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout..." (I Thess. 4:16). Be ready to go. This may be it!! 

Hebrew Lesson

lo zanach ha'elohim et-amo asher
y'da'o mikedem

לֹא-זָנַח הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת-עַמּוֹ אֲשֶׁר יָדְעוּ מִקֶּדֶם

"God hath not cast away his people
which he foreknew."

(Romans 11:2)

TO HEAVEN WITH LOVE (OR HOW TO MISS THE TRIBULATION)

Romans 3:23—"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Admit that you are a sinner and trust with all your heart the Lord Jesus Christ and that He died for your sins.)

Romans 10:9—"...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." (Even in seven-year Tribulation.)

Luke 14:23—Jesus Himself said, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled." (Spread the Gospel of the Kingdom now!)



October, 1990

Volume 12, Number 10

OCCUPATION VS. LOOTING

by Zola Levitt

In view of the time lag caused by the printing of this newsletter and bulk mailing schedules, we try to treat in this space subjects that will be around for awhile. One of those seems to be Saddam Hussein's ludicrous comparison of his rape and looting of Kuwait with the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in Israel. Some world leaders, including ours on certain days, pretend to consider these situations analogous, for whatever purposes they have in mind. But the two situations are nothing alike; in this article we will compare them carefully and demonstrate that fact.

First, we should make the distinction between a genuine occupation for security purposes, like that in Israel, with the simple takeover of a sovereign nation, as in Kuwait. The Israelis barely fired a shot in occupying the primitive desert territories in their own land and, until the present uprising, conducted a benevolent and benign relationship with the indigenous Palestinians. The situation in Kuwait is more like Hitler's attacks on France or Poland—the ruthless pillaging of an entire country by a superior armed force. The day by day results of the two situations are that the Israelis apply typical riot control measures used everywhere in the world to control crowds as an undesirable necessity of the occupation; the Iraqis, on the other hand, simply shoot, rob, rape and maim anyone they please. The people of Kuwait are cattle to them, other than those they can get some use out of as hostages or “shields.”

So, let's understand that these two situations are really not comparable to start with. But for the sake of argument, let's look at some comparative details.

Reason for Occupation

With regard to Israel, the occupation is a matter of life and death. From the immediate Arab attack on the nation “born in a day” in 1948, to the cowardly sneak attack on Yom Kippur of 1973, the Arab hordes have assaulted Israel every time they could arm themselves. After the 1948 war, in which Israel miraculously defended her new land with hunting rifles and pistols against the armies of five or six Arab nations, through 1956 and the Egyptian campaign, the Israelis could see the handwriting on the wall. It would eventually become impossible to defend the small sliver of coastal plains granted to Israel by the U.N. in 1948. Unfortunately, *because of the hostility of her neighbors* Israel simply had to undertake to occupy a buffer zone. It was for mere survival that the Israelis occupied this totally uncultivated desert on which the Palestinians had squatted for so long. That decision looks brilliant today. An attack from Iraq would come directly

(Continued on Page 2)

OCCUPATION VS. LOOTING

(Continued from Page 1)

across the West Bank, and the Israeli-occupied territory would effectively protect Jerusalem and the major part of Israel's population.

To compare the taking of Kuwait to the above is really not logical. This is the simple theft of a country with all its people and all its industry in the grand old Russian tradition of stealing for the greater profit of the dictator. Hussein was never attacked and certainly never in danger from anyone in Kuwait. He merely wanted to grab more oil and up the price for the rest of the world. Presumably, if the U.S. hadn't reacted with troops in Saudi Arabia, Hussein would have assaulted that nearly defenseless nation as well, and by now we might all have to come begging to that lunatic for our energy resources.

Conditions of Occupation

The Israelis have lifted the lifestyle of the Palestinians enormously, providing schooling, clean water, twentieth-century medical care and other essentials previously missing from that rather backward culture. It's not a case of Israeli charity or a willingness to help the poor so much as the fact that when the tide comes in all boats rise equally. The Israelis simply brought the twentieth century to a land occupied primarily by desert Bedouins (now called "Palestinians"). The newly arrived immigrants showed the locals how to irrigate the soil and plant crops of all kinds, but truly the chief exports of the Palestinian communities, to this day, are the same as they were in the time of Joshua—oranges and olive oil.

Of course, those Arab people who live in Israel proper, rather than in the occupied West Bank or Gaza, manufacture all sorts of goods, pursue professions, attend universities, vote in the Israeli government, and are represented in Parliament. Clearly those Arabs who have cooperated with Israel have risen to a lifestyle above that of Arabs in any other nation in the world, including the wealthiest Arab nations. Those Arabs in the territories that are occupied have not proceeded nearly as well, as they were not a part of the Israeli culture, but they were never abused nor harmed in any way by Israeli troops, other than for the responses they now provoke in their uprising.

Of course Kuwait, again, is not a reasonable comparison. No man, woman or child is safe in the streets. The people, as the whole world knows, are utterly captive and live from day to day at the whim of a maddened tyrant.

The Results of Occupation

The Palestinians in the territories are in considerable discomfort over what they consider the loss of their land. They are also demoralized by not having a voice in what they consider their own country's affairs. They cannot vote in Israeli elections. They are distressed because the Israelis have voted in a "right-wing government" (but, of course, all of the Arab countries are dictatorships with no ballot boxes at all). The Palestinians do have the legitimate complaints of any ordinary citizens caught on a battlefield. They are living under military rule, and they do not enjoy the normal democratic rights of Israeli citizens, although they enjoy more rights than Arabs anywhere else. All in all, the occupation is not very comfortable for the Palestinians, and their appeals to the world for relief have been heard loud and clear.

As for Kuwait, all of the citizens have lost everything they have ever had. The country has been annihilated, its 250-year ruling dynasty ended and its property utterly expropriated by Iraq. There simply is no Kuwait to talk about anymore, and its restoration, even should Iraq withdraw, would be extremely problematic. The Kuwait of today is ashes, far worse than the worst of any Palestinian territory in Israel.

Long-Term Effects

Israel will probably have to hold on indefinitely to the security zones they control. The obsessive hostility of Israel's neighbors is simply not understood by the rest of the world. It should be appreciated that Jordan and Syria are formally at war with Israel and do not recognize Israel as a country. They do not accept Israeli passports, nor do they have Israel on their maps. School children are told that Israel does not exist. Iraq, Iran, Libya and most of the other Arab nations hold that view. Egypt has an uneasy peace with Israel, but it has existed a long time and is a demonstration that if the Arabs cooperate with Israel there is nothing but gain for them. (Or as one Israeli friend remarked to me once, "With Arab money and Israeli brains, the Middle East could be paradise.") In any case, *because of the unrelenting hostility of her neighbors*, Israel will probably need the Palestinian territories as a permanent protective zone, and the uprising will simply have to be a fact of life for both sides in the foreseeable future.

In Kuwait, we probably have the total demise of a sovereign nation, with little hope for its return. Hussein is not really "occupying" Kuwait, but, rather, demolishing it with a "scorched earth" policy. He seems to want to leave nothing standing and merely seize the oil wells and machinery of the place. The long-term effect, even with American and United Nations military forces present for years, is that Kuwait, sadly enough, will be history because of one man's monstrous dreams of conquest.

World Reaction

All of the Arab nations, Gorbachev, and U.S. Representative Lee Hamilton (D-Indiana) think that the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza needs to be linked with the “occupation” of Kuwait by Iraq. Gorbachev has his motives—wanting Russia to participate in some sort of internationally imposed peace agreement to maintain Russia as some kind of voice in world affairs, even as his country collapses all around him. The Arabs’ motives, of course, are very clear: to simply drive the Jews into the sea. As long as I have studied the Middle East, and I have made some thirty tours there, and as long as I have talked to the Arabs, I can be sure of only one thing: If every Jew in the world were dead, the Arabs would be much happier, even though their wars among themselves would go on and on. New reasons would have to be found for a 5,000-year tradition: Arab slaughtering Arab.

Senator Hamilton’s motives are much less clear, but he recently stated, “If the U.S. opposes the acquisition of territory by Iraq, it may very well be pushed, over time, to do more about Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.” Senator Hamilton should be dragged through the streets of Kuwait City to take a good look at what he calls the “acquisition of territory by Iraq.” Better yet, why not vote him out of the Senate?


I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: It is disingenuous for the Russians, or us Americans, to lecture any other people on occupying territory. The Russians are surely the world champions of taking other people’s countries and have made a living by doing just that for seventy years. The Russians are robbers, and the whole world knows it. To ask their advice on the occupation of territory just shows the kind of upside-down, Alice-in-Wonderland world we live in.

While most of us were busy watching the Middle East situation, our leaders, along with those of the Soviet Union, were applauding the “new Germany’s” acknowledgement that land they lost in World War II cannot be reclaimed. This established, as if it hadn’t been established one thousand times previously, that territory contested in war belongs to the victor, fair and square. Perhaps the Russians and

our administration should apply some consistency when dealing with the West Bank and Gaza, which Israel occupied out of necessity when attacked by innumerable cowardly Arab forces.

And we white and black and yellow American immigrants need not suffer such hand-wringing anguish either. We can live in this land because Americans before us utterly massacred the native population practically to the last man, woman and child. This is not the land of any of us, and we all know that. We did not, like the Israelis, live side-by-side with another people, controlling them when necessary, in our view, and otherwise conducting our own business in our own territory. No, actually, we simply shot them down by the millions until they were practically all gone. When we send a message from Washington, D.C., it comes out of occupied territory, and we would do well to remember that.

Sadly, in the world before the Kingdom, land goes to the folks with the most guns. If we subscribe to that theory, and we certainly always have, then let’s not criticize the gunmen of any other territory, whatever their motives.

Or, as the Lord said it so succinctly, “. . . first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye” (Mt. 7:5). 

HEBREW LESSON

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

B’ray-sheet bara Elohim et hashamayim v’et ha’aretz

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

(Genesis 1:1)

“...an evil thought...”

Recently Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the acclaimed Russian author exiled from the Soviet Union, broke sixteen years of silence to condemn communism and to indict the leading figures of Soviet history from Lenin (whom he calls “Ilyich the First”) to Gorbachev. As Solzhenitsyn is one of the greatest literary and political voices of our time, his eloquent discourse on the failure of Communism needs no commentary. The following are excerpts from his fifteen-page message entitled “How to Revitalize Russia,” published in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the newspaper of the Communist Youth League, and reprinted in part in the September 19 edition of the *New York Times*.

The death knell has sounded for Communism. But the concrete structure has not yet toppled, and we face the danger of being crushed by the debris instead of finding freedom.

Who of us does not know our troubles, covered as they are with mendacious statistics? Having been dragging in search of the blind and malicious Marxist-Leninist utopia for 70 years, we put a full third of our population upon the executioner's block during the incompetently conducted, self-annihilating “patriotic war” [World War II]. We have lost our abundance and destroyed the peasant class and its villages.

Ruining ourselves for the sake of grand invasions under insane leadership, we have cut down our rich forests, robbed our incomparable natural resources, the irreplaceable property of our great-grandchildren. Without mercy we have sold everything abroad.

We have exhausted our women by forcing them to do laborious work. We have torn them from their children. The children were left to suffer from diseases, lack of discipline and corruption of education. Health has been completely neglected, and we do not have medicines. Even healthy food has been forgotten and millions do not have a place to live. Lawlessness reigns over all depths of the country. And we cling only to one thing: not to be deprived of stupefying drunkenness.

Such is man: Nothing can convince us that our famine, poverty, early deaths, degeneration of children—that any of these misfortunes takes priority over our national pride!

I see with concern that in the awakening Russian national self-consciousness, we cannot, to a great extent, get rid of grand imperial thinking inherited from the communists, the inflated “Soviet patriotism” that never really existed and takes such pride in the “great Soviet power,” which during the epoch of the Pig Ilyich-the-Second (Leonid Brezhnev), simply wasted our last resources on unlimited and unnecessary armaments, disgracing us by showing us to the entire planet as a savage, greedy, insatiable aggressor, at a time when our knees were trembling and we were about to fall down exhausted.

We have to stop repeating, like parrots: “We are proud that we are Russians.” We must understand that after all that we have been proud of, our people have indulged themselves in the spiritual catastrophe of 1917.... Since then we are not what we used to be, and we cannot plan how to restore the power and surface might of the previous Russia....

We cannot be proud of the Soviet-German war, in which more than 30 million people perished at home, ten times more than the enemy, and we merely strengthened despotism over ourselves. We must not be “proud.” Instead, we must recognize that our own people are now in an abyss of debilitating illness, and we must pray for God to send us health and reason to recover.

For three-fourths of this century we got so poor and tired and lost all hope that many are now helpless and resigned, and sometimes we think only heaven's intervention can help us. But such help is not given to those who are not moving towards it. The fate of our children and our will for life, as well as our 1,000-year-past, with the spirit of our forefathers—all that will help us find the strength to overcome this....

Everything is terrible in our economy and everything is weeping in our economy.... For half a century no one has found any reward in work. There is no one to grow wheat for bread, no one to take care of cattle. Millions are living in conditions that cannot be called dwellings, and they spend decades in stinking hovels. The elderly and invalids are poor as beggars. Roads are in terrible condition and nature itself is taking revenge....

As to the immense property of the Communist Party...they have looted lots of people's wealth,

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“...an evil thought...”

(Continued from Page 3)

used it for seventy years. Of course they will never return all that has been wasted, thrown about, stolen. But you Communists should return at least what you still have: buildings and sanatoriums, special farms, and publishing houses. And you should live on your party membership fees.

Towering high above us is the granite monolith of the K.G.B., blocking our access to the future. Their

tricks are as transparent as their claims that they are especially needed today for international intelligence. Everybody sees this as the opposite of truth. Their only goal is to exist for themselves and suppress any movement by the people.

What have five or six years of perestroika brought us but a halfhearted reshuffling of the party Central Committee and an ugly, fake election system with only one goal: for the Communist Party not to lose power?

Soon it will be six years. But the noisy perestroika has not yet even touched industry nor agriculture with its medicinal powers. This procrastination means years more of suffering for the people, years crossed out of their lives.

Although Solzhenitsyn was rather heavy-handed—in his assessment of Western cultural influences worldwide, he praised Israel and the “Hebrew cultural revolution” for setting the example for nations not “to capitulate in front of American cultural imperialism and its by-product, Western intellectual waste.” He predicted that a return from the “three-quarters of a century” wasted on Communism would be more difficult than “ridding ourselves of the Tatar yoke. Then, at least the backbone of the people was not crushed—the Christian faith was not undermined.”

There is no greater expert on the evils of the Russian system than Solzhenitsyn. We reprint his thoughts here in the spirit of transmitting knowledge. Russia remains a crucial force in prophecy, being, of course, the instigator and leader of the coming invasion of Israel. Magog (Russia) will “think an evil thought” (Ez. 38:10) as Ezekiel specifies, and the limited war that introduces the tribulation period will be underway.

Judging from what this informed author writes, Russia has little to lose from such a foreign adventure right now. During times of disorganization and competition between political forces, sudden outbreaks of hostilities are almost to be expected.

In view of Persia (Iraq and Iran) seeming to set up for its role in the invasion at the same time, believers are well advised to “look up”!

Hebrew Lesson

**kab'du et-ha'elohim b'gufchem
uvchuchachem asher lelohim hemah**

כַּבְּדוּ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים בְּגוּפְכֶם

וּבְחֻוֹתְכֶם אֲשֶׁר לְאֱלֹהִים הֵמָּה :

**“...glorify God in your body, and in
your spirit, which are God's.”
(I Corinthians 6:20)**



November, 1990

Volume 12, Number 11

“My people are destroyed. . .”

by Zola Levitt

The Old Testament warns us: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”(Hos. 4:6). There are two massive groups of people today who are suffering from a media blockade of the truth; two nations are worried and misinformed. I refer to the everyday citizens of Iraq, who can't get truth because of their government, and the ordinary citizens of the U.S., who can't get truth because of their media.

In a sense, the Iraqi situation is more understandable; it's a matter of life and death for dictatorial regimes to distort the news. But it is merely a matter of profit for our television networks and newspapers to distort the news. Disasters, fear and bloodletting appeal to people even when they're not really happening. Snake oil sellers want to address the largest possible crowds.

The following letter, which ran in the *Jerusalem Post* recently, really touched me. The writer, pathetically, would like to fund the reporting of the real news and simply go around the ludicrous media distortions we are constantly bombarded with.

To the editor of *The Jerusalem Post*:
Sir,

The serious decline in tourism to Israel because of the Gulf crisis is having a negative effect on our economy and is also affecting the image of Israel in the mind of American Jewry. When we mailed our annual Rosh Hashana billing to our

membership, we included the following urgent suggestion:

The ongoing gross distortions and exaggerations of the U.S. media regarding Israel and the current crisis in the Gulf are having an extremely detrimental effect on tourism to Israel. The media portrays Israel as living in a state of crisis. It is urgent that we do our best to correct the impression that we are living in the middle of a "battle zone." The truth is that we go about our lives here in a normal manner watching the events and developments in the Gulf just as the Americans do.

Neither we nor Israel have the funds to counteract the distortions portrayed in the U.S. media. There is one route, however, which does not cost great sums of money, but which can effectively give the U.S. public the real picture.

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HEBREW LESSON

Nidmu ahmee miblee hada'at

נִדְמוּ אִמְעֵי מִבִּלְיִ הַדְּעֵת

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

(Hosea 4:6a)

“My people are destroyed...”

(Continued from Page 1)

We can send letters to our friends and families and more important to our hometown newspapers, telling them that there are no battles or wars taking place in Israel. We can let them know that life is normal, with families preparing for the holidays, taking vacations and relaxing at the beach.

We call upon all Americans living in Israel to send such letters without delay, particularly to their hometown newspapers. The effectiveness of such letters appearing in daily and Anglo-Jewish newspapers throughout the United States cannot be overstated.

Why is it important that people know the facts of a situation like this one? It is so we can make accurate decisions. We are constantly being persuaded that foreign relations are in the hands of the White House and wars in the hands of the Congress, and we're discouraged from remembering that the President and the Congress are in *our* hands. We the people run America, according to the guarantees of our Constitution, and the trouble with misinformation is that we the people get out of touch with how to operate our national affairs. We trust President Bush, on the whole, but we should never forget that he works for us and that with correct information about any foreign or domestic situation we could better inform or

correct him as to our wishes for our own destinies.

The Iraqis have no such guarantees, but, as the whole world knows, they could get rid of their troubles with one bullet. In all of the Arab nations, power is not elected, but seized, and dictators rule by their whims, not by the will of the governed.

It may be a feature of some future peaceful world that the Arab people take more of an interest in the ruling of their own nations so that the whole world is not threatened with going up in flames every time a lunatic tyrant grabs the royal palace.

What is the point of all this political discussion? How does it affect our spiritual lives? The answer lies in the career of the Antichrist, whose prime product is misinformation. From his supposed resurrection from the dead to his phony love of peace to his alleged knowledge of international finance, this dark prince will simply fool people the world over. If we are preparing for the Tribulation period now, then our own media, operated by some of our most untruthful fellow citizens, is setting up the Antichrist's major weapon.

Lies will one day enslave the world, but as the coming King said, “The truth shall make you free. . .” (John 8:32). **Z**

HEBREW LESSON

אֶל-הַנֶּעַר הַזֶּה הִתְפַּלֵּלְתִּי וַיִּתֵּן יְהוָה לִּי

El hana'ar hazeh hitpalaltee vayiten adonai
lee.

“I prayed for this child, and Jehovah has given
my petition to me which I asked of Him.”

(I Samuel 1:27)

FROM RUSSIA WITH FRUSTRATION

by Zola Levitt

Mindless bureaucracy, the archenemy of freedom, is still at work in the Soviet Union. Make no mistake about it, the Communists who snarled up the economic and social systems of two generations of human beings are not giving up too easily. If there's someone to be incarcerated, someone's liberty to be denied, they'll be on the job.

It seems that a large group of Christian believers, called "fundamentalists" by the Russians, are trapped at the Moscow airport, over one of these meaningless technicalities that so inspire petty bureaucrats.

The 200 Christians had started their emigration procedures a year or so ago, when it was recommended that they put Israel on their visas as their destination. Emigration to Israel had opened at just that point, and that was the advice in order to speed through the antiquated Russian system. Of course, the real destination of these people was the United States. Now some Soviet border guards have insisted that the refugees must have entry permits from Israel in their passports in order to legally leave the Soviet Union.

American officials are trying to spirit an Israeli legate to the airport to rubber-stamp the offending forms in order to please the picky border officials. In the meantime, the "Moscow 200" are stuck between passport control and earlier formalities right in the airport. They have cleared baggage check-in and seat assignment points but cannot pass the last barrier. Having stood in various endless lines in that same dreary airport myself, I can tell you it's no picnic.

The *New York Times* reported the following quotation:

"I had said farewell to this place—but now look at us," Pavel Boyko said desperately of the group, camped in a tangle of baggage and sleeping babies at passport control.

The would-be refugees refuse to retreat backward through the airport, and the passport officials refuse to let them progress toward freedom.

"Our God will help us," said one, Nikolai Gudiyeu. "But look at what the system still does to us."

Don't jump to a whole lot of conclusions about Glasnost just yet. Communists die slowly and reluctantly. Where there's a little misery still to be spread, a few maintain their posts.

Hebrew Lesson

Yisrael b'tach ba'Adonai

יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּטַח בַּיהוָה

"O Israel, trust thou in the Lord. . ."

Psalm 115:9a



December, 1990

Volume 12, Number 12

THE GOD OF ISLAM

by Zola Levitt

The common denominator of the most serious problems in the world right now is the faith called "Islam." It is behind the Palestinian problem in Israel, the bloody religious war in India and, of course, the crisis in the Persian Gulf. The religion is not well understood in the Western world and Americans are continually confounded by the behavior of those who practice it.

A recent letter to *The New York Times* made this very point eloquently. The headline above the letter read, "Things Best Left Unsaid in Saudi Arabia." It mostly concerned advice we give our troops about what can be and cannot be talked about as they maintain their positions in that heartland of the Moslem faith. The letter itself referred back to an article entitled, "Some Advice for the Troops: No Need to Mention Judaism."

The writer of the letter had previously worked with an American corporation which trained the Saudi National Guard. It began with a story of some documents that had been submitted to a Saudi brigadier general concerning the operation of certain American tanks. The information was complex and had a number of footnotes which were indicated by asterisks (*).

The letter related:

The next day I was summoned to his office, where I encountered a visibly angry general. He pointed to the asterisks and asked what they were. I explained that they referred to footnotes. He asked how many points were on the stars on the American flag and I answered five. He then said that

the Saudi star has seven points, and the Israeli star has six points.

He said that each asterisk in my study had six points, and it was therefore obvious I was trying to ruin his reputation by having him forward to his superiors a study filled with Israeli stars. He would accept no further explanation from me, trashed the study and never spoke to me again. My effectiveness in dealing with him from that time on was destroyed.

The average American cannot appreciate the stark fear and extreme hatred the Moslem has for any other religion. Everyone besides Moslems is grouped into two categories: infidels or idolaters. Historically the Moslems have taken full advantage of the infidels, charging them higher taxes and relegating them to servant roles, and have actually made constant war on the idolaters, trying to wipe them out altogether. According to the Moslem, his faith is the only valid one and all others are "of the devil." America becomes "The Great Satan."

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The God of Islam

(Continued from Page 1)

not so much because of our political policies as the fact that we are regarded as totally motivated by the devil in our religious practices. (Russia shared that title with us for a while. It bears mentioning that the foreign aid, military hardware and food supplies of the two great Satans were quite acceptable in Moslem countries. Cash, especially, seems untainted by the touch of the devil's hands.)

The letter went on:

In our relations with Arabs, we must keep in mind that we are encountering people with vast cultural differences from our own. For all kinds of historical reasons, they are suspicious to the point of paranoia. Life is a matter of intrigue and suspicion, directed not only against Jews, but also against Christians and other Arabs. Several years ago, Saudi airline operations were suspended for several days while the airline logo was revised when one of the Saudi princes noticed that the spaces between the "S" and the "A" in Saudi created a Christian cross. Television antennas on the top of houses are not allowed to resemble crosses.

The writer has a forgiving attitude to such excesses, even as he quotes the obvious Western aversion to the fanaticism:

We in the West do not, of course, approve of such attitudes, which, as you quote the American Jewish Committee, compromise "basic moral and ethical precepts fundamental to our society." Our soldiers, however, are in Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Saudi Government, and if we are to be effective in our goal of stopping Saddam Hussein, we must make our soldiers aware of Arab sensitivities.

Frankly, I disagree with the writer's conclusion. I don't think American soldiers can learn to put up with such prejudice, nor should they try, for that matter. What he refers to as "Arab sensitivities" would, in any other culture, be regarded as the whining of spoiled children. And I fear for any troops fighting under the command of an utterly paranoid brigadier general.

There are some things to be admired in the Moslem faith. It certainly rallies the downtrodden and it promises compensation in the afterlife for suffering here. It preaches an uncompromising stand for God, or at least for the Islam god, and it insists on a rigorous discipline and a decisive application of law. It is designed to appeal to those who, for whatever reason, get less than a "fair share" in this life, and so it has attracted massive populations of Third World poor people, American blacks and sundry African nationals. In some places, Moslem good works are impressive, and we must give credit to the Red Crescent Society,

(Continued on Page 6)

HEBREW LESSON

גָּדוֹל יְהוָה וּמְהֻלָּל מְאֹד

gaw-dole YHVH meh-ode oom-hah-lel
GREAT IS JEHOVAH,
AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED
(Psalm 48:1)

כִּי לֹא
תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לְאֵל אֲחֵר

ke lo teshtah' zeh l'al achar
FOR THOU SHALT NOT WORSHIP ANOTHER GOD

The God of Islam

(Continued from Page 2)

the Moslem version of the Red Cross. They certainly wouldn't use a cross on their ambulances! Israel also has a penchant to avoid crosses. Plus signs are not used in arithmetic and the Swiss embassy was asked to take its flag down since the flag bears a cross. Israeli ambulances are marked by a red Star of David. But there the similarity ends, since the Israelis welcome people of all faiths and have an unblemished record in caring for and protecting the religious sites of Christians and Moslems alike in Israel.

What a difference democracy makes!

American teachers of prophecy usually teach Scriptures such as, "And many false prophets shall rise. . ." (Matt. 24:11) as referring to horoscope makers, palm readers and the like. Really those profit-making amateurs have little effect on the world, and the New Age movement, in general, is overrated as bringing on the end times, I feel. The *real* false prophets are those of the huge unbiblical religions, from Moslem extremists in the Middle East to liberal Protestants and sacramental worshippers in our own country. We have a world full of religious people who intend to serve God and somehow end up serving the other side.

And finally, the most important thing to learn about Islam is that the Moslems do not back down. If they are totally convinced that it is God's will that they fight (or go on a pilgrimage, or give to charity, or murder some people), they will do exactly that without faltering. If George Bush knew that about Saddam Hussein it might affect his thinking to some degree and, conceivably, save many thousands of lives. I certainly don't advocate capitulating to Hussein, but I favor our leaders realizing that he simply cannot be negotiated with, and that's the end of that. If we expect that grand speeches, shows of force and military operations named "Imminent Thunder," or the like, are going to impress a Moslem to retreat, we are being very foolish. On the other hand, it's not terribly clear just how good a Moslem Saddam really is. I rather suspect he's interested much more in the here and now, as the bank robbery that was the invasion of Kuwait has clearly indicated.

Our instructions as Christians, in regard to the Moslems and everyone else, is to pray for them, to love them and to witness to them. We are to be "wise as serpents, gentle as doves," but above all, to be sure that we are seen for who we are, the disciples of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

"And they'll know we are Christians by our love."

Z

WE TOLD YOU SO!

"In Hussein of Iraq we have a national leader who... has the typical terrorist characteristics—brutality, overwhelming force, the targeting of innocents with no provocation. If there is any international law in this world, why is it not now invoked?" *Levitt Letter*, May 1990

"I am tired of being told who my enemy is. I paid hundreds of billions of dollars to hold off the Russians, but the Russians never came. There is one group of people in this world who thinks it is perfectly all right to murder unarmed noncombatants...and who buys us off with oil so that we will not place our strength and vengeance where it really belongs. That group of people is my enemy." *Levitt Letter*, April 1990

"It is relevant that we watch the weird, spiritistic world of the Antichrist taking shape. The mumbo-jumbo known as the New Age Movement is all around us and steadily gathering force, as we should expect." *Levitt Letter*, November 1989

"I am astonished that the world pays the PLO any recognition whatever or that the Palestinians in Israel look to them for any sort of leadership or policy. It's a world of Alice in Wonderland in which murderers call out for peace and terrorists issue heroic declarations of independence." *Levitt Letter*, December 1988

"It is undeniable that Arab has fought Arab practically since the beginning of time. The casualty figures in the endless Iran-Iraq war are measured in the millions, not hundreds, and again we see Moslem killing Moslem." *Levitt Letter*, June 1988

"What we might learn from the Arafat case is first, not to embrace every self-styled spokesman for an entire people, and second, deals made with Russia, Syria, or the PLO have a way of back-firing." *Levitt Letter*, 1983

Inform a friend! Recommend the *Levitt Letter*.

Letters to Zola

“...an army of valiant men...”
(IIChr. 13:3)

Dear Zola,

I'm here in the Saudi desert, experiencing fulfillment of prophecy first hand! There are many of us believers here in my unit and a few of us have keenly studied prophecy. It makes for great witnessing opportunities out here! I am also a regular subscriber to everything you publish. My wife sends me your letters.

Cpt. A.M.

Dear Zola,

Serving in our armed forces, I can appreciate the tentative situation of both the Israeli police and the nation itself. I would hardly welcome being surrounded on all sides by sly, cunning, and openly hostile forces. My respect for the stalwart people of Israel runs deep, while my heart is heavy with the thought of a supposedly Christian nation turning its back on God's chosen.

R. E. S.

Dear Zola!

I am a 53-year-old Christian believer with 9 children, 2 daughters and 7 sons; my eldest is a U.S. Marine in Saudi Arabia on the very front lines in an M-60 tank, a 30-year-old tank.

He's ready to die for his country and honor, but mostly his God, as he too is a Christian.

But I am angry that he will be there to fight and die, but can't practice his faith or read his Bible, or eat pork should he want to, nor can he wear shorts, etc. All due to the Moslem faith. I'm amazed that they want him to die for their sand and oil, while not being able to worship his God openly. What an outrage!

Father of Sgt. E. T.

Offended!

Zola,

Please take our name off your mailing list! Your November 1 letter [concerning Germany] offended us greatly. . . . It might be a good idea to look up other people's history, like the Russians and Chinese. Stalin only murdered 18 million plus people, and a good number of them were Jews, I am sure.

Thank you,

Mr. & Mrs. H.N.

From a pilgrim on our October tour to Israel who found a long-lost relative there...

Dear Friends,

Can you understand what this trip meant to me? Maybe the attached picture and letter written to my children can tell of what else besides history, churches and sights I saw.

Dear Children,

Enclosed is the photo of Froomi, the daughter of my father's sister, my cousin and yours. This picture was taken at the end of World War Two. She survived fighting in the Russian Army with her brother and sister; they were killed. Her left arm is shot up and somewhat deformed, she has spent years in an army hospital.

Froomi returned home to her country and village in Lithuania and found this stone commemorating the place where 3,000 Jews were machine-gunned and killed. This was all her people, nothing was left, all had died. This was all her people, my people and, yes, yours. All our uncles, aunts, cousins left in Europe, the ones that helped my father escape.

I met Froomi in Israel. She, like your father, is now old. I also met my father's little brother, Shlomi, who is 86 years old. He survived because he was a cobbler by trade and German boots needed mending. He is a Dachau survivor. His wife and children did not fix shoes, so they died.

He told me many things of my beautiful mother's wedding, when he was a little boy, and of my grandfather and my people.

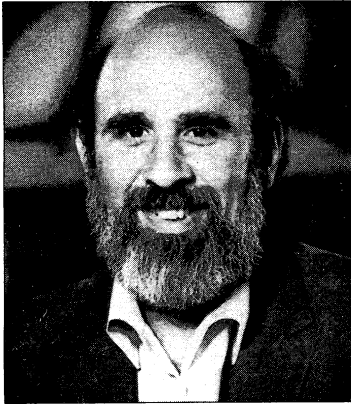
This is our cousin Froomi standing at the stone. A direct descendent of 6,000 years of Jews —

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE —

your people.

Getzel Ben Eli Itzick

A NOTE FROM ZOLA



Dear Friends:

This is a pretty full newsletter and it's difficult to get in "Seasons Greetings," but from me to you, I hope you have a most joyous holiday season and a happy and successful new year.

Frankly, I always feel a little funny about agreeing to December 25th as the Lord's birthdate, since we don't really have biblical sanction for it, and to that end I have composed something new in a Christmas musical. It is based on the career of Simeon, who, with his friend Anna, waited in Jerusalem for Messiah to come. Since we do have biblical sanction for those two and their ministries (Luke 2:25-38), I can tell their story in a perfectly scriptural way.

They met the Messiah sometime after His birth (forty days, if we correctly understand the period of Mary's purification after the birth), so our musical is set in Jerusalem sometime after the birth of the Lord and is entitled "'Mine Eyes Have Seen' — Zola's After Christmas Musical." This brief but heartfelt extravaganza will be aired throughout the nation on FAM (CBN) at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time on December 30th. This prime time special was kindly provided by the network and we felt this would be a good way to take advantage of it (and take a holiday break from the Gulf crisis). So be sure to tune in to our after Christmas musical and let us know how you liked it. Audio and video tapes of this new musical score will be available.

Upcoming plans include a filming tour in March which will offer a choice of Israel, a Greek cruise and an opportunity to travel with our film crew around the stunningly beautiful resort town of Eilat on the Red Sea. We will be giving you more information by and by, but the dates will be March 10th through March 26th.

The filming will celebrate the southern part of Israel, for a change, including the very biblical sites of Ashkelon, Beersheba, the Negev desert through which the Exodus proceeded, King Solomon's mines and the lovely port of Eilat, shown on all biblical maps at the very southern tip of Israel. We will be making special arrangements for refunds if there is any real difficulty with traveling in the Middle East at that time, but as you know, we do not put off our pilgrimages for anything — we just take suitable precautions. If you'd like some tour information, drop a line to Kelly at our office. Thanks.

Let me take this opportunity, in this last newsletter of the year, to thank you profoundly for all you have done for us in 1990 — a most thought-provoking year. We made more new programs of much greater significance than in previous years, I feel, and you stuck with us all the way, making it all happen. Please continue doing the same, because 1991 may be even more thought-provoking. Who knows — it may be the last year of the church age and we may all be together before it's over! Should that happen, I will enjoy meeting a great many of you. I like reading your letters and I'm sure you would like to see some live teaching instead of the video version all the time.

Please do stay with us in your prayers and your financial support, since we feel an even more increased calling than in the past to put out fresh programming on what are obviously urgent subjects. December is a fine time to make your best gift of the year since you get your most advantageous tax deduction right now. Thanks.

God bless you and thank you again for your kindness and your love.

Your messenger,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Zola".