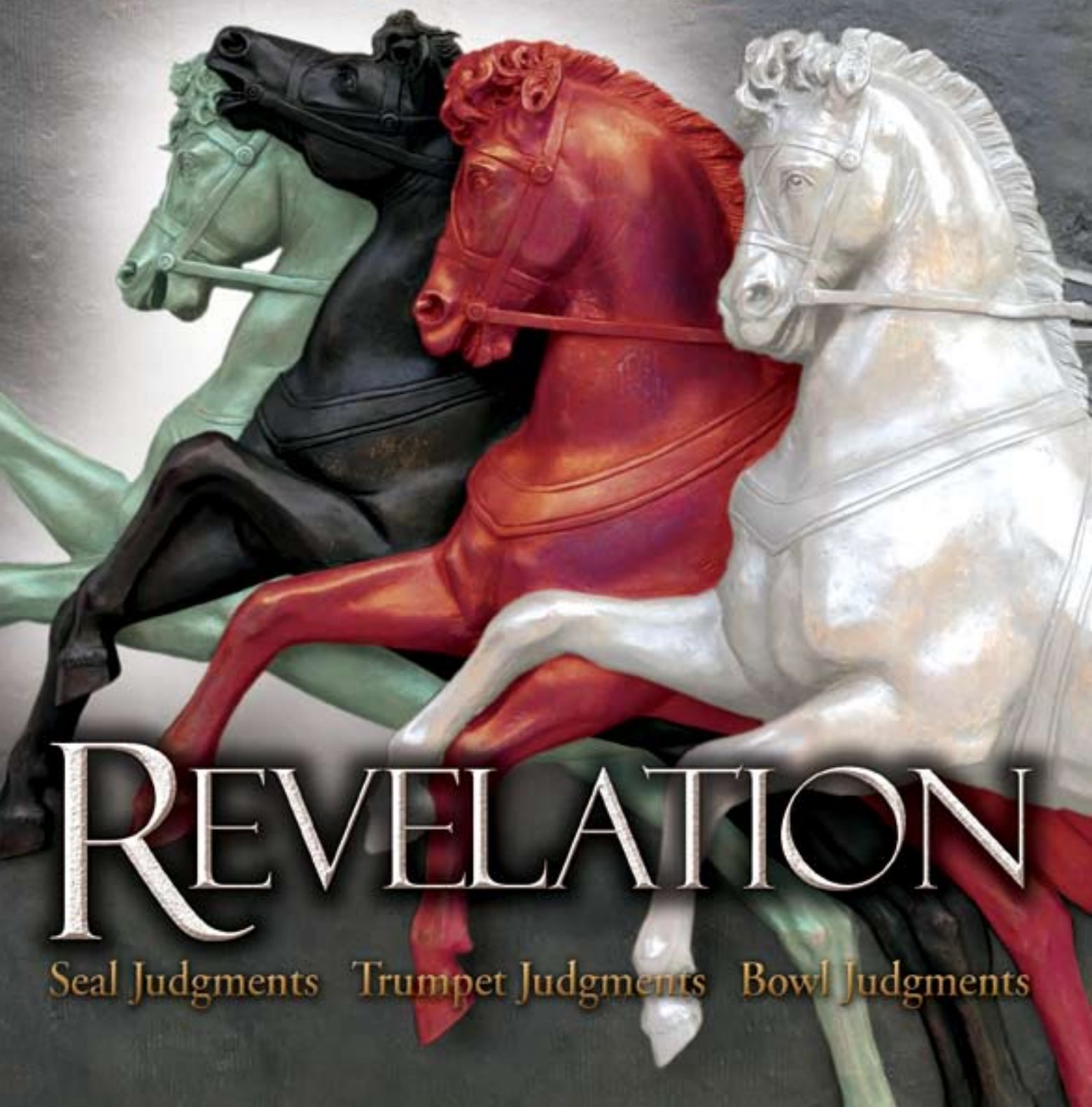


Israel's Messenger

Summer 2015

Publishing Salvation to Zion - Isaiah 52:7
A ministry of Jewish Awareness Ministries



REVELATION

Seal Judgments Trumpet Judgments Bowl Judgments



Garden Tomb



The Eastern Gate



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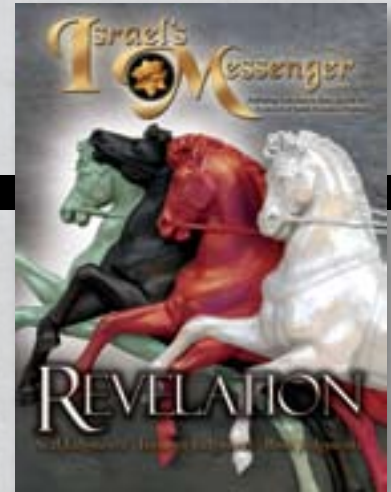


COVER: The cover this issue depicts the four horse(men) of the Apocalypse found in the first four Seal Judgments of Revelation 6—white, red, black, and pale green. These judgments unleash the devastating wrath of God on a sinful, Christ denying world—ripe and ready for the just judgment of a righteous God.



From the Director's Desk

SUMMER 2015



Dear Reader,

Our world seems to be on fire! ISIS is savagely murdering Christians, and others, throughout the Middle East. Assad of Syria has butchered over 200,000 of his own citizens in his ongoing war. The Arab nations are in upheaval with many falling under the sway of Iran or Islamic Jihadists.

While this is going on the President of the United States, Barack Obama is making enemies of our friends, and "friends" of our enemies. What he has done, and is doing, to Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu is unprecedented for the U.S. I am convinced he is anti-Semitic (look who his mentors were through the years) and hates Israel. While he throws Israel under the bus, he is doing all he can to forge a deal with Iran that will ultimately allow them to possess nuclear weapons.

The editors of *The New York Observer*, a liberal magazine, on March 31, 2015, stated, "Mr. Obama is an amateur who is enthralled with the sound of his own voice and incapable of coming to grips with the consequences of his actions. He is surrounded by sycophants, second-rate intellectuals and a media that remains compliant and uncritical in the face of repeated foreign policy disasters."

Domestically, the U.S. is off its hinges. Our constitution is ignored by most of our politicians; lies rule the day as politicians brag about their mendacious behavior, only concerned about the results. The Judeo-Christian underpinnings of our country have been scrapped as abortion, homosexual marriages, and immoral behavior rule the day.

What is happening in the U.S. and the world? The answer is simple. We are living in the "Shadows of the Tribulation!"

There is a coming seven year period that will make today's happenings look like a Sunday school picnic. I am convinced we are living in the period just preceding these seven years, also known as Daniel's seventieth week, Daniel 9:27.

This issue of *Israel's Messenger* has a number of articles dealing with the book of Revelation. These are excellent introductions to this coming seven year period of God's wrath.

I have written an article about the first set of judgments – the Seal judgments. These are the beginning of birth pains, a Jewish concept, originally found in the Bible. I have written a shorter article explaining the "birth pains of the Messiah" and how this wasn't fulfilled in 1948, as some suggest, but will be fulfilled at the end of the seven year Tribulation period.

Dan Bergman has explored the Trumpet judgments. These are more intense than the Seal judgments and Dan has done a good job describing them.

Ken Symes has contributed a brief article around Revelation 12 on Satan's hatred for Israel and the Jewish people. We can certainly see satanic hatred for Israel and Jewish people increasing exponentially in our world. This is another "Shadow of the Tribulation."

The Bowl judgments are examined by Ken Overby. These are the culminating judgments of the Tribulation period and will be followed by a "birth" – all Israel will be saved, Romans 11:26, Isaiah 66:7-14, Zechariah 12:10, and 13:9.

The *Eretz Israel* column looks at the Central Hill country of Israel. This is the "backbone" or "spine" of the country and a large percentage of biblical events took place in this area. This area is also what the world refers to as the West Bank. Biblically, and correctly, it is historic Judea and

Samaria. Don't miss this helpful article.

It has been awhile since there has been an update about our personnel in Israel – Moshe and Shoshanna Gold. This issue, in place of our column *Sowing the Seed... Reaping the Harvest*, there is an update on Moshe's recovery under their column *Apples of Gold*. When I visited Moshe in the hospital shortly after his stroke in November, 2013 he was comatose. The severity of his stroke left me wondering if he would be able to recover to any great degree, if it all. Last October, about a year later from my original visit, I again saw Moshe and he was hardly moving and unable to communicate. Since then, and especially the last 3-4 months, Moshe has made some enormous strides. Please read the report and pray for his continued recovery.

We still have space available for our Oct. 7 – 17 tour to Israel. The price is \$3,590, round trip, from most domestic cities and back. This 11 day tour is something you should consider! If you compare our price, itinerary, and quality of hotels with other tours you will find ours is very reasonably priced. I know of some ministries offering essentially the same tour for as much as \$5,000 - \$6,000, and these are not even from your domestic city. Contact us for a brochure.

I am thankful for those who have sent in finances for the *Elijah Project*. Additional funds are needed but we will be targeting at least one metropolitan area in 2016, Lord willing. 🙏

In Messiah,
Mark Robinson

Seal Judgments



by Rev. Mark Robinson

In Jewish writings there are many references to a time of suffering before the advent of the Messiah. A couple of references will illustrate this concept.

Raphael Patai, in his book *The Messiah Texts*, said about the Messianic texts, “The idea became entrenched that the coming of the Messiah will be preceded by greatly increased suffering... This will last seven years. And then, unexpectedly, the Messiah will come.”¹

The Talmud states, “Why call these future troubles ‘the birth pangs of the Messiah’? Because travail precedes birth, and this travail ‘precedes the birth of a new era.’”

It should be no surprise that this concept of “birth pains” originates in the Bible. A recurring theme in the Word of God is the concept of “birth pains” prior to the coming of Messiah.

“Ask ye now, and see whether a man

doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?” Jeremiah 30:6.

This verse refers to the *Time of Jacob’s Trouble*, what is also referred to as the Tribulation period. Notice the concept of “travail with child,” or “birth pains.”

In Isaiah 66:7, we are told, “*Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.*” Again, we see the theme of “travail,” or “birth (labor) pains.”

Interestingly, the labor pains take place **after** the birth. The man child speaks of Jesus’ birth. After His birth comes the “birth pains.” Presently, we are about 2,000 years removed from His birth, and still waiting for the start of the “birth pains,” the Tribulation period.

In the New Testament the same concept of “birth pains” is taught. “*For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as*

travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape,” 1 Thessalonians 5:3. “Travail” is $\omega\delta\iota\nu$, o-deen’, a pang or throe, especially of childbirth.

And in Matthew 24:8, after a list of events that will take place such as wars and earthquakes, we are told, “*All these are the beginning of sorrows.*” “Sorrows” is the same Greek word translated “travail” in 1 Thessalonians 5:3. All these events are the beginning of “birth pains,” and place them at the beginning of the Tribulation period.

With this as background we are introduced to the first judgments of the seven year Tribulation period, the Seal judgments of Revelation 6. As with the beginning of “labor pains,” these judgments are painful but only the beginning of the process, with judgments of greater severity and occurrence during the subsequent Trumpet and Bowl judgments.

Continued on page 6



SEVEN SEAL JUDGMENTS

There are six Seal judgments in Revelation 6. These are the beginning of God's judgment, or wrath, on a world that has continually rejected His Son, the Messiah. Jesus is the only one found capable of opening these Seal judgments. *"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof,"* Revelation 5:5. It is clear from Rev. 6:17 that the Seal judgments begin the time of God's wrath, "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

FIRST SEAL

The first Seal judgment is found in verses 1 and 2. It depicts a rider on a white horse.



Riding a white horse he is depicted, at this time, as the protagonist. Shortly, though, he is conquering through military might and becomes the antagonist. This rider is none other than the anti-Christ. The seven year Tribulation period starts with the anti-Christ establishing a covenant with Israel and her enemies, Daniel 9:27. The hope for world peace is a mirage as this "son of perdition" starts his campaign, through the use of military force, to rule the world. By the middle of the Tribulation he will have consolidated his power, Revelation 12, in four power bases - military, political, religious, and economic. His rule will end in his destruction with the return of Jesus.

SECOND SEAL

Verses 3 and 4 tell of the second Seal judgment with a rider on a red horse taking peace from



the world by the use of a sword. At the beginning of the Tribulation period there is the deception of peace offered by this "man of sin." When the Second seal is opened all pretense disappears. The anti-Christ begins in earnest his use of military power to put down all who

would question his rule and authority.

THIRD SEAL

The Third seal, verses 5-6, has a rider on a black



BIRTH OF A NATION

by Rev. Mark Robinson

Birth or labor pains is the beginning of the end of a long process. Some nine months earlier the expectant mom becomes aware of the promise of a birth. Suddenly, and in some ways unexpectedly, the first labor pain grips the body. Time is short - but, the pain will only come more rapidly and in greater magnitude as the birth approaches.

The *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament* defines birth pains as "recurring spasms of pain which are not subject to conscious control, during which the woman in labor writhes - a process that can be accompanied by a sense of fear or anxiety, screams, & groans."

It is appropriate that the coming of Messiah in Jewish thought is called "birth pains of Messiah." As the articles in this issue describe the Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments, one can picture the above definition of birth pains as a good summary of what is coming upon the world in the Tribulation period.

Isaiah 66:8-12, as well as any passage in Scripture, speaks of the coming "birth pains" and ultimate birth. Verse 7 describes the birth of a man child **BEFORE** the "birth pains." The man child is the Messiah, Jesus, born some 2,000 years ago.

Verse 8 asks a series of questions: "Who hath heard such a thing?" "Who hath seen such things?" "Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day?" "Shall a nation be born at once?"

The process of birth described is contrary to the normal order. First the birth, and then the "birth pains." Has any one heard or seen something like this? Obviously not! This is unique, different, a one time event!

What will be born? Two things - the earth and a nation. The earth is renovated. It becomes a virtual Garden of Eden again (see Romans 8:22; Matthew 19:28; Acts 3:21; Isaiah 11). The Millennial Kingdom is established.

The nation is she who brought Mes-

siah into the world, Israel. This passage is not speaking of the "rebirth" of Israel in 1948. Many have stated that this is speaking of that time. They are wrong.

It is the "travail" or "birth pains" that bring Zion's (Israel) children forth. The "birth pains" are the Tribulation period. It is a horrific time. In the middle of the Tribulation period Satan is cast out of heaven, relegated to earth, and does all he can to destroy Israel and the Jewish people, Revelation 12.

Because of this intense anti-Semitism and attempted eradication of the Jews, it is asked in Isaiah 66:9, by the LORD, "Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God." Will the child be stillborn? Will the delivery be stopped? Will the child die?

The answer is absolutely not! God forbid! There will be a birth! At the end of the Tribulation period the remaining Jews in the world "look upon him whom they have pierced," "all Israel is saved!" (see Zechariah 12:9-13, 13:8-9; Romans 11:26-27). The birth is the spiritual birth of a nation. Israel as a nation receives Jesus as her Messiah and Savior!

Isaiah 66:10 uses language that a mother can relate to upon the birth (delivery) of her child. "Rejoice," "that ye may suck [nursing], and be satisfied with the breasts," "delighted," "borne upon her sides," "dandled [to move a small child up and down in a playful way] upon her knees." Israel is delivered from her enemies! Those who love her and have mourned for her through the centuries now rejoice.

"Birth pains" is an apt description of the Tribulation period and what follows. When there are "labor pains" a birth is coming. For thousands of years, Israel has longed for her Messiah! His coming is now soon. Yes, there are seven years of birth pains! But, the end result, after four thousand years of hope, beginning with Abraham, is a birth. Israel will be born in a day! Come Messiah, Lord Jesus!

horse introducing the reality of world famine. *"A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny,"* is enough food to keep one person healthy for a day. A penny, *denarius* in Greek, is a day's wage (see Matthew 20:2). Who does the provider in the home allocate this sustenance to? To the mother, one of the children, himself? This judgment won't affect the wealthy as we are told, *"and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."* The overwhelming majority of the earth's inhabitants are poor. How many people die from disease and malnutrition as a result of this judgment of famine?



FOURTH SEAL

The fourth Seal judgment is found in verses 7-8 and depicts a rider on a pale horse with the name *"Death"* and *"Hell following him."* This one judgment alone sees 1/4 of the earth's population die. *"And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."* The use of beasts, sword, famine, and death (pestilence) is used in Scripture to speak of God's judgments, Ezekiel 14:21 (see also Leviticus 26:22-26; Deuteronomy 28:21-26; Jeremiah 15:2-3; 16:4-5; Ezekiel 5:12-17). Don't be misled! This judgment, and all the Seal judgments, is the wrath of a Holy God poured upon mankind. It's a period unparalleled in history - it is the *"Day of the Lord!"* But, it is just the *"beginning of sorrows."*



FIFTH SEAL

The fifth Seal judgment is described in verses 9-11, with martyred saints asking the Lord how long it will be before they are avenged



for their death. The answer is wait, many more will first be martyred. The anti-Christ is allowed by God to slay many of the saints of the Lord. Many people will be saved in the Tribulation period, Revelation 7:9-10, but will experience the anger of the anti-Christ and martyrdom at his hands.

SIXTH SEAL

Verses 12-17 tell of earthquakes that shake the foundations of the earth. These earthquakes are so destructive the earth's inhabitants call on the mountains and rocks to fall on them to hide them from the wrath of God. How foolish they are to make this plea instead of turning to Him who is the Judge, yes, but also the Savior to those who call upon Him.



BEGINNING OF SORROWS

The Seal judgments are destructive, painful, and come suddenly upon an un-expecting world. In one of the judgments 1/4 of the earth's people die. In another judgment there are great earthquakes.

As with *"birth"* or *"labor pains"*, things will get worse before it is over. In one of the Trumpet judgments 1/3 of the earth's population die. In one of the Bowl judgments, an earthquake so devastating occurs it flattens the cities of the world and mountains disappear.

It is the seventh Seal judgment, Revelation 8:1, which unleashes the more painful and devastating Trumpet judgments.



One can only imagine the pain that comes with the series of judgments God unleashes upon this world. How thankful I am that born again believers are promised to be spared from this seven year time of *"sorrows."* I won't be here for the *"birth pains."* You won't be here either if you have believed on the Messiah, Jesus, to forgive your sins! If you haven't, do it now!

End Notes

1. Patai, Raphael, *The Messiah Texts: Jewish Legends of Three Thousand Years*, Wayne State University Press, 1979, pg. 95-96
2. The Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 98b



Trumpet Judgments

By Rev. Dan Bergman

INTRODUCTION TO THE TRUMPETS

In viewing the previous judgments the Lord will pour out upon mankind in the seven year time period known as the Tribulation, it can easily be seen that as time progresses, these judgments escalate. The final seal judgment segues into the seven Trumpet judgments – each more severe than its predecessor:

“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets... And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.”

Revelation 8:1, 2 & 6

As we walk through the next few chapters together, we can take comfort in the fact that as believers, we will not have to experience this horrible terror that is God’s holy wrath. The Bible teaches that all believers will be taken straight to heaven before the Tribulation begins. However dear reader, if you have never by faith trusted Jesus as your Savior, and accepted His death, burial, and resurrection as payment for your sin, you are not exempt from the fearful period of time described within these pages. Nor can you escape an eternity of judgment in a place called Hell, without trusting Jesus as the Messiah/ Savior. If that is you, I urge you to turn from your sin and trust Jesus to forgive your sin and be your Savior. Please contact us if you would like us to further explain to you how to do this! We would be glad to help!



mature sycamore tree might ... produce around ... 100kg of oxygen per tree per year.

FIRST TRUMPET

Having been through the Seal Judgments at the onset of the tribulation period, you can imagine those that are still alive are horrified. At this point billions have died. Those that remain are wishing they had died. Then comes the hail...

“The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.”¹

One can only imagine what this apocalyptic storm might look like. This judgment is reminiscent of something that the Egyptians experienced thousands of years ago by God’s hand. The loud knocking and crashing on exterior walls and roofs permeates the air. Screaming, breaking, the sounds of a war zone along with the overwhelming heat and crackling of fire – are everywhere. Is it raining? The heavy hits of something thicker than water can be heard... it’s blood! Everything is red! The hiss of blood hitting the fire is an eerie reminder of the innocent blood of the Lamb of God, Whom they rejected. As a result of this hail ALL of the world’s green grass, and 1/3rd of its trees are gone – burnt by fire.

According to sciencefocus.com, seven or eight trees are needed to provide the amount of oxygen for one person to survive:

“Trees release oxygen when they use energy from sunlight to make glucose from carbon dioxide and water... A

A human breathes about 9.5 tons of air in a year, but oxygen only makes up about 23 percent of that air, by mass, and we only extract a little over a third of the oxygen from each breath. That works out to a total of about 740kg of oxygen per year. Which is, very roughly, seven or eight trees’ worth.”

Those who are still alive at this point will find that it is getting harder to breath. It will only get worse from here.

SECOND TRUMPET

With the 2nd Trumpet, the earth loses 1/3rd of its water, 1/3rd of its sea life, and 1/3rd of its ships.

“And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.”²

Our world is over 75% water. Its oxygen has been drastically reduced by the last judgment. Next to oxygen, water is our most precious commodity. One third of the oceans, seas, and lakes are now blood. At least our rivers and streams are still safe - until the 3rd Trumpet.

THIRD TRUMPET

Wormwood! You may not be familiar with that word, but for those enduring the Tribulation, it will be a “house-hold name.” It is the name of the burning star that poisons 1/3rd of the planet’s rivers,

streams, and fountains. We are told that “...many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.”³

FOURTH TRUMPET

“And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.”⁴

Adding to the chaos of the first three Trumpet judgments, the fourth brings with it a new dimension – darkness. Cries, destruction, devastation, are all to be experienced with lack of light. A normal summer day will be shorter and darker than a normal winter day. These verses may be to us words on a page describing a time yet to come, but to those within the Tribulation period, every word is life changing.

Many will be grasping for some sign that the worst is over, or that they could maybe have some respite from

the earth shattering trauma they have experienced thus far. For them, the terror is only beginning:

“And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound.”⁵

FIFTH TRUMPET

The bottomless pit is opened. Its smoke darkens the already darkened sky. Swarms of disgusting terrifying creatures emerge from this pit. They are given five months to torment men who have not been sealed by God as described in Revelation chapter 7.

They are described as having:

“...shapes...like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had

breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails.”⁶

This will be a torturous torment. These vicious creatures will find whom they seek out. To the suffering they cause, there will be no relief. In fact, we are told in the same passage that “...in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them...”⁷

SIXTH TRUMPET

With the sounding of the sixth Trumpet, four fallen angels are set free from their bounds within the Euphrates River. They lead an army of 200 million terrifying supernatural horsemen! These are described vividly in Revelation 9:16-19:

“And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand...having breastplates of fire,

Continued on page 10

SATAN'S HATRED FOR ISRAEL – Revelation 12

by Rev. Ken Symes

Revelation chapters 12-14 form one prophecy referencing events covering at least 2,000 years. These referenced events take us from the birth of Messiah to His supervision over the Divine judgments in the closing days of the outpouring of God's wrath on an evil and rebellious world (cf. Revelation 12:5; 14:14, 20).

The Woman

In verse one we see the first “great wonder” in heaven. The woman is not actually in heaven but on earth. It is the sign (wonder) that is in heaven. She is described as “a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.” This reminds us of the dreams of Joseph (Genesis 37:9) in which the future glory of Israel is symbolized by the crown with twelve stars. The nation of Israel is often referred to as a woman who is the wife of the LORD (cf. Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 31:32; Ezekiel 16:32). This woman is the nation of Israel. According to verse 5, this woman “brought forth a man child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne.” This could be no other than Jesus, the Son of God.

The Dragon

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon...” (vv. 3, 4). Here Satan is presented at his worst (cf. Revelation 20:2; Ezekiel 29:3-4). He is described as “red” denoting his murderous nature. In verse 4 his tail, symbolizing his power, sweeps through the heavens drawing one third of the angels, symbolized as stars (cf. Job 38:7), into his evil web. From the moment that Satan

became full of himself and determined to replace God as the ruler of this world, he knew in order to do that, he had to destroy Israel so that the true God could not fulfill His unconditional promises to her.

Knowing that the Messiah, the seed of woman, would come through Israel, the one who would ultimately destroy him, he immediately focused on the woman to destroy the child before He is born. But He was born and when his attempts to persuade the Messiah to follow him failed, he sought to destroy Him. And in so doing, God's redemptive purpose and plan was fulfilled at Calvary, leaving Satan no other alternative but to destroy Israel.

The Deliverance

The hatred of the Jew is satanically inspired. In order to rule, Satan must destroy Israel and the Jew. Verses 7 to 10 relate back to Daniel 12:1. *“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of the people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”* Notice the source of their deliverance: *“And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto death,”* Revelation 12:11. This is Yeshua, Jesus, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.

God promised Abraham that *“I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* (Genesis 12:3). Anti-Semitism, in whatever form, aligns one with Satan and his hatred of God, Israel, and the Jewish people. Anti-Semitism brings the cursing of God upon the one who practices it.



Bowl Judgments

By Rev. Ken Overby

A final trumpet blast concludes the annual Feast of Rosh Hashanah and begins the countdown to “Yom Ha-Din” – the Day of Judgment. Jewish tradition teaches that the ten “awesome days” that follow Rosh Hashanah are for repentance, so that one’s name may be inscribed in the Book of Life on the Day of Atonement. These shofar “*teruah*” blasts are sounded in “staccato” (nine short blasts in half as many seconds). With similar rapidity the seven vials or bowls of God’s wrath in Revelation 16 are compressed into a short period. These meteoric judgments, described as seven vials, begin the countdown to the final “Day of the Lord.” Every last drop thunders that humanity is about to face her Judge.

Before the glorious appearing of David’s Son and Messiah, as THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, and before the armies assemble at Megiddo, seven bowls of divine wrath will already have been emptied on the kingdom of the beast. In the days of Noah God said, “My spirit shall not

always strive with man.” He waited 120 years while the Ark was prepared. As the flood destroyed everything, there will be a worldwide deluge of scalding wrath poured from these bowls. All the while the 144,000 Jewish virgin male evangelists, Revelation 14:1-4, will traverse the globe reaping the final gospel harvest with catastrophic signs and wonders accompanying their preaching. Incredibly, like the antediluvians ignored Noah, millions will mock their message of Christ.

I remember as a farm boy emptying a bucket of fresh milk into the strainer. How slowly and carefully I began to pour the precious milk into the strainer but once the bucket reached a tipping point, the remainder flowed unrestrained. This chapter unveils the tipping point of God’s wrath. The preceding seven Seal and Trumpet judgments in Revelation 6-9 will have threatened humanity’s existence. Instead of repenting, man hardens his rebellion to do away with these witnesses and destroy Israel. The final solution for this act of godlessness is a final act of God’s global destruction. As God once

destroyed the earth by water, then He will deal with godless humanity and its humanistic ruler in a deluge of damnation times seven. Noah’s generation had one hundred and twenty years to repent. Though the Tribulation is only seven years, actually His grace has been extended for over 2000 years since He gave His only begotten Son. When God’s longsuffering reaches the limit, judgment will pour down like a waterfall.

The first classic book on Bible Prophecy I purchased was recommended to me by a godly Bible teacher and coach, Donald Crews, who taught me the books of Daniel and Revelation. *Things To Come* by Dr. Dwight J. Pentecost gives the context of this period known as Daniel’s “seventieth week.” Of the vial judgments he says, “And yet while the whole earth is in view, this period is particularly in relation to Israel, known as “the time of Jacob’s trouble,” (Jeremiah 30:7). God says to the prophet in Daniel 9:24, “*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city...*” This whole

Continued from page 9

and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed... For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.”

One third of the earth’s remaining population of men perishes in this judgment. The death toll is catastrophic, and yet those that remain refuse to repent!⁸

SEVENTH TRUMPET

This last Trumpet is somewhat different from all the others. At its sound, great voices are heard in heaven praising Jesus the Messiah! His eternal reign is proclaimed! There is then worship of the Lord in heaven for all that He has done, and all that He is worthy of. We are then told that God’s temple in heaven is opened. The Ark of the Covenant is there! Thunder, lightning, and hail then follow with an earthquake!

CONCLUSION

What a horrifying time! Oh that we would be pressed to tell our lost friends and loved ones of the judgments that await them if they neglect God’s gift of salvation! Many shadows of the Tribulation period can be seen today. Will you, or someone you know, be left behind when Jesus calls all believers to heaven? At that point it will be too late. Trust Jesus today! 🙏

End Notes

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Revelation 8:7 KJV | 5 Revelation 8:13 KJV |
| 2 Revelation 8:8,9 KJV | 6 Revelation 9:7-10 KJV |
| 3 Revelation 8:11 KJV | 7 Revelation 9:6 KJV |
| 4 Revelation 8:12 KJV | 8 Revelation 9:20, 21 KJV |



period then has special reference to Daniel's people, Israel, and Daniel's holy city, Jerusalem." Paul wrote, *"Isaiah also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth,"* Romans 9:27, 28. After Revelation 16 His work will be cut short in righteous judgment for many and righteous salvation for some. A remnant of Israel will be saved. Sadly we know the exact percentage of this remnant. It will only be the surviving one-third who "endure to the end," (Zechariah 13:9; Matthew 24:13). Two thirds of Israel will have been slaughtered and all who remain will call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

Let's remember the time line of these Seals, Trumpets and Bowls of wrath. They all happen after the Rapture as the Church is not mentioned in Revelation chapters 5-18. *"We know that our Lord bore for us the wrath of God and His judgment, therefore we who are in Him shall not come into judgment. For God appointed us not unto wrath,"*¹ Thessalonians 5:9. "These two purposes, the testing of the earth dwellers and the preparation of Israel for the King have

no relation to the Church whatsoever."²

Now let's distinguish these Bowls of wrath from the preceding Seals and Trumpets. "Though there are similarities...the bowl judgements... being more intensive and extensive. Thus it is best...to see the bowls as...a distinctive series of judgments following the trumpets."³ The bowls are also divided into two groups. "The first four bowls will be poured on nature globally. The final three bowls will affect only the kingdom of the Beast."⁴ The bowls are carried out from the Temple in heaven by seven angels at the command of a voice. "The voice is undoubtedly the voice of God which is described as ... a "great" voice (Greek, megales)" a word which occurs frequently (ten times) in this chapter."⁵

During the "time of Jacob's trouble" these remaining bowls are focused on the beast and his subjects like the plagues on the unbelieving Egyptians during the exodus of Israel, (Revelation 16:2, 9, 11). "The first bowl poured out upon the earth, Revelation 16:2," is similar to the sixth plague (Exodus 9:8-12). It is "limited to those who took the mark of the Beast."⁶ The second bowl is poured out upon the sea, Revelation 16:3. "The sea here becomes lifeless, as the blood of a dead man."⁷ Here again

it is like the first plague of Exodus 7. "The third bowl is poured out upon the rivers and fountains of waters and they lose their power to nourish or satisfy or sustain life, Revelation 16:4-7."⁸ Revelation 16:5-7 matches the punishment of God's justice for the crime against God's saints and spokesmen. There is nothing but blood to drink for all the righteous blood that they have shed. "The fourth bowl like the fourth trumpet falls upon the sun, Revelation 16:8-9."⁹ However this is the opposite of the fourth trumpet in which one-third of the sun's light will be darkened. Here its intensity reaches "scorching" on the thermometer. Like Pharaoh their hearts hardened again. "The fifth bowl has to do with the imposition of darkness on the center of the Beast's power, Revelation 16:12."¹⁰ It is like the ninth plague of Exodus 10:21-23. It is reminiscent of the darkness in Matthew 25:30, of which Dr. David Levy writes, "This is a preview of the outer darkness of hell which unbelievers will suffer."¹¹ Both speak of the horrific pain of "gnawing their tongues" and "gnashing of teeth."

"The sixth bowl prepares the way for an invasion of the kings of the east, that they with the Beast's

Continued on page 12

armies, might come to judgment at Armageddon, Revelation 16:12.”¹² The three unclean spirits will seduce these eastern kings to attack Israel, perhaps through eastern religious leaders, like God permitted false prophets to lead Israel to judgment. Revelation 16:15 sounds like the unprepared foolish virgins of Matthew 25. Unbelievers are warned not to be found naked in their sin, and believers are admonished to keep their robes of righteousness pure, Revelation 19:8.

“The seventh bowl has to do with a great convulsion that completely overthrows the ordered affairs of men as they experience the “fierceness of His wrath,” Revelation 16:19.¹³ This was seen in type through Moses’ seventh plague of hailstones, Exodus 9:23, 24. The wrathful voice of God removes every mountain and island from its position. The “great city” is divided in three. This has Bible scholars divided in two, between either Jerusalem which is divided by an earthquake, Zechariah 14:4, or the Babylon of Revelation 18. Cities will crumble under brimstone sized hail stones, weighing about 100 pounds each, yet man’s unbelieving hearts fail to bend.

On Rosh Hashanah afternoon each year, Jewish congregations gather by a body of water. They recite the “tashlikh” (Hebrew for “cast”) prayer. “Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea,” Micah 7:19. The only way to personally escape the devastation of the vials of wrath is to receive Yeshua ha Moshiach, Jesus the Christ, as one’s sin bearer. Then God will cast - “tashlikh” - one’s sins into the depths of the sea. The church, the Bride of Christ, will be caught up into heaven before these judgments, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. The rejections of His mercy through the blood of Jesus His Son leaves one unshielded from the outpouring of His wrath. “A short work will the Lord make upon

the earth,” Romans 9:28. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23. Please don’t come up short. Receive His righteousness by faith.



End Notes

1. *Things To Come*, Dwight J. Pentecost, Zondervan, 1964, pp.195-198
2. *Ibid.*, p.198
3. *Ryrie Study Bible Expanded Edition KJV*, 1994,

- Moody Bible Institute, p. 1940
4. *Revelation*, David Levy, Friends of Israel, 1999, p.182
5. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, John Walvoord, Moody Press, 1966, p. 231
6. *Revelation*, David Levy, Friends of Israel, p. 182
7. *Things To Come*, Dwight J. Pentecost, 1994, p. 363
8. *Ibid.*, p. 363
9. *Ibid.*, p. 363
10. *Ibid.*, p. 364
11. *Revelation*, David Levy, Friends of Israel, 1999, p. 184
12. *Things To Come*, Dwight J. Pentecost, 1964, p. 364
13. *Ibid.*, p. 363

THE UNHOLY TRINITY – Revelation 16:13-15

by Rev. Ken Overby

Revelation 16:13-14 mentions “the dragon,” “the beast,” and “the false prophet.”

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

These three personages represent Satan, the anti-Christ and a world-wide religious leader referred to as the false prophet. This trio of evil has been dubbed “the Unholy Trinity,” as opposed to the triune God consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In the middle of this chapter, verse 15, Jesus pauses to remind us of the urgency of the hour of His return.

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

He gives words of praise and warning. Praise to those that are faithfully watching in purity and warning to those who are in need of righteous garments, as well as those who are careless about the purity of the garments they possess.

Israel finally becomes the object of the global annihilation. The demonic spirits ascending from hell through the medium of this unholy trinity do so in the blackness of the fifth bowl judgment. It reminds me of the words of our Lord to the Temple guards in Gethsemane. “This is your hour and the power of darkness.” Hell’s millennia old leaven now bursts forth from the heart of Lucifer. Jesus actually uses the imagery in verse 15 of a “thief” to describe the ele-

ment of surprise. He had taught in His Olivet Discourse that His coming would be in the least suspecting hour, Matthew 24:42-44.

Earth’s foundation trembles from the blood curdling roar of the Lion of Judah, the Ancient of Days. This global quake reduces the cities of the nations to heaps. Their armies tumble like dominoes in the bowl of Armageddon. Many believe this to be the final battle of the campaign of Armageddon. We must view Revelation 16 by the lens of Daniel 7.

The beast of Daniel 7, with 7 heads and 10 horns, is an indescribably ferocious ruler of the revived 4th world-empire of Daniel’s dream in chapter 2, as the 10 toes of clay and iron and as the 10 horned beast of Daniel 7 depict. The beast, the anti-Christ, is empowered by the dragon, Satan – Revelation 13:2. He makes war for 42 months with those who will not worship him - the tribulation saints.

The false prophet, also empowered by the dragon, Revelation 13:11-12, deceives the subjects of the kingdom of the beast by miracles, maybe even taking credit for the healing of the beast’s fatal head wound, Revelation 13:3, and a fatal sword wound, Revelation 13:14.

A religious leader with satanic healing powers gives health and credibility to the Beast. The future does not belong to those who dishonor this false prophet, beast and the commercial system of the beast, Revelation 13:16-18. Beheading awaits all refusing to bow, to buy and to believe in this global Judas who usurps the worship due God alone.

Just when all Satan’s plans come together, Jesus will destroy them, as well as their armies and their one world rebellion with the word of His mouth, Revelation 19:11-21. The beast (anti-Christ) and the false prophet, Revelation 19:20, as well as the dragon, Revelation 20:1-3, are cast into the Lake of Fire.



by Rev. Mark Robinson

One year ago, in the summer, 2014 issue of *Israel's Messenger*, Shoshana Gold wrote: "On the evening of November 18th, 2013 Moshe's and my life changed in a dramatic way. This was the night Moshe had a hemorrhagic stroke and immediately plunged into a coma for two weeks. The past months have seen him in ICU, Internal Medicine and a rehab hospital. From the beginning of his hospitalization my prayer has been that we would glorify God in all situations and places.

"God has led us all the way. When Moshe was in ICU the chief doctor took me aside one day and told me that surviving this type of stroke was a miracle. I told him that it was the LORD that enabled Moshe to still be alive and asked him what he thought about that. He then told me his name which means "salvation." I learned that this doctor is a Christian and we are still in contact to this day.

"... I truly believe that God is allowing him to be a witness just through the miracle of his continued healing. We look forward to the day when Moshe will be walking and talking again, and pray that those who witness this healing will turn their lives over to Jesus the Messiah in faith."

The day of Moshe walking and talking again has arrived! We are thankful to God for the continued restoration of health for Moshe. The last 3 months have seen some major strides take place in Moshe's life. Although he has a ways to go, he is talking, walking, and progressing toward the day when he can leave the hospital and return home. In late March they started to wean him off his ventilator and breathing tubes and as of the writing of this report he is almost completely through with these "helps."



Moshe Gold

In early May Moshe had his PEG removed (the feeding tube in his stomach).

There have been many hundreds of people praying for Moshe and Shoshana. When I say thank you, it also comes from the grateful hearts of Moshe and Shoshana. Shoshana has been the picture of a faithful wife. Every day she makes the 50 minute drive from her home in the Galilean hills outside of Tiberias to the rehab hospital in the Haifa area. She encourages Moshe, helps him do his physical therapy exercises when the Occupational Therapist is not scheduled, and has been preparing some of the more solid foods he is, once again, enjoying.

I look forward to the day when Moshe will be able to continue his ministry. He was a contributor to this magazine, and I always enjoyed reading his articles. I considered him one of our better writers as he always had a unique way in which he phrased and communicated truth. Lord willing, in the days ahead, not only will he be able to write for *Israel's Messenger* once again, but teach Bible studies, share the Messiah with those around him, and have an impact on the people of Israel! May God hasten that day!

ERETZ ISRAEL ארץ ישראל

God's Testing Ground of Faith

JUDEA: THE CENTRAL HILL COUNTRY

by Dr. Keith Megilligan

Eighty percent of biblical history takes place in Judea. And, if you think about it, most of the Bible stories you have been taught (or that you have taught to others) come from, or immediately adjacent to, this region. The Judean and Samaritan hills make up the “spine” of Israel. To me, it’s like mounting the back of an alligator. This “spine” running north and south through the Central Hill Country, is also known as the “Way of the Patriarchs.” The reason is evident, as the various patriarchs settle into or traveled through the Land, they would go north and south on this “highway.”

I call the Central Hill Country an alligator because if you were to take an elevated look at Israel from the south (just below Hebron) and gaze north, the topography would remind you of the back of an alligator. The tail of the alligator will spill out at your feet fading into the sand of the Negev. As you follow the contour of the hill country north, (climbing in elevation as you go), each “side of the alligator” will become more pronounced. The right side (east) of the alligator will fall off more rapidly and dramatically into the Rift Valley. These wadis are more dramatic in their identity and depth the further north you go. They begin as broad and slightly depressed valleys on the back of the alligator and quickly become deeper and more severe in their depth as they fall to the east. On the left side (west) of the alligator, the fall into the Shephelah and the coastal plain is less severe. However, the further north you go, the more evident the wadi and valleys become. The Samaritan hill country (just a few miles north of Jerusalem) becomes the shoulders and head of the alligator. If you are interested, you can purchase a small, plastic topographical map of Israel which will assist you in identifying these features.

However, the way you normally approach the hill country (as the Bible frequently refers to Judea and Samaria), you usually come from the west (going through the Shephelah or foot hills), or you come up from the Rift Valley on the eastern side. Either way, you will be going up! Though the Judean hill country is not the highest in elevation of the mountains in and around Israel (highest elevation is about 2,400 ft. above sea level), it is probably the best known. In the heart of the Judean mountains is Jerusalem. It is the city that God chose as His own. If you were to orient yourself by standing in Tel Aviv and looking to the east, the Judean hills would quickly crowd the horizon. To your right (south) would be the



region of Hebron; to your left (north) would be the region of Samaria.

The Central Plateau of the Judean hill country is a triangular shaped region with Jerusalem at its southeastern base, Bethel (just outside the modern city of Ramallah) as its northeastern limit and Gibeon at the western point/edge. This plateau served as the staging area between Judea to the south and Israel to the north. It was the battle line that put the tribe of Benjamin right in the middle of these civil war conflicts. Depending on which side would win, the boundary line would either include or exclude Benjamin!

Bethel (northeast of Jerusalem) has its own history. It begins with Abraham, continues with Jacob and then is a focal point of the children of Israel when they attempt to defeat it after

Jericho. The name “Bethel” means house of God. Indeed, God chose to meet with both Abraham and Jacob in this region. If you remember, God took Abram to this point and told him to look north, east, south and west and whatever his eyes could see would be his and his descendants after him. From personal experience I will tell you the sight is incredible! When the sky is clear you can see all the way to the Mediterranean Sea (west), Jerusalem (south), beyond the Jordan Valley almost to Amman (east) and Samaritan hills (north). Abram probably had to catch his breath a little!

The beauty of the Central Hill Country is particularly evident in the spring of the year, right after the former and latter rains. The grassy hills, flowering plants and majestic (pine) trees fill the landscape in most any direction you look. This view would have easily captivated the patriarchs as they settled the Land. In the future, Lord willing, we will discuss the “approaches” to the hill country. But one final observation for now: the modern political identifier for the Central Hill Country is typically, “the west bank.” That is, the portion of Israel chosen by Jordan to annex to its country in 1948, including east Jerusalem. Though Israel “took it back” in 1967, neither the Jordanians or the Arab world, nor most media sources, will surrender the modern nomenclature. To them the Central Hill Country is continually referred to as “the west bank.” Understand this identity is modern and political. It is not biblical. Whenever I am with a tour group in Israel, I “insist” on using the term(s): Central Hill Country, Judea or Samaria. You should insist on this also, as a believer in the Word of God! 🙏

Shadows of the Tribulation

by Mark Robinson

One of the perplexing conundrums that has surfaced from the presidency of Barak Obama is his obvious sympathies with Islam and his ongoing denigrating of Christianity: “Perplexing conundrum” in that President Obama claims to be a Christian (although most readers of this column understand he is not at all a Bible believing Christian).

Two recent editorials commented on this conundrum.

“Further, while he self-identifies as ‘Christian’ rather than Muslim, that claim may be as deceptive as his bio... Curiously, at the National Prayer Breakfast, Obama asserted, ‘We are summoned to push back against those who would distort our religion for their nihilistic ends.’ Whose religion was he referencing?...So, why does Obama refuse to mention Islam in connection with worldwide Islamic Jihad that is at our doorstep? I believe it is because he is, first and foremost, an Islamophile, and thus he has what is almost a pathological blindness to the threat posed by Jihad.”

—Mark Alexander, *BO’s Blinding Islamophilia*, 2/11/15

“Obama’s stubborn, absurd and dangerous refusal to mention the word Islam in connection with the war being waged worldwide by millions in its name, coupled with his eagerness to always compare this unnamed scourge to the past evils of Western societies, indicates that his defense of Islamic supremacy is not merely a policy preference but rather reflects a deeper ideological commitment. The perception that Obama either does not oppose or embraces Islamic extremism is strengthened when coupled with his appalling attempts to ignore the fact of Islamic Jew-hatred and its genocidal nature and his moves to demonize Netanyahu for daring to oppose his policy toward Iran.... Perhaps Obama is acting out of anti-Semitism, perhaps he acts out of sympathy for Islamic fascism.”

—Caroline B. Glick, *Mainstreaming Jew hatred in America*, 2/12/15

Obama’s comment about those who “distort **OUR** religion” is not the first time this type of comment has been made by the president calling Islam his religion or his stating that he is a Muslim. These statements have been well documented and they are many. Is Obama a Muslim, despite his claims that he is a Christian?

There is a doctrine in Islam called “Taqiyya.” Among other things, this doctrine allows the use of deceit to advance the cause of Islam. Al-Islam.org has a Shiite Encyclopedia and under the subject “Al-Taqiyya” states:

“It has been demonstrated under the section of ‘Sunni Sources In Support of al-Taqiyya’ that it is permissible to lie to save oneself, as al-Ghazzali asserted; and that it is legitimate to utter words of unbelief as al-Suyuti stated; and that it is acceptable to smile at a person while your heart curses him as al-Bukhari confirms; and that al-Taqiyya is an integral part of the Qur’an itself, as has been shown under the section of The Qur’an Speaks: al-Taqiyya vs. Hypocrisy,” and that it was practiced by one of the most notable companions of the Prophet (S), none other than Ammar Ibn Yasir (May Allah Reward him generously); and we have seen that al-Suyuti narrates that al-Taqiyya is permissible until

the Day of Judgment; and that a person can say anything he wants, even to badmouth the Prophet (S) if he is in a dangerous and restrictive situation; and we have also seen that even the Prophet himself practiced al-Taqiyya in a manner of diplomacy that served to advance good relations among the people.”

<http://www.al-islam.org/shiite-encyclopedia-ahlul-bayt-dilp-team/al-taqiyya-dissimulation-part-1>

Advancing good relations among people is understood to advance the cause of Islam. Is this what our President is doing? Is he anti-Semitic? His actions toward Israel, Prime Minister Netanyahu, his refusal to release Jonathan Pollard after all the information recently released about his spying case, and his mentors, suggest that as Caroline Glick suggests not only is he anti-Semitic, he also has sympathy for radical Islam.

There are some in the Christian world who have recently embraced a Muslim anti-Christ, the fourth beast of Daniel 2 and 7 as being Islam, and Islam being the world ruler spoke about during the coming 70th week of Daniel. These views, I believe, are reading current events into the Bible, and have been refuted by men such as Ron Rhodes in his book *Unmasking the Anti-Christ: Dispelling the Myths, Discovering the Truth*.

Obama’s apparent love for Islam is perhaps preparing a few things that will ultimately happen, probably in the Tribulation period. First, the rise of anti-Semitism must come to the U.S. A recent report by Greg Corombos on March 26, 2015 titled, *Huge Surge of ‘Unscreened’ Muslims Flooding U.S.* says, “Muslim immigration from dangerous nations is dramatically higher in recent years, and government assurances that immigrants are being properly screened is “a farce,” according to accomplished author and columnist Paul Sperry.” According to the report, the Obama administration has been allowing 100,000 Muslims per year, more than Mexico and Central America combined, into the U.S. “It’s really insane what we’re doing. No one’s really talking about it, but this mass immigration from Muslim countries poses a serious national security threat,” said Sperry, who is also a Hoover Institution media fellow and former Washington bureau chief of WND.” http://unitycoalitionforisrael.org/uci_2014/?p=13596 These actions will eventually lead to the same proliferation of anti-Semitism currently taking place in Europe

Second, the U.S. is not mentioned in Bible prophecy. Consider this, is the allowing of the influx of radical Muslims and the Obama insistence on a nuclear deal with Iran ultimately opening the door for nuclear bombs to be unleashed in this country devastating us as a world power?

Only time will answer the “perplexing conundrum” of President Obama’s infatuation with Islam versus his professed Christian belief. We are living in amazing times. How far in the future can the Tribulation period be? 🕒

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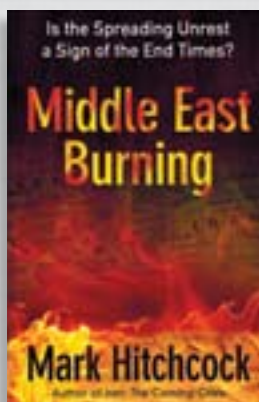
prophecy author Mark Hitchcock.

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