

Vol. 36 SIVAN (June 1990) No. 2

Probes

# Iudah'90



On the shore of the Red Sea, looking towards the Sinai Desert.

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**THE MOUNT ZION REPORTER — PUBLISHED  
IN JERUSALEM, ISRAEL.**

Vol. 36    SIVAN (June 1990)    No. 2

**Founders — A. N. Dugger, Effie Dugger  
President & Editor — Gordon M. Fauth**

*The Mt. Zion Reporter* is published by The Mt. Zion Reporter Society, a non-profit organization whose aim and purpose is to bring the gospel message to a darkening world, and to reach people everywhere with the glorious news of our soon-coming Messiah and King. This ministry, which reaches all parts of the world, is carried on through the prayers and support of those who share our burden for souls.

**Our Creed: Revelation 12:17**

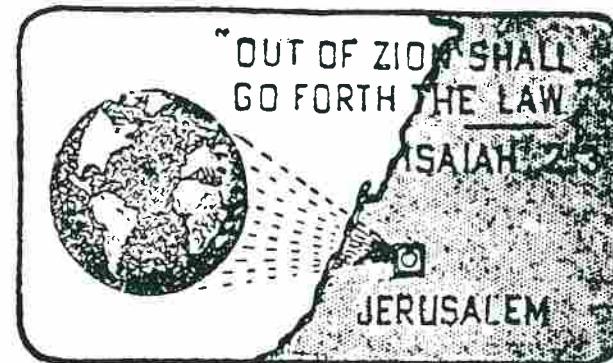
**The Head and Director: Jesus (Yahshua)**

**Membership: "Lamb's Book of Life,"  
in Heaven — Revelation 20:15.**

**Editorial Staff:** *Editor:* Gordon M. Fauth; *Assistant Editor:* Jonathan Fauth; *Layout Editor:* Ezra Fauth; *Office Manager:* Debra Dugger; *Production Manager:* Naphtali Fauth; *Technical Editor:* Ian Lawrence; *Contributing Editors:* Naomi Fauth, Jean Dill, Leslie Johnson, Julia Rawson, Dianna Hassler, Art and Aviva Whetstone.

**Subscription cost: U.S. \$19 per year.** This includes mailing to any place in the world. *The Mt. Zion Reporter* is published monthly except for combined Sept./Oct. and Jan./Feb. issues. If, for any reason, fewer issues are published in the year, subscriptions will be updated accordingly.

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**Jerusalem — The Chosen City of God (ירושלים)**

*"For the Lord hath chosen Zion: He hath desired it for His habitation" (Psalms 132:13). "The Lord of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem" (Isaiah 24:23). "They shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord" (Jeremiah 3:17). "But I have chosen Jerusalem, that My Name might be there" (2 Chron. 6:6). "The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem" (Joel 3:16).*

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Address correspondence to:

**The Mount Zion Reporter  
P.O. Box 568  
Jerusalem — ISRAEL**

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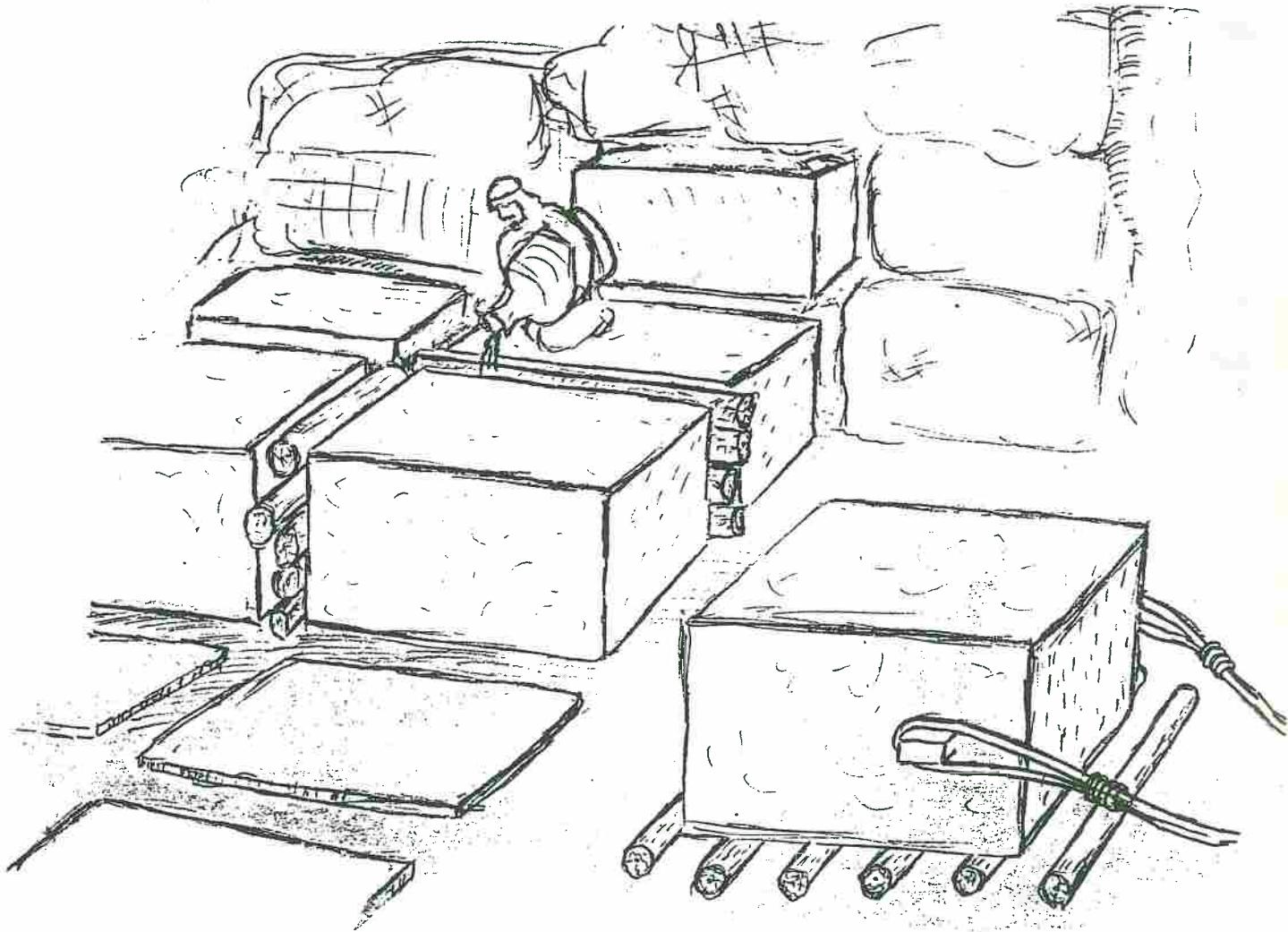
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# Archaeology Alive!

by Jean Dill, Julia Rawson, Dianna Hassler



**BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY** is an exciting and vital field which brings alive the ancient past. Artifacts from excavations are providing irrefutable proof of the authenticity of Biblical history. By unveiling hidden treasures we can envision the past. When we view a historical object, we unlock the imagination. In other words, a visual message of Biblical life and customs can be formed by beholding evidence from ancient times.

Ancient records, such as the *Dead Sea Scrolls* and other archaeological discoveries, further the knowledge of humanity. These findings support the Bible—they have helped to prove that the Hebrew patriarchs were not just mere legendary figures.

Recently, we discovered the *Biblical Resource Pilgrim Center at Tantur*. This center is located on a restored Roman Byzantine Biblical site. The center displays archaeological reconstructions in this old Byzantine setting. We found these artifacts extremely interesting. Therefore, we will try to present these ancient reconstructions as an illustrated walk through the coming pages.

## ANCIENT MEANS AND METHODS

To quarry a stone, the stonecutter would dig channels around all sides of the stone except the bottom. The channels were usually four to six inches wide and were dug with a pickaxe. Then, in two of the grooves—at right angles—the stonecutter would insert dry wooden beams. After hammering the wooden beams in tightly, he would pour water over them. As a result, the beams would swell, and the pressure would cause the stone to separate from the bedrock. (See title illustration).

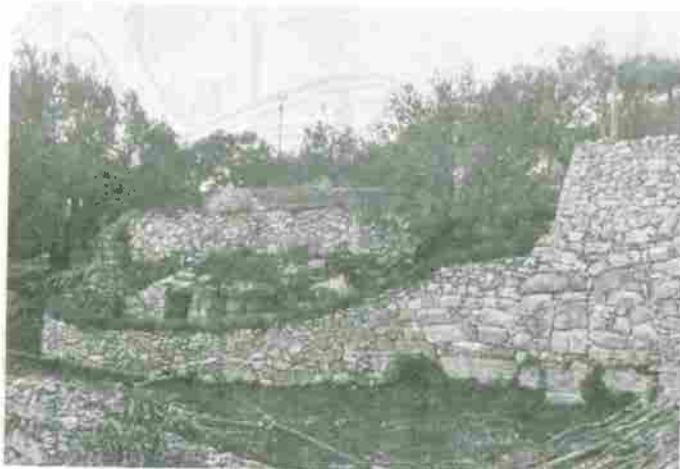
The stones were then prepared for transportation. Special techniques were developed to haul the huge stones on large wooden rollers. When shaping the stones, the masons would leave 12-inch long projections on opposite sides of each stone—these would later be removed. Ropes were placed around these projections; then, cranes would lift the stones and lower them onto wooden rollers. After this, oxen would pull the stones—one at a time—over rolling logs. Each log left behind would be moved around to the front and then used again. (See title illustration).



This rock quarry is from the byzantine Period. The mountains of Jerusalem are composed of such stone.

It is interesting to note that stones were also used in ancient times in the making of: (1) tablets (Exodus 24:12; Joshua 8:32); (2) knives for circumcision (Exodus 4:25; Joshua 5:2,3); (3) ammunition for slings and catapults (I Samuel 17:40,49; II Chron. 26:14); (4) memorials: each tribe of Israel took a stone from the River Jordan to place in *Gilgal*. (Joshua 4:1-24).

The Lord also gave spiritual applications for rocks: *"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."* (I Cor. 10:4). *"The Lord is my Rock."* (Psalm 18:2; Deut. 32:4).

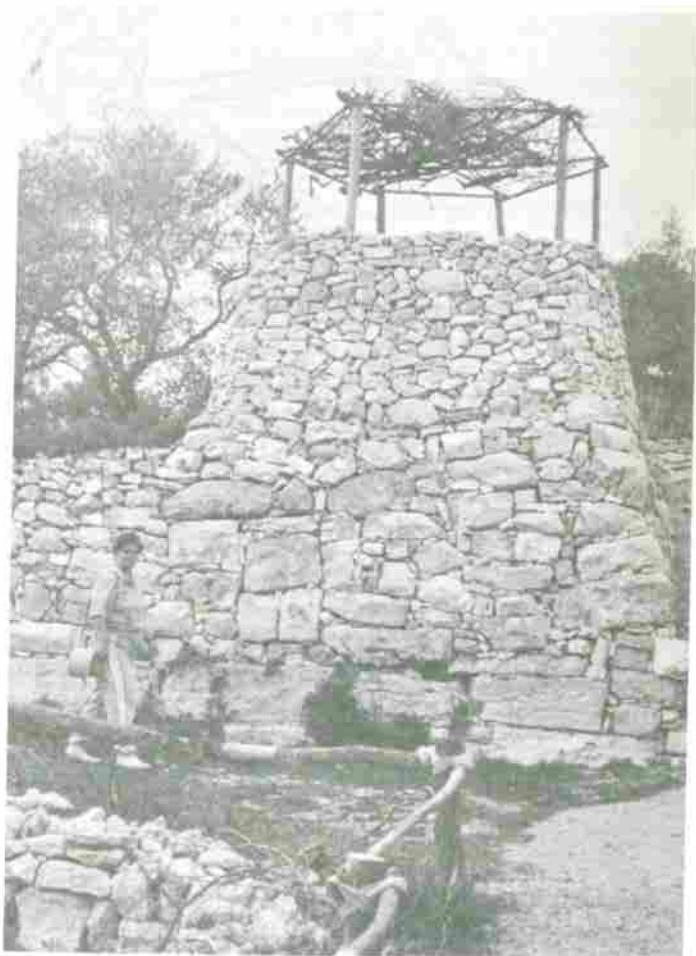


The picture shows a walled *sheepfold*, cave, and a watchtower. Looking carefully, you can see the briars on the top of the walls which serve as an added protection. These briars were a major enemy to the fox and other animals that would attempt to go over the wall after the sheep. During the Bible days, we know there were wolves and foxes as well as lions and bears in abundance. When David was a servant keeping his father's sheep, he said, *"there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him."* (I Samuel 17:34,35).

Though the high rock wall helped to prevent the larger animals from entering, the best protection was the shepherd who would sleep in the door of the sheepfold. This system is still used in Mediterranean countries today. If

you would ask the shepherd, *"Where is the door?"* He would reply, *"I am the door to this sheepfold."* The Lord spoke, *"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."* (John 10:11).

Some shepherds give names to their sheep. Every sheep recognizes his own name and comes when called. Often several flocks mingle while grazing in the fields in great masses. When the shepherds would separate, they would call unto their sheep. Each sheep recognizing their own master's voice would strike out in the direction of their leader. John the Apostle wrote, *"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him."* (John 10:4,5).



This *watchtower* was also built upon the Byzantine ruins. Strong walls and gates would not, by themselves, be a security from the enemy; therefore, men were placed on the top of the walls as watchmen. The height of the structures would enable them to look in any direction. The watchtower was not only used to guard the sheep but also to guard the vineyard—during the vintage season, vinedressers would live in the vineyard watchtower to guard the grapes.

Jesus spoke of the watchtower in the parable of the 'Householder': *"There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower."* (Matt. 21:33).

Even as the watchmen were to watch—we were given a personal command to 'watch and be ready' for the Bridegroom. Jesus declared, *"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."* (Matt. 25:13).

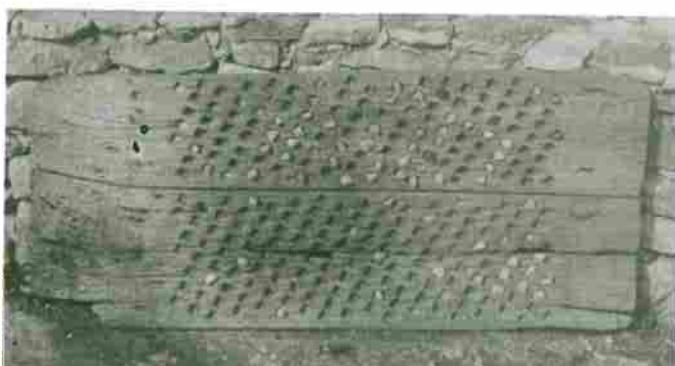


This is a reconstruction of a *threshing floor*. Though it was a part of the ancient process of harvesting, it is still used in many countries today. The threshing floor is a circular piece of ground about fifty to one hundred feet in diameter. It is usually located on elevated ground in the open air. The surface is made smooth, hard, and clean, to facilitate the processing of grains. Once a threshing floor was founded it became a permanent and well known place.

There are two major feasts in the Bible that are connected with threshing floors: (1) *The Feast of Unleavened Bread* (*Lev. 23:6-14*); (2) The wheat harvest, also known as *The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (Shavout)* (*Lev. 23:16; Acts 2:1*).

In Biblical times, the grain was cut with a sickle (*Deut. 16:9*), or pulled up with the roots. After the grain was cut, it was gathered in the arms (*Psalm 129:7*), bound in sheaves, and layed in heaps (*Ruth 3:7*). After this was done, the grain was ready for threshing.

Ancient threshing was done by spreading sheaves of grain on the floor and driving oxen or donkeys over the grain; this was done to tread out the kernels. Usually, a crude wooden sled—laden with a person or heavy stones—was pulled behind the animals to complete the process, by cutting up the stalks.



This is an ancient threshing sled, which is believed to be over 200 years old. Note the sharp rocks that are imbedded in the holes—these rocks cut up the stalks and helped to separate the grain.

After threshing, winnowing was usually done with a three pronged fork: a pitchfork (*1 Samuel 13:21*). This was usually done in the evening when there was a breeze. (*Ruth 3:2; Jer. 4:11; Hosea 13:3*). The mass of chaff, straw, and grain, was thrown against the wind to blow it from the threshing floor. The chaff and stubble was later burned. (*Isaiah 5:24*). In the last step of the process, the grain was separated from the impurities by shaking it in a sieve. (*Amos 9:9*).

These ancient harvesting processes were used in many

parables to show the resemblance between a spiritual and an earthly comparison—bringing forth a heavenly meaning. The three-pronged fork used in winnowing was a symbol of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: as the three pronged fork purges the dross from the grain, likewise the Spirit of the Lord purges the sin from our hearts and our lives. John the Baptist spoke about ‘the wheat and the chaff’ in a parable about Christ. In this parable, John declared, “*He that cometh after me is mightier than I... He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*” (*Matt 3:11,12*). Jesus spoke unto Peter, “*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.*” Jesus knew that if Simon’s faith failed, he would not have the strength nor the power to believe and trust in the salvation of the Lord. Therefore, Jesus prayed that Simon’s “...*faith fail not.*” (*Luke 22:31,32*).

(Note: David purchased the threshing floor on Mt. Moriah from Araunah, the Jebusite—also written as *Ornan* in *I Chron. 21:15*. This was a very special mount unto the Lord: here, Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice unto the Lord; here, David built an altar to the Lord after the Lord stayed the hand of the death angel; and it was here the Holy Temple was built.)



Tents were among the very early habitations of man. Jabal was the seventh generation after Adam and, “he was the father of such as dwell in tents.” (*Gen. 4:20*). The patriarchs of the Israelites dwelt in tents as pilgrims in the land of Canaan. They did not live in houses until after their return from Egypt. Balaam, impressed with the beauty of such a scene when he beheld the vast encampment of the Israelites spoke, “How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel!” (*Num. 24:5*).

This *tent* is woven of goat’s hair (*cicilium*). Goat’s hair is suitable for the climate of Israel. When it rains, the goat’s hair expands, swells and becomes waterproof, and thus protects the inhabitants of the tent. When the weather is hot and the sun beats upon it, the weave opens and allows the breeze to pass through the tent. Rocks and brush around the bottom of the tent prevents the goat’s hair from rotting.

Before the process of weaving was known, tents were made of skins. Tents were usually made in two sections: a women’s side that was also used for storage and cooking equipment, and a men’s side which was also used for receiving guests.

Tents were usually erected with the long side—or the opening side—eastward. This was done to offer protection from the westward winds and to allow in morning warmth

from the sun. Could there be a symbolic meaning to why the opening of the tent always faced *east*? The direction *east* has always held a holy and significant meaning unto the Lord. For instance, when Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden, "*He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way.*" (Gen. 3:24). Ezekiel called the gate that the Lord brought him to, "*the gate that looketh toward the east.*" (Ezek. 43:1). He also wrote, "*And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east.*" (Ezek. 43:2). The Temple's altar—built to glorify the Lord—was to look toward the east also. (Ezek. 43:17). Furthermore, in the New Testament, the wise men came to worship Jesus because they had seen His star in the east. (Matt. 2:1-2). However, most importantly, Jesus spoke, "*For as the lightning cometh out of the east... so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.*" (Matt. 24:27).



Each vineyard had a *wine press*, because it was necessary to keep from damaging the grapes through handling and moving. (Isaiah 5:2). The two vats shown in the picture are stone-lined basins with carved floors. Pressing, in these vats, is done by holding onto the rope while stomping upon the grapes. The juice would run down the channels to the collection vat. (If you look carefully at the picture you can see the channels.) The juice would be dipped out, filtered through a linen cloth, then put into storage jars or wineskins.

Vintage began in September and was a time of festivity—in which thanksgiving and prayer was offered unto God for the fruit of the vine. As the grape gatherers would pick the grapes, and place them into baskets, there would be great shouts of joy. (Isaiah 16:10; Judges 9:27). During this time, the villages were deserted because the people lived in tents at the vineyards.

Wine was, of course, the main product made from grapes, and most of the wine mentioned in the Bible was 'sweet wine'. Some of the juice was boiled down to a syrup—becoming a grape honey (*Devosh*). This practice is still in existence today. Wine is first mentioned in Genesis when Noah, "*planted a vineyard: and he drank of the wine*" (*Yayin*) (Gen. 9:20,21). Under the Mosaic Law, wine was the usual drink-offering that accompanied the daily sacrifice (Exodus 29:40), the presentation of the first fruits (Lev. 23:13), and other offerings. (Num. 15:5). Tithes were paid of wine, even as it was a requirement to tithe of all other crops that were harvested.



Though it is not known exactly how old this *well* is, we do know that it was on the ancient road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Those making a pilgrimage would stop for water for themselves and their animals. Also, women would come early in the morning from the surrounding areas—they would bring animals to pack water back to their dwelling places.

A stone was placed upon the mouth of the well to protect the water from impurities and shifting sands. Without such protection the well would soon be polluted. (Gen. 29:2). Unlike a cistern, a well has a source of fresh water coming from streams and underground springs.

Wells in Biblical times were usually very deep. To draw water from such a depth, a rope was fastened to a leathern bucket, a waterskin, or an earthen jar—as indicated in the picture. Either of these could be let down by merely sliding the rope over the stone brim of the well, or by a pulley. It is not uncommon to find the well-brims with deep furrows, worn by the friction of the ropes. Because of the depth of these wells, it is easy to understand why the Samaritan woman, at *Jacob's Well*, said to Jesus, "*thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?*" Jesus answered, "*whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*" (John 4:11,14). Solomon wrote, "*The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.*" (Prov. 18:4). Isaiah declared, "*Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.*" (Isaiah 12:3). The wisdom of these few verses is obviously very important: the subject of the well is very deep—but the depth of the soul is eternal.



The Greek word for **manger** means 'from which cattle were fed'. The manger in which the infant Jesus is traditionally shown is not correctly portrayed. Mangers of the East are quite different from those of the West today. Notice the manger shown in the picture was hewn out of a rock. Wood was very scarce in Biblical days, as trees were used as a source to obtain fruit. "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7).



This picture shows a **cistern** that dates back to 500 A.D. It contains three major sections: (1) An aqueduct that collects surface runoff water. (2) A plaster-lined settling basin that allows the dirt to settle—there are two waterfalls leading to this basin. (3) An open air reservoir—for easy access.

Cisterns were usually dug out of the earth or rocks. In the rainy season, the water was collected in the cisterns and stored. The absence of rain during the months of May to November makes it necessary to collect and preserve the water, which falls during the remainder of the year.

It is interesting to note that Joseph was cast into an empty cistern by his brothers. "*And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.*" (Gen. 37:24).

However, Jeremiah was cast into a dungeon, which was an abandoned cistern. (Jer. 38:6). Abandoned cisterns were often used as prisons or dungeons, which sometimes contained mire. (Mud would usually accumulate at the bottom. Anyone falling therein would likely perish unless the Lord would provide a way of escape.)

A parallel is drawn between a broken cistern and a person that has abandoned the Lord. As a crack or a leak is to a cistern, so is it to the soul of anyone who would permit salvation, living waters, to leak from their lives. Jeremiah wrote, "*For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountains of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*" (Jer. 2:13).



This **olive press** is known as a 'beam press'. Olives were picked either by hand or by shaking the fruit off the tree with a stick. (Deut. 24:20). The extraction of the oil came from bruising in a mortar, crushing the berries in a press, or grinding in a mill. After this was done, the crushed olives were put in porous sacks or baskets and placed under a pivoted wooden beam. The oil then seeped out into a vat, which was at ground level.

A beam press consists of a long pole with rock weights. The first stone placed on the beam presses out the first batch of oil, which is of the finest quality. Each stone added after this yields a lower grade of oil from the olive pulp. The finest oil—the first pressing—is dedicated to the Lord for Temple use and ceremonial purposes. The best oil was also used for anointing.

*Gethsemane* means 'oil press'; it is derived from the Hebrew words, *Gat*, meaning 'press', and *Shemen*, meaning 'oil'. It was quite significant that Jesus prayed in the garden among many olive trees, on The Mount of Olives. In this garden, He was pressed with the sins of the world: "*And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*" (Luke 22:44).

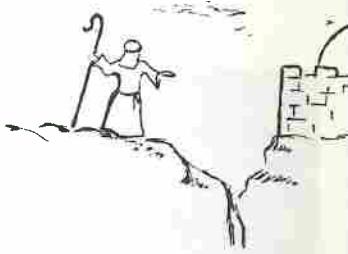
*"Sha'alu Shalom Yerushalayim!"* (Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.)

— Jean Dill, Julia Rawson, Dianna Hassler.



# Life in Israel

by Naomi Fauth



Shalom,

Spring is in the air. Increased hope and courage always seem to go hand in hand with springtime. My grandson, Baby James, and I are in the Baka garden. Many little feathered friends around us seem to join us in the wonderment of renewed life everywhere. They seem busy in proclamation of their creator with beautiful variety of songs.

Little children are playing in the fig trees that grow in the large vacant field just over the fence from where we are resting. They are speaking English, and appear to be one family. On some days there are groups of little kindergarten children playing in this field outside our garden. The children in some of the groups look almost like toddlers.

The fig trees that the children are playing in look similar to the big fig tree in our garden. When Brother Shumaker, a friend of ours, was here, he always pruned the trees in the field at the same time that he pruned my father's fig tree. The trees were young then, and he pruned them in a particular way so they would grow low branches instead of tall branches. The trees are easy for even small children to climb.

Brother Shumaker also grafted branches into the original stocks of the fig trees. At that time there was an old fig tree growing near *Reuben Street* that bore superior fruit. He took branches from this tree for grafting. Providing there is enough water, the figs grow extra large and sweet.

One afternoon this week we went to the country near Ein Kerim. (Ein Kerim is said to be the birthplace and one time home of John the Baptist). We took a lunch and stayed all day in this lovely spot. It is quiet and peaceful there and we were comfortably warm until the sun disappeared behind the tall hill toward the west. Most of the time, I babysat James and picked wild flowers nearby for pressing. My husband went further away looking for herbs. Some of the young people and children played ball after lunch and then hiked up the hill to some old stone buildings near the top. These ruins protruded from the steep rocky slopes high above us.

There is a clear spring of water there near the ruins. It is believed to be one of the places that the early Christians used for baptising. It has been used for this purpose until today. The spring comes out of the rocks into a good sized room that is hidden far back inside the hill. It then flows on through a water cave. At the outside entrance of the cave it flows into a deep pool. Before the larger deep part there is a small space of more shallow water.

Once, a few years ago, at the insistence of our younger sons, I also ventured into the cave. Together we waded upstream. Walking in the dark without candles or flashlight, of course, makes it more exciting. When we reached the room at the end of the cave the children lit candles and placed them on rocks above the water. By candlelight we could see the room around us and see where the spring of water comes out of the rocks inside the hill. This is only one of several water caves in the Jerusalem area.

It was announced last night on the evening news broadcast that **The Russians are Coming** "and there isn't one without a musical instrument in his hands, and if there IS one it is because he plays the piano"—an invasion, but no weapons and no war.

Beginning at the outskirts of Jerusalem, and going toward the Dead Sea, you can see Bedouin tents and animals in various places. Their herds are usually mixed—sheep and goats. Also they usually have a few donkeys and sometimes camels, horses and dogs. The Bedouin live a good life. I envy their tranquility and closeness to nature. At times we visit Bedouin friends on invitation. They speak to us about their life and how it is changing. They believe that sometime before long they will have to give up the Bedouin way of life. They speak about the prophecies and also have good understanding of them. They read both the Old and New Testaments and know the Scriptures. They say, "*We must pray for the Word to be fulfilled and we must pray for the Jews to come from Russia, because it is God's will and no one can change it.*" It is wonderful to know that the One that sees the heart of man knows those that are His.

The days of Purim brought to Jerusalem an intermission from rain. Masquerading people, (little and big), were seen in public: on the buses, in the busy market places, in the downtown areas and everywhere. Nearly every imaginable character and animal were



Village of Ein Kerim

among them. At Purim time there are interesting and special programmes for the children in out door places: on Ben Yehuda Street in the city center and in some of the parks. Purim is a happy time of celebration. There are little triangular shaped fruit filled cookies baked just for Purim. They are called in Hebrew, "Oznae Hamahn". In English they are "Hamans Ears".

On the last day of Purim some of us went to the *Liberty Bell Park*. We found the park overflowing with excitement. There were dances and special music, clown acts, stilts and juggling, a real animal show as well as 'dog fights' in the air between miniature remote-controlled planes—all this going on at once, and much more. One boy clown on very high stilts carried a feather duster on a long stick. He kept busy dusting people. Then there are the rowdy ones, (usually always boys at a certain age - our own included). They seem to come from around every corner having fun with foam spray attacking each other, stranger with stranger, although no one in celebration seems like a stranger.

About the middle of the afternoon, on this last day of Purim, the rains came again. The sudden downpour



*Pilgrims gather for a modern-day 'Last Supper': served in an ancient manner.*

# The Last Supper Continues

By Leora Frucht

The oil lamps flicker, casting shadows on the stone walls of the room. Pilgrims enter and recline on cushions around the long, low, marble table, and then prepare to say the blessing.

The scene is the 'Last Supper', not of ancient times, but a 'Last Supper' of today. The 23 men and women in modern dress look out of place at this biblical style gathering. These particular celebrants are a group of tourists from England, who—like thousands of other Christians to date—have come to take part in a unique reenactment of Jesus' last meal, held in Jerusalem.

"We try to give people some insight into the historical milieu of the 'Last Supper' and re-create the ambience of the time," explains Don Pare, a theologian at

Jerusalem's Biblical Resources Center—which organizes the event on a regular basis for visiting groups.

The original 'Last Supper' took place in the Second Temple Period, or Herodian Period, when King Herod governed Israel—close to 2,000 years ago says Pare. The occasion was the Passover feast in which thousands of pilgrims—among them, Jesus and his 12 twelve disciples—gathered in Jerusalem to commemorate the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

Passover, today, is both a celebration of the resurrection of Christ and a celebration of the Israelites' flight from Egypt: a double festival of redemption.

This modern day 'Last Supper' is a condensed version of the Jewish Passover feast as it was probably observed

during the time of the Second Temple.

"We eat this," says Pare, pointing to an onion, "in order to remember the bitterness the Children of Israel experienced as slaves in Egypt. In the time of Jesus, they would have done the same, using either onions, garlic, or radishes."

Other foods that were probably eaten at the 'Last Supper', he says, include roast lamb, a meat and vegetable stew called 'sop', and unleavened bread. Picking up a piece of the flat rounded bread, Pare recites the blessing for it, and tears off a small bit. "In order to show respect for God's bounty, we never cut the bread with a knife," he explains. Utensils are not to be found on the table. "This will serve as your utensil," he says, pointing to the unleavened bread. Therefore, for

the duration of the meal, the participants tear bits of the pita-like bread and use these to scoop up the various dips in front of them (including the 'sop' stew).

Pare does not run through the entire Passover ceremony—as that would require four to six hours. However, he covers the highlights in this hour-and-a-half abbreviated version, and even manages to throw in a few tips on Roman dining etiquette: "If someone asks you to pass them a dish, the proper response is, 'you do me honor' (presumably by asking a favor)."

Not all ancient customs are observed at this get-together. Therefore, traditions such as anointing the guest with oil or perfume and washing the dust off each other's feet are abandoned for the evening. Other than this, there is a strong element of authenticity to the evening, which is underscored by the setting.

Pare recalls his organization's search for an appropriate site in which to hold the meal. An ecumenical study center situated in Tantur (near Jerusalem) invited the Biblical Resources Center to use its premises. The Center is located on a lushly-covered hilltop overlooking Jerusalem on one side, and Bethlehem on the other.

### Life In Israel

(continued from page 8)

caused the 'Queen Esthers', the 'Wicked Hamans', 'cowboys', 'Indians', and all the 'strange creatures' to disappear. The parks and streets emptied quickly as they hurried home in the rain.

When in all the history of the Jewish people has it been more appropriate and comforting to remember the story of Esther than now, as more and more sanctions are taken against this tiny new nation? These conditions of the world in our time are foretold in Biblical prophecies. It is also foretold (in the book of Esther) that the Jews will remember and will keep the appointed days of Purim yearly throughout all their generations, and that others will remember too and join with them in celebration. Purim is to be a time of "turning sorrow to joy"—a time of "feasting and gladness."

*"The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail,—that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation".*  
Esther 9:27,28.

We take this opportunity to say "Thank you" again to our many friends and co-workers that stand behind the Jerusalem work. Trusting that all is well with you at this time, as it is with us. Shalom —in love and prayer.

Your sister,  
Naomi Fauth.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BUILDING OUR HOUSE

Every day we're building a structure with our thoughts, words, and actions. Only with Christ as the foundation of our daily, hourly lives, is the structure we're building going to stand.

"It's a nice modern complex," explains Pare, "and we wondered how we would find the right kind of spot for the 'Last Supper' meal."

"We needed a place that could be made to look like a Roman Byzantine villa. When we were shown this shepherd's hut, which wasn't being used, we decided that we could probably make it look enough like a Roman Byzantine villa to be convincing. Then, in the process of clearing it out, we discovered it was an authentic Roman Byzantine villa!"

Inside this villa, are the original stone walls dating from the Byzantine era (with some later additions). There is also a cave that was probably used for storage. Consequently, these ancient artifacts lend a very credible atmosphere to 'the feast'.

Furnishings have also been added to enhance this biblical atmosphere. The centerpiece, a long, low, marble, u-shaped table, was cut according to the dimensions of a genuine table, which was discovered by archaeologists in one of Herod's winter palaces.

"This is the type of table that was widely used during Jesus' time," says Pare. "It's called a 'triclineum' from the Latin 'tri', which means three-sided, and 'clineum', which means to recline. People

would stretch out on the cushions—leaning on their left elbow and eating with their right hand."

If this is not quite the way people envision the 'Last Supper scene', it is not surprising. With so many European painters using their European imaginations to paint this famous scene, it is easy to see why people have a somewhat misleading vision of the 'Last Supper'.

"With apologies to the great painters of Europe, the 'Last Supper' probably did not look like this," says Pare, while showing his intrigued audience a slide of the Da Vinci Painting. The long high table and European-style table clothes show us more about the customs of Europe than the customs of Herodian Jerusalem he says.

Most of the pilgrims who take part in the meal already have a sense of the occasion's meaning from the Scriptures. However, by taking part in 'the meal', they now have the unique opportunity to celebrate the occasion in an authentic Herodian setting.

As Pare says to this group of pilgrims gathered on a hilltop overlooking Jerusalem, "The meal is a time to be reconciled; it's a time to sit in peace and fellowship with each other."

*"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."*

(John 14: 21).

*"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."*

(John 15: 4).

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."*

(Matthew 11: 28, 29).



### Distribution Contribution

If you think you could help us by distributing "The Mount Zion Reporter" in your local area, please let us know. By doing this, you would be contributing a great deal to the effectiveness of the 'Jerusalem Work'. Here, in the Land where our Lord lived, died and rose again, we are facing many new challenges. Any assistance you are able to provide will be greatly appreciated. Just drop us a line clearly stating your name and address, and how many copies for distribution you expect you will need. Thank you for your continued support.

# Extracts From Readers' Letters

## ROMANIA

Dear brothers in Christ,

We greet you in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Let us first introduce ourselves. We are from a Christian church in Timisoara, a town in the west side of Romania. We are Pentecostal but the more important thing is that we are members of the body of Christ and we recognize Him as our Head.

We got a number of your *Nisan (April) 1990* issues and we are very interested in it. As you know the church in Romania was very limited and our possibilities were very few. Now by God's grace the church and the whole society has found a new freedom. We pray that God will give us wisdom to use this gift for His purposes.

We are going to have a non-profit publication for Christians in our churches.

We are very interested in the history of Jewish People. We are paying attention to how the prophecies of the Bible are becoming true in this hot part of the world. We owe our Christianity to the Biblical People.

May God bless you,  
V.O.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Dear brother Gordon Fauth,

You will never know what a blessing your magazine is to me! I want to thank you most sincerely for sending the magazine and the newsletters. I read every single word and can use the articles very fruitfully in my Bible classes. I even translate articles into Afrikaans in order to make the meaning more understandable for the Africaans-speaking farm community.

My Dutch Reformed minister even asked me for notes on the Feast of Tabernacles, and I found an article in the December 1989 *Reporter* which had meant a great deal to me. In September and October 1971 and 1984, I had the privilege of visiting Israel where my spiritual eyes were opened.

Our land stands in great need of a revival. The time is getting short in which to work. We join you there in Jerusalem and pray: "O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years!" You are doing a great and needful work for the glory of the Kingdom.

My heart rejoices with you and your family for only in thanksgiving can the angels watch over you.

God bless you!  
I.G.

## PHILIPPINES

Dear elder Gordon Fauth,

Greetings from the Philippine Islands, in the Name of Yashua Messiah our Lord and Saviour.

I love Jerusalem, and the work there which leads many nations to know what is the reality of His true Church. Last February 24, 1990, I was able to reach Davao City and baptized there four precious souls. This coming March 24, another 5 or more souls to be baptized, Praise God's Holy Name. These people are very interested to know about the Lord's work in Jerusalem.

The Philippines now are very much affected by the long drought which makes some rivers dry, rice and corn fields burn by the heat of the sun, cattles and goats are dying because of no grass to eat and no water to drink.

We are good, faithful in Him, but very poor with material

things we need. Pray for us here in the island of the Philippines especially for the Lord's work here. We are also praying for the Peace of Jerusalem. We are expecting the rain to come in the next few months.

I remain the least in Christ,  
E.A.

## INDIA

Dear brother Gordon Fauth in Christ,

Greetings to you in the wonderful Name of our Living Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for your kind letter. In India also the rainfall is decreasing seriously every year and the quantity of production of grains and other vegetables are seriously affected. We are offering special prayer for the chosen nation of our Lord to prosper more and more as our Lord foretold to His People through His Saints. We are offering special prayer to protect the Chosen Land of our Jehovah and His People from the continued threat of the surrounding enemies, and also for our Lord to enable, through born-again children of God, to win more Jews for Christ. We hope to get the Jerusalem magazine continuously so that we can explain to our people about the miracle taking place in Israel.

Kindly uphold our ministerial activities in your prayers. Please convey my best wishes to all the partakers of the ministry in Jerusalem.

Yours in the Lord's service,  
A.J.

## ISRAEL

Dear Editor,

Twenty-three years ago I was a soldier at the Western Wall. I believed that an era had come to a close: that so many of the problems that had plagued my people for centuries were over. I was not alone. Despite the tragedy of the lives lost under my command in the battle to liberate Jerusalem, every Jew present at the Wall with me felt this exhilaration.

But I was wrong: although twenty-three years later the military victory still stands, the political gains have yet to be achieved. We are a nation torn between options for peaceful coexistence with our neighbors.

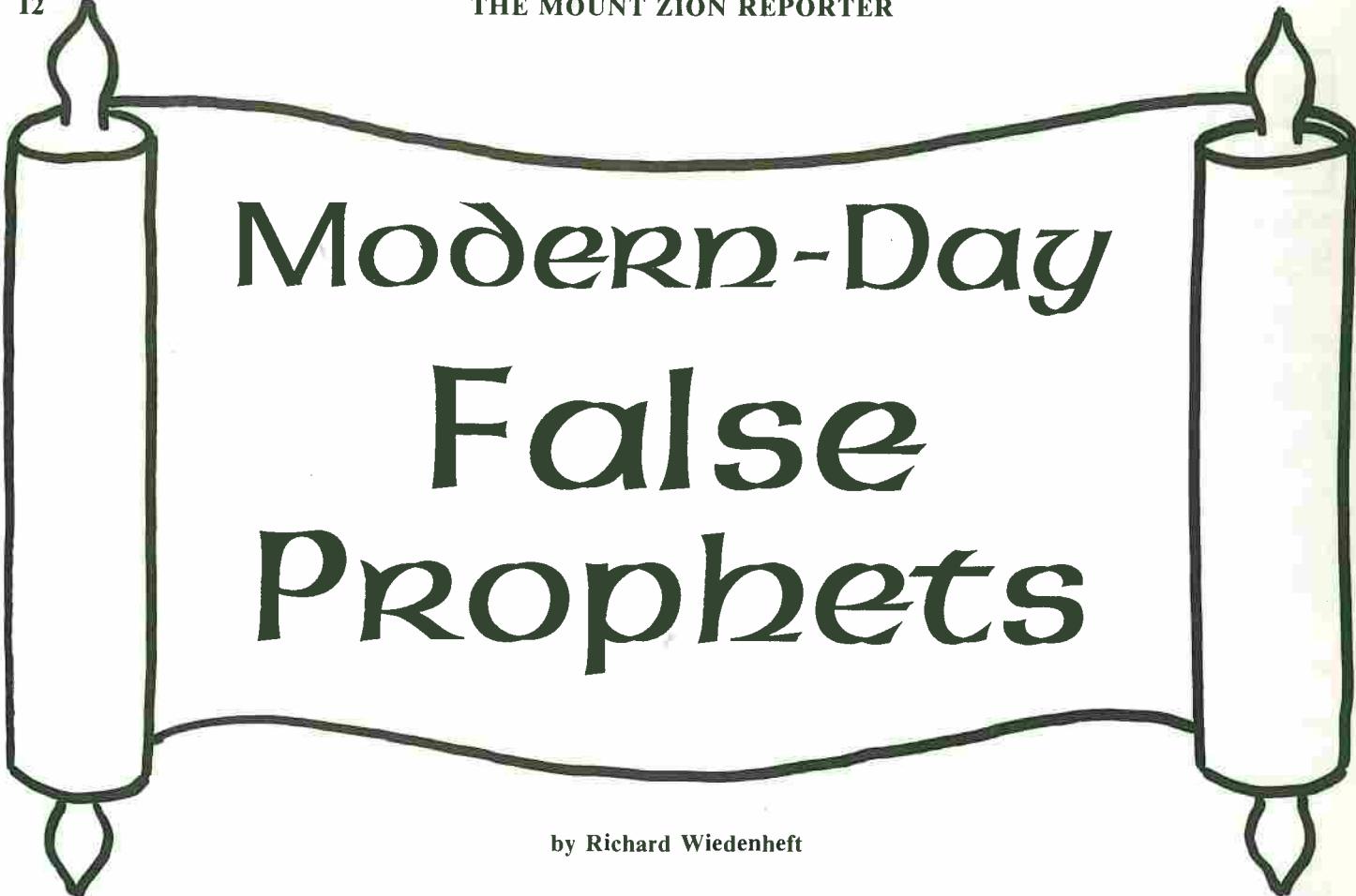
Nonetheless, a heady, virtual consensus still exists on one issue: Jerusalem must remain unified. I feel that all Jews believe in the need to perpetuate the special significance of Jerusalem; to commemorate Jerusalem on all levels, especially for our youth who must be shown that such gains are not automatic.

But Jerusalem also symbolizes a greater consensus: that Israel must exist so that the Jewish People will exist. This is the meaning of Independence Day, and this is why it had become a modern holiday, not just for Israel, but for Jews everywhere.

We need to apply that feeling of *one people* to the massive challenge facing us from Eastern Europe, coupled with the equally dramatic challenges emerging from Ethiopia, South America and South Africa. *Aliya* can only be diminished if it is exploited for partisan political gain.

We must seek to strive together, not only on the need for *aliya*, but also on its method and pace. It is time to uncover the unique Israeli quality of *bitzvism* — implementation — which guarantees that, however inept we may appear in the face of minor crisis, we will always meet and conquer the major challenges.

U.N.



# Modern-Day False Prophets

by Richard Wiedenheft

*Editor's Note. ~ This article may be controversial to some; but we are printing it in the hope it will cause readers to consider carefully the matter of where the priorities lie. The points which the article raises are valid, and it should be read carefully so as not to miss these points or misunderstand them. The "False Gospels" of which it speaks are insidious in that they all are based on the truth. After all, we are told to speak out and warn against sin; we are instructed to seek out the truth and we are told that "if ye love God, ye will keep His Commandments." We are promised great blessings as the "Children of God," and we are instructed to watch and wait, knowing that we live in the end-times, awaiting the return of our Lord. What is wrong then? Nothing ~ so long as we keep our priorities straight and do not make up a "Gospel" based solely on one of these truths. For while they are truths, the only true Gospel is that based on acceptance of Christ and the great sacrifice which He made for us on Calvary. He came to bring us "life, and life more abundantly" and it is in Him alone that we can find salvation, peace of mind, and life eternal. The rest, however important, follows. Readers' comments on this subject are invited.*

The modern religious scene is filled with a wide variety of gospels (with a small "g") that seem to 'sell' very well in our wealthy western world.

They are accepted because they are based on elements of truth from God's Word — and because they appeal to human desires. But these gospels are not *The Gospel* because they fail to emphasize the overarching preeminence of Jesus Christ and Him crucified as the means to eternal life. To be sure, almost all these gospels proclaim salvation through Jesus, the Savior — but they allow that central fact to be overshadowed by so many other teachings that they clearly miss the mark. Consider several of these modern gospels.

#### The Gospel of Warning the Nation

This gospel sees God's primary concern as being with the people of a particular nation or race — usually white

Americans, considered by many to be the descendants of ancient Israel. While most advocates of this message allow for the salvation of people of other races, their main focus is on warning America of impending doom. They see themselves in terms of Old Testament Prophets, especially Ezekiel, who was set as a watchman by God to warn Israel. (Ezek. 3:17; 33:2-9).

On a physical level, there is certainly nothing wrong with warning a nation of its sins, of dangers from within and without. Those who expose evil anywhere are to be commended. But the primary concern of this gospel is physical: warning a particular physical nation of physical destruction. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people in all nations in all generations. (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8; Rev. 7:9). Those who claim to preach the Gospel should be equally concerned about the salvation of all nations, races, and colors. The message of the true Gospel is just as relevant in Malawi

and Malaysia as it is in Metropolis, U.S.A. It is good news for all human beings!

### Gospel of "The Truth"

Many Christians seem to have an insatiable desire for knowing the truth about every aspect of religion — about theology, tradition, history, and practice. Many churches and preachers appeal to this desire by claiming to have "*the truth*," by which they mean a theological package which includes a set of rules that reveal "*God's will*" for just about every situation. They see a relationship with God in the context of accepting this package. They tend to look down on those who don't "*know the truth*," condescendingly referring to them as deceived, blinded, or ignorant. Some even go so far as to make statements like this: "*The truth of the Bible is that Jesus didn't have long hair; if you believe in a Jesus with long hair, you believe in a false Messiah.*" !!

A quest for truth is a commendable and noble pursuit, indeed. But when the truth about a whole host of doctrinal, theological and historical questions becomes "*the truth*," one has missed the point of the central truth, which is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*" (John 14:6). He is the truth that leads to eternal life. Christianity should be seen in terms of acceptance of that central truth — not acceptance of a certain body of doctrines and rules.

To be sure, those who accept the truth of eternal life through Jesus should seek to learn as much as they can about the truth of God's will, the truth of theology, etc. But, in humility, they should also recognize the truth that there are weightier matters of the law (Matt. 23:23), the truth that we are not to judge our brother for whom Christ died (Rom. 14:10), the truth that we see through a glass darkly. (1 Cor. 13:12).

Those who proclaim the gospel of "*the truth*" frequently tend to be self-righteously judgmental toward those who don't accept the same body of truth; frequently they are unwilling to admit error and to listen with an open mind to those who understand Scripture differently; and frequently they tend to emphasize truth about theological matters rather than the truth about love, joy, peace, meekness, humility, etc. But worst of all, they fail to recognize the *primacy* and sufficiency of salvation through the grace of Jesus Christ — who is *The Truth!*

Our security and identity as Christians must rest in our relationship with God, not in a body of doctrines we call "*the truth*." Our minds must be open to learning and growing with new insights from God's Word as He leads us (over a lifetime) into all truth.

### The Gospel of "What You Must Do"

There is no question that God expects something of those who have been saved by His grace. As children in God's family, Christians are expected to live according to the will of their heavenly Father. But that will should be seen in terms of developing divine character, not just in terms of obeying a set of rules. And the Gospel will focus not on what we must do to merit God's favor, but on what He has already done for us — before we knew Him. "*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" (Romans 5:8).

Of course, rules are important. Thou shalt not

commit adultery, remember the Sabbath, honor your parents, and other Laws of God are for our good; they are repeated in the Old and New Testaments; they are the will of God and help us understand His character. But obeying rules is not enough; it is certainly not the Gospel.

The Pharisees, for example, kept all the rules, but they missed out on God's character. In fact, Jesus said the righteousness of his disciples would have to exceed that of the Pharisees. (Matt. 5:20). He didn't mean that they would have to be better at obeying rules than the Pharisees; rather, He meant they would have to seek righteousness on a different plane. The rich young ruler said he kept all the commandments — at least the ones that were easily quantifiable. But Jesus was able to search his heart and ask him to do something which no rule, ordinance or statute required (sell all you have and give to the poor). Jesus' question revealed his covetousness and his unwillingness to put God ahead of everything. (Luke 18:18-22).

Absolutely, any gospel that proclaims salvation through works is false. But few modern preachers would be so blatant as to claim that. Rather they proclaim salvation by grace, but then go on to emphasize obedience to rules as their primary focus. One church publication I recently studied listed topics of sermons given in many different congregations over several months. Practically all had to do with obedience to God, overcoming, and how perfect God's Law is, but focusing on what we must do to make ourselves acceptable. Not one dealt with what God has done and is doing relative to our salvation and our sonship; none mentioned grace, love, forgiveness, or righteousness through Christ within us. None focused on Rom. 8:1, on the joy of being seated in the heavenlies with Christ. (Eph. 2:6).

One preacher boasts that his church is the only one that teaches obedience to all of God's Laws — all 613 of them. Another insists that God will not induct into His Kingdom anyone who is selfish and miserly when it comes to giving to the church. Where is the focus? On works, on what we must do.

A gospel that preaches Jesus only as Savior but not as Lord and King misses the mark. But so does the gospel that focuses *primarily* on what we must do to measure up to God's perfect will.

### Gospel of Success and Health

This gospel 'sells' only in wealthy, western nations among people who already have a measure of wealth or who aspire to attain it. It just wouldn't do well in Uganda, Romania, or Indonesia. It focuses on comfort in this physical world, taking general principles mentioned in Scripture and turning them into absolute promises. It could be called the "*contract gospel*" because it seeks to make a business deal out of a relationship with God: I accept Jesus and obey God's laws — and God promises to bless me; if I tithe, I'll be blessed financially; if I obey God's physical and spiritual laws, I'm promised good health and success. This gospel claims to be the means to success and happiness in this world and sees the same as proof of God's pleasure.

There are certain elements of truth in this gospel; obviously, one who lives in harmony with God's Laws will escape many of the physical curses of sin. However, there are some major fallacies. It takes Old Covenant promises out of the context of God's relationship with

Israel (Deut. 28, 29) and makes a gospel out of them. It teaches that if we obey God, He is bound by His Word to bless us physically. Too bad so many of Jesus' early disciples didn't get in on this good deal. Consider James (beheaded), Peter (imprisoned, martyred), Stephen (stoned to death), and Paul (imprisoned, tortured, stoned, shipwrecked, martyred). Consider many of the men of God mentioned in Hebrews 11 (stoned, sawn asunder, tortured, destitute, persecuted, mistreated, lived in caves). Somehow they missed out on the good life.

Certain New Testament passages are also used to support this gospel. A simple greeting to Gaius is taken to be a general promise to all Christians. (III John 2). Jesus' statement about having life and life more abundantly is taken out of context and used as a promise of physical wealth and health. (John 10:10).

Don't misunderstand. God isn't against health and wealth; and, as a general rule, those who live in harmony with His spiritual and physical laws are going to benefit in a physical way — certainly, they will avoid the curses that automatically come to those who sin. But the primary message of the New Covenant is one of spiritual benefits, of freedom from the wages of sin, which is eternal death. A person who accepts The Gospel may reap many blessings during his physical life — but they may or may not be measurable in dollars, cents, and health. In fact, he may suffer throughout his life as a direct result of choosing Jesus as His Savior, Lord, and King. Paul wrote that "*everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*" (2 Tim. 3:12). Paul suffered throughout his life, but considered it insignificant compared to the value of the spiritual riches he had in Christ. (Rom. 8:18, 22, 35-36). Peter warned that we shouldn't be surprised by trials. (1 Peter 4:12-13).

All this doesn't mean we should have a negative attitude, a martyr's complex about life. It does mean that our primary focus should be on *spiritual* wealth, which is measured in terms of love, joy, peace, patience, meekness, service, and — most importantly — citizenship in the Kingdom of God. (Col. 1:13; Eph. 2:6).

The gospel of health and wealth is really an extension of man's quest for happiness through materialism — except that he's using the God of the Bible as a means to gain physical wealth. This gospel puts the primary focus on "*making it,*" here and now. It is contrary to the true Gospel, which proclaims a spiritual Kingdom and a message of "*making it*" for all eternity.

Jesus Christ's *primary* purpose in coming is not to provide a means to health and success; rather, He is the means to forgiveness of sins and to eternal life. The gospel of health and success, though based on elements of truth, misses the mark.

#### Gospel of Eschatology (End Time Events)

Peter warned of scoffers who would say that the end of the age was never coming. (2 Pet. 3:3-4). But there is another extreme that has plagued elements of the church from its beginning down to this day — a preoccupation with the presumed imminence of the end of the age. Dates have been set for the return of Christ time and time again throughout the history of the church. So far, all have been wrong. The church today has its full complement of "*prophets of gloom and doom.*"

Believing the end is near can keep one on his spiritual toes. But a preoccupation with eschatology can detract from the *primary* message of the Gospel, which is eternal life through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16; Rom. 6:23). The gospel of eschatology, a preoccupation with prophecies, dates, and signs, tends to divert attention from the primary importance of salvation from sin and death; it encourages concern with protecting oneself physically rather than spiritually, with being raptured to a place of protection in order to escape physical tribulation; it tends to motivate through fear, primarily fear of physical pain and suffering, instead of fear of eternal death and a positive desire for eternal life.

In addition, when end-time scenarios don't work out, when decades go by and the end still hasn't arrived, people motivated by this gospel tend to become disillusioned spiritually. The very message intended to stir people to zeal can end up causing them to backslide. The gospel of eschatology is relevant only as long as its proponents can keep people convinced that they are living in the 'end'. The real Gospel is relevant at all times and for all eternity.

The fact is that the end may come for you at any time. Whether Jesus returns in five months, five years, fifty years, or five hundred years is irrelevant. Your end could be today. Are you ready?

All the false gospels mentioned here do contain elements of truth that should not be ignored. But these elements are not The Gospel; they must not in any way be allowed to overshadow the message that relief from sin and eternal death — that citizenship in the eternal Kingdom of God — is available through Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Paul told the Corinthians that when he came to them he resolved ". . . to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). Oh that there was such single-minded commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our day!

— Focus on Truth

#### OUTWITTED

*He drew a circle that shut me out —*

*Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.*

*But LOVE and I had the wit to win:*

*We drew a circle that took him in!*

*Edwin Markham*

#### Give Us Our Daily Bread

We try to make sure that our bodies get the nourishment they need, But we sometimes let our spirit go without sufficient food. We know that the Lord is long suffering and patient with us, But we are doing ourselves harm by not feeding on him more. We are babes in Christ, and as we look to him he will give us the Nourishment we need to grow.

# INDEPENDENCE

## MAY 14, 1948

Few days, if any in the present century, exceed in importance the fifth day of *Iyyar* (*Zif*), more commonly known as May 14, 1948. For it was on this day that the Jewish State, non-existent for nearly nineteen weary centuries, sprang again into existence.

The purpose of this article is to retrace the outstanding events which led up to the rebirth of the Nation of Israel, a nation "*born in a day*."

Palestine has always had its Jews, but under the domination of one Gentile nation after another, the land sank into barrenness and desolation. Yet, with the dawn of the nineteenth century, developments began which gave promise of the restoration of the nation called Israel.

Napoleon Bonaparte promised Palestine to the Jews and appealed to them to return to the land of their forebears. The British Government was urged — by Lord Shaftesbury — to foster Jewish colonies in their ancient land. In Jewish hearts hope began to take the place of wistful longing. Moses Hess in 1860, Hirsch Kalischer in 1862, and Perez Slolenskin in 1869, all urged the feasibility and propriety of the restoration of the Jewish nation. Interested and sympathetic Gentiles took up the case, such as Lord Byron, George Eliot and others. Following fearful outbursts of pillage and murder from which thousands of Russian Jews suffered, the *Lovers of Zion* Society was formed in Odessa by Herman Schapira and others. In 1884, a Jewish National Fund was created for the purpose of purchasing land in Palestine where Jews might settle.

For many years, under the auspices of various societies, settlements of Jews were established in Palestine on land purchased from the Arabs. Thus Jewish immigration increased at a steady rate until, in 1914, Europe plunged into the maelstrom of the First World War.

There now appeared on the stage of Jewish affairs another man of outstanding characteristics and qualities. Destined to be the first President of a Jewish Nation, this man was Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the brilliant chemist.

At a critical stage in the First World War, Dr. Weizmann presented to the British Government a formula for a vital element in the manufacture of munitions. It is possible that his contributions saved the Allies from complete disaster and defeat. A grateful British Government offered Weizmann a reward of wealth and honors — all of which he refused. There was, however, one thing he desired: that the British Government would help the Jewish people of the world to find a home in the ancient land of Israel. The historic *Balfour Declaration* followed — made on November 2, 1917.

### INDEPENDENCE AT LAST

Ages-old prophecies from the Jewish Bible were being fulfilled! Israel, the People, lived again in Israel the Land.

It was May 14, 1948. In the Exhibition Hall of the Art Museum in Tel Aviv, on a platform under a picture of

Theodore Herzl and the flag of Israel, sixty-one year old David Ben-Gurion sat with twelve colleagues. At exactly 4:00 p.m. — on that never-to-be-forgotten afternoon — he called the meeting to order. All rose to sing '*Hatikvah*', Israel's National Anthem. Then Mr. Ben-Gurion read the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration speaks of 'The Land of Israel' as the place where Jacob was born . . . the place where the Bible had been written and from where it had gone into the world.

It speaks of exile and dispersion, of people's faithfulness in prayer, and of the desire to return to the land of their fathers.

It speaks of Herzl's vision of a Jewish State, of the first Zionist Congress, of the *Balfour Declaration*, of the heroic sacrifices of the Jewish People, the *Mandate*, and the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly calling upon the inhabitants of Palestine to take steps to establish an independent State.

It concludes: "Accordingly we, the members of the National Council representing the Jewish People in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assembly today, the day of termination of the British Mandate for Palestine, by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called ISRAEL."

At 4:38 p.m. that day, Mr. Ben-Gurion said: "I hereby declare this meeting adjourned. Our State has been established."

Three days later, Dr. Chaim Weizmann received the news that he had been elected the first President of Israel.

Dr. Weizmann was weeping when, on February 14, 1949, he opened the Constituent Assembly of the State of Israel — the Knesset — and said: "Let us give thanks and praise to the God of Israel who, in His mercy, granted us the privilege of witnessing the redemption of our People after centuries of affliction and suffering."

— Jerusalem Post

### ISRAEL'S DEMOCRATIC TRADITION

Israel was born a democracy. *The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel*, signed on May 14, 1948, by members of the National Council representing the Jewish community in the country and the Zionist movement abroad, constitutes the nation's credo: the historical imperatives of Israel's rebirth at that point in time; the framework of a democratic Jewish state built on liberty, justice, and peace, as envisaged by the Prophets of Israel; and the call for good neighborly relations with the surrounding Arab states, for the benefit of the entire region.

### DECLARATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

ERETZ-ISRAEL (the Land of Israel) is the birthplace of the Jewish People. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of

# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION.—**

*Why is the sign of a fish used so often by Christians?*

**ANSWER.—**

The sign of a fish has been used in Christian art since as far back as the 2nd Century, when it symbolized Christ and the newly baptised. Today this sign is used by many Christian societies and organizations, and can be seen on Christian stationery and other paraphernalia. The idea did not originate because Jesus called us to be fishers of men, but was taken from the Greek word for fish, 'Ichthus', the letters of which stand for 'Iesous Christos Theou Uios Soter' — Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.



The fish symbol from the Catacombs in Rome.

**QUESTION —**

*Who, besides the Nazis, have been responsible for persecuting the Jewish People through history?*

**ANSWER.—**

During this millennium, the Jews have suffered an on-going persecution which long preceded the horrific Holocaust of World War II, in which six million Jews were murdered. Edward I expelled the Jews from England in 1290, and this ban was not lifted until 1650 by Oliver Cromwell. From 1290 to 1293, the Jews of southern Italy were almost wiped out. Furthermore, they were expelled from France in 1306 by Philip IV. The infamous 'Black Death' (1347-1351), which killed some 75 million people in Europe and Asia, was falsely blamed on the Jews, who were accused of spreading the infectious plague by poisoning wells. The Jewish People were often made the scapegoat; they were blamed for disasters and bad circumstances in which nations found themselves.

In medieval Spain, attacks on Jewish communities peaked in 1391; moreover, thousands were driven abroad — this happened in the midst of a power-struggle between Christianity and Islam. Spain forced another exodus in 1492, at the time of the Spanish Inquisition, by giving Jews the choice of conversion to Christianity or deportation. This Inquisition (the principal objective of which was the persecution of those inclined toward Judaism), began in 1481, and was established as a Catholic Church institution deriving its authority from the Pope. It was designed to solve a specifically Spanish religious-social problem and thus evolved into a political institution, although retaining its purely religious aspect. The Spanish word 'Morrano' was given to the Jews of the time who agreed to convert to 'Christianity' but then secretly continued to practice Judaism — 'Morrano' means 'swine'.

The 16th-Century founder of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther, originally showed sympathy and support for the Jews, but later condemned them in violent outbursts. In the 17th Century, attacks on Jewish communities continued in

Germany, Poland and the Ukraine. By the late 19th Cen Russia, tensions had mounted and hostilities towards the form of *pogroms* caused widespread emigration landed in America, and a large group settled in Palestine in the early 1880's, was the first *aliya* (immigration) Jewish homeland).

There were many reasons for the Jews' unpopular the centuries. One major reason was their self-seg within communities. Another cause was their money activities. This provoked unfair prejudice, since these jo indirectly forced upon the Jews by Christian laws for Christians to charge interest on loans and out-lawi ownership by Jews.

**QUESTION.—**

*Is it true the Roman Catholics believe the Pope is infallible?*

**ANSWER.—**

This doctrine of papal infallibility — that the pope err on matters of faith or morals — is relatively new, a declared by the *First Vatican Council* in 1870. The d deems the pope to be infallible when speaking 'ex cat meaning 'from his throne'.

The question of how many times the pope has spoke infallibility is widely contested among Catholics. Some that Pope Paul VI's birth-control recommendation of 1 an example of papal infallibility. But, most Catholic theo would deny this.

Two examples not disputed, however, concern the Mary, and are: the doctrine of the 'Immaculate Conception' (Mary herself), proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854; ar 'Assumption' — the doctrine that she ascended bod heaven — proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950. Each December the 8th is observed as a Roman Catholic festi commemoration of the 'Immaculate Conception', and A the 15th is observed in commemoration of the 'Assump

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## INDEPENDENCE

(continued from page 15)

national and universal significance and gave to world the eternal Book of Books.

Jews strove in every successive generation to establish themselves in their ancient homeland... T made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, b villages and towns, and created a thriving commun controlling its own economy and culture, which lc peace but knows how to defend itself.

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

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

# "It Just Isn't True"

Part 3 of a series by Leslie Moxham

**T**here is a regrettably strong 'wing' within the Body of Messiah which teaches that Israel has been "*replaced*" by 'The Church' in the purposes of God. It is said that all previous prophecies relating to Israel now apply exclusively to the Church. The assertion is plainly made that because Israel rejected its Messiah, God has rejected Israel and has radically changed His plans. It is said He has 'switched' from Israel to 'The Church', and the latter inherits all the prophetic 'blessings' while all the 'curses' are reserved for Israel. The restoration of Israel as a modern nation, it is claimed, is not the fulfilment of prophecies given through the Old Covenant prophets — it is simply a natural phenomenon. This just isn't true.

A great deal of 'special pleading' is required to maintain the above view. More ingenuity is required to sustain this idea than is necessary to accept the straightforward truth, so consistently stated in the Scriptures, that God still has a divine purpose for His special People Israel and the Land to which she has, in part, returned.

Did our Heavenly Father make so many promises to Israel regarding a literal return to the historic Land of Israel, knowing that He did not mean 'literal' Israel, but a 'spiritual' people who would be called 'The Church'? Did God speak 'with His tongue in His cheek'? Did He deceive the Hebrew prophets through whom He spoke? In maintaining 'Replacement Theology' the integrity and faithfulness of our Heavenly Father are called into question.

The fact has to be faced that the Nation of Israel rejected the Laws and Ways of God a very long time before the rejection of her Messiah. The consistent message of the prophets was "*repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions, so iniquity shall not be your ruin.*" (*Ezekiel 12:15*). For these failures to 'turn and repent' exile was experienced, first the Northern Kingdom and later the Southern Kingdom. These exiles were "*scattered among the nations*". (*Ezekiel 12:15*). How can it be said that the Church has so collectively disobeyed the Laws of the Lord that she is now 'scattered' among the nations for this disobedience? To which "*Land*" will the Church "*return*" when the Lord fulfills His promise to "*gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land*"? (*Ezekiel 34:13*). How can the Church be said to live in the Land that God gave to her forefathers? How can these prophecies regarding a "*scattering among the nations*" and a "*return... with singing unto Zion*" (*Isaiah 51:11*) apply to the Church? The Church is among the nations as salt and light. Israel is being gathered from the nations to her own Land. She will yet be a light to the nations: "*the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*" (*Isaiah 60:2-3*). The present gathering is for this glorious purpose. The immigration of Jews is present-day miracle-history and the fulfilment of prophecy.

The Lord has promised a future 'personal Pentecost' for the 'gathered' Nation of Israel which is distinct and different from the outpouring on 'all mankind'. When

Peter explained the Pentecost of Acts 2, he did it exclusively with reference to Joel 2. He did not explain and expound the event from Isaiah 44:3 or Ezekiel 39:29, nor did he quote with satisfaction Isaiah 32:15. These promises are reserved for "*the House of Israel*" and for 'your offspring', referring to "*Jacob, My servant.*" Where in the New Covenant Scriptures is the Church referred to as the 'offspring of Jacob'? This 'National Pentecost' is an event yet to be experienced by Israel when she has been gathered and God has brought her into her "*own land, and... left none of them any more there.*" (*Ezekiel 39:28*). God will yet achieve the original goals He set for His People in making them a Holy Nation. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the full recognition of Yeshua Hamashiach are the two prerequisites to these fully achieved goals.

It is certain that Paul knew nothing about the 'Replacement Theology' when he wrote Romans 11. He was not calling Gentile believers 'Israelites' when he wrote "*I too am an Israelite.*" The Apostle was drawing a distinction between 'natural branches' and 'wild olive tree' branches who have believed and have been 'grafted in' to the one 'True Olive Tree'. 'Replacement Theology' adherents need to note the warning in Romans 11:21, "*For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He also spare not thee.*" Gentile believers are not naturally from "*the tribe of Benjamin*" !! Here in this passage Paul referred to Natural Israel. He desired them to be "*saved.*" He wanted to see them 'grafted again' into the 'True Olive Tree'. The engrafted ones are 'Spiritual Israel' from within 'Natural Israel'. Paul did not argue that the Church had 'replaced' Israel. He was arguing the other way round; he was saying, "*wild olive*" branches (Gentiles) became "*partakers with them* (Messianic believers) *of the rich root of the Olive Tree.*" Jewish believers are not 'grafted' into the Church — Gentile believers are 'grafted' into the 'True Olive Tree', which is the true "*Israel of God.*" The present Church and Natural Israel are not mutually exclusive in the purposes of God. Both exist side by side, and The Lord has a purpose for each.

The reunification of the "*stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel*" with the "*stick of Judah*" which Ezekiel foresaw into "*one nation*" needs a massive piece of 'spiritualization' to fit it into 'Replacement Theology'. One of the miracles of modern Israel is the gathering of all the tribes of Israel into one Nation. The promise of Ezekiel 37:24 will be fulfilled and "*My servant David will be King over them, and they will all have One Shepherd.*" The "*other sheep*" (Gentile believers) of John 10:16 are being gathered into the "*One Fold*" with the "*One Shepherd.*" This is not Jews being gathered into a 'Replacement Church', but Gentiles being brought into the original 'One Flock'.

It just is not true that 'the Church' has replaced natural Israel. It requires too much manipulation of Scripture and the spiritualization of prophecies which require a straightforward interpretation. The "*Commonwealth of Israel*" (*Ephesians 2:12*) is that precious Kingdom into which believing Jews and Gentiles are introduced by the sovereign grace of God through faith in Messiah Jesus.

# NEWS DIRECT FROM ISRAEL

All Items from "The Jerusalem Post"

## Hunt for Royal Archives at Hazor

Archeological excavations are to be resumed this summer at Hazor, the largest tel (ancient site forming a hill) in Israel, in the expectation of finding the first royal cuneiform archive — the official library and depository of government documents — ever uncovered in the country. ('Cuneiform' indicates the ancient type of writing characters used in the inscriptions.)

Prof. Yigael Yadin, whose first major excavations had been at Hazor, in Upper Galilee, was planning to return there to dig for the archive just before his death in 1984. He believed he knew the archive's location and felt that it could be larger and more important than the one at Ebla, in Syria, which had so excited the scholarly world.

The task has now been taken up by Yadin's former student, Prof. Amnon Ben-Tor of the Hebrew University, who will lead an expedition jointly sponsored by the university and the Israel Exploration Society with the participation of universities from Spain, the U.S. and Scandinavia. The expedition is envisioned as a five-year project with this year's six-week season to begin on July 1.

"Hazor is the most important tel in the country," Ben-Tor said in an interview this week. "We hope to find the archive, but there are many other areas we hope to shed light on."

Indications of the archive's existence were not known during the expeditions Yadin lead there in 1955-58 and 1968-69. However, visitors poking through the debris left at the site by the diggers, found cuneiform tablets. One, found by a tourist, was a legal document which concluded, "signed before the king of Hazor." Another, was a tablet used for writing exercise, indicating that there was a school for scribes at Hazor in the Second Millennium BCE. Correspondence from the king of Hazor has been found in the royal archive at Mari in Mesopotamia.

For archeologists trying to piece together the past from broken artifacts, written documents constitute the major information source. In Israel, written material is a relative rarity in excavations. Royal archives, such as the one found at Ebla, are rich collections that can bring an entire era to life. The cuneiform tablets in this period were written in Akkadian, the diplomatic language used by nations of the Fertile Crescent regardless of their own tongue.

Ben-Tor noted that Hazor, at 800 dunams (1 dunam about 1/3 acre) is many times larger than other archeological tels in Israel. "Others can be 100 dunams, 200 dunams, maybe 300. Hazor's size makes it part of the Syrian cultural environment where such large cities existed. Canaanite cities were much smaller. This is the southernmost extension of the Syrian environs."

One of the main tasks of the expedition will be to re-examine Yadin's findings concerning the destruction of Hazor in a massive fire around 1200 BCE. Yadin took this as evidence supporting the Biblical report of Joshua's conquest of the Land of Israel, generally attributed to that period. "And

Joshua at that time turned back, and took Hazor, and smote the king thereof with the sword: for Hazor beforetime was the head of all those kingdoms... and he burnt Hazor with fire... But as for the cities that stood still in their strength, Israel burned none of them, save Hazor only; that did Joshua burn." (Joshua 11:10-11,13).

## Ofek-2 Soars into Orbit

TEL AVIV — Israel has launched Ofek-2 which was described here as "an experimental scientific satellite." But foreign reports said it is a spy satellite.

Ofek-2 was launched at 3 p.m. from Palmahim, north of Ashdod. The silvery projectile was followed by a flame and a trail of white smoke. After a minute or so, the first stage was separated, it gathered speed, and finally entered space orbiting in an elliptic trajectory of 210-1,500 kms. above earth. The perigee is less than Ofek-1's and Prof. Akiva Bar-Nun, the Israel Space Agency's coordinator, said he expected Ofek-2 to have a shorter life span than its predecessor's four months. The drag on Ofek-2 is higher, he explained.

Ofek-2 has the same dimensions as Ofek-1, but 18 months' work on it produced better protection against cosmic radiation, a bigger memory and the possibility of two-way communication. Ofek-1, which was launched in September 1988, only broadcast information.

An official statement the Israel Aircraft Industry issued after the launch said the 160-kilo satellite was designed to: augment space technology; verify the ability for two-way communication with the satellite, including the transmission of commands from a ground-control station, as well as the remote control of on-board systems; test the functioning of on-board systems during their exposure to space conditions. The IAI was mainly concerned with systems designed for use on future satellites.

Time magazine, which predicted the launch, said that Ofek-2 was equipped with a state-of-the-art electro-optical camera, which would give Israel real-time intelligence on neighboring Arab states.

Bar-Nun and Yuval Ne'eman, the Space Agency's Chairman, denied the report. "It is not a spy satellite, and has no military significance." Ne'eman said. Bar-Nun said that there was "definitely no military use for 'Ofek-1' and 'Ofek-2' and the projected scientific satellite cannot be loaded with so many things."

The next "scientific satellite" is to be launched in 1992 and will examine X-rays, ultraviolet rays and possibly gamma rays.

The officials also insisted the launch was not connected with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's latest threat to scorch Israel. "We didn't do it in the Iraqi's honour," Bar-Nun said.

## New Immigrants to Receive Free Phone Calls Gift

All new immigrants will receive a gift from Bezek (Israel's telephone company) soon after deplaning at Ben-Gurion Airport — a long-

distance call to their native country. They will also unknowingly be testing *Bezek's* new public telephone that operates with a magnetic card rather than phone tokens.

*Bezek* says it will install four of the new public phones — manufactured at *Israel Military Industries (IMI)* — at Ben-Gurion airport this month.

Each family of immigrants will receive a free magnetic card usable for a call of 120 phone units. According to *Bezek*, this is enough to call someone in the Soviet Union for four minutes.

### Kosher Caviar

HAIFA — Russian Caviar, considered by culinary experts to be one of the world's most exotic foods — and certainly one of the most expensive — now has a revival that is not only cheaper, but also kosher.

The kosher caviar, which looks like the Russian original and has the same slightly salty taste, made its international debut at a "caviar and cocktails" party at the *Dan Carmel* hotel here.

The new product was developed by researchers at the *Technion*, who hope their gastronomic invention will prove to be a big money-maker and even the start of a potentially highly profitable export industry.

The caviar substitute, according to the developers, has the same qualities as Russian caviar, which is the pickled roe of sturgeon from the Caspian Sea.

As a result of uncontrolled fishing and pollution in the Caspian Sea, there is a worldwide shortage of Russian caviar, with its price escalating to around \$170 per 100 grammes. In contrast, the new caviar, which is being produced by *Delitec*, a subsidiary of the *Technion's Research and Development Foundation*, is expected to sell for about \$1.50 per 100 grammes.

The substitute caviar is also 100 per cent kosher, unlike the Russian original, which rabbis ruled non-kosher. It is made from kosher fish and other natural products, with no artificial colouring. It contains proteins, fish and vegetable oil, combined with stabilizers, salt and preservatives.

### God Protects Israel, Says Norway's FM

OSLO — God is holding His protecting hand over Israel and its Chosen People, backing their right to hold land, Norwegian Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik says.

"As a Christian, I believe God has His hand with Israel's People so that He will protect their right to land," Bondevik told the labor daily *Abeiderbladet* in an interview recently.

But Bondevik, an ordained priest and head of the *Christian People's Party*, said he would not use the Bible to draw the map of the Middle East, adding that politics should not be run on religious grounds. He said Israel needed to feel safe in order to negotiate peace with the Arabs. But, the Israelis had also made some mistakes in the course of history, Bondevik added.

"I find that criticism of Israel, though justified when seen in isolation, has been one-sided," he said. Bondevik, who describes himself as "a friend of Israel," took over as foreign minister when the center-right coalition came to power last October. He had earlier signalled a cooler stance towards the PLO by saying he did not want to meet its leader, Yasser Arafat. In the interview, Bondevik said he believed God had a special plan for Israel, although he did not know what it was.

### Sect Plans Offering on Mount

*The Temple Mount Faithful* will attempt to take sheaves of wheat onto the Temple Mount this morning, reinstating the ancient practice of offering "The First Fruits" to the Temple, the group's leader, Gershon Salomon, said.

A police spokesman confirmed that Salomon and his extremist, redemptionist group had received permission to march from the *Dung Gate* to the Western Wall Plaza. But Salomon said his group hopes to place the sheaves within the confines of the Mount, which is controlled by the *Wakf*, the Moslem authority that oversees the *Aksa Mosque* and the *Dome of the Rock*.

Attempts by the group to install a "cornerstone" on the *Temple Mount* on the Ninth of Av last year were met with strong protests from the *Wakf*.

### Pessah Shipments Sent to USSR

MOSCOW — A joint operation of the *Joint Distribution Committee* and Israel's Ministry of Religious Affairs has brought *Pessah* (Passover) products to the Soviet Union on a scale unimaginable even a year ago. But Jews here and in other cities preparing to observe the holiday are still facing severe shortages of kosher wine and meat.

The ministry's Ze'ev Rosenberg, who is in charge of bringing *Pessah* products to Soviet Jews, said that public *sedarim* (*Pessah* meals), organized by 30 religious couples from Israel who arrived here last week, will be held in 30 cities across the USSR.

Rosenberg said that 10,000 Jews had registered to take part in these *sedarim*, including one in *Birobidjan*, the Jewish autonomous republic in eastern Siberia. On the second night of the festival there will be a *seder* at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock, which many Moscow Jews are expected to attend.

### Diplomatic Ties Restored with Poland

WARSAW — Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski have signed documents restoring diplomatic relations broken off by Poland in 1967.

The two countries are expected to exchange ambassadors shortly, upgrading their current low-level diplomatic missions to embassy status. Arens later said, in an *Israel Army Radio* interview, he found "great understanding" for Israel's problems among Poland's leaders. "It seems even a greater and fuller understanding than we have found in Western Europe," he added. He also said he had invited Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski to visit Israel. The invitation was accepted, but no date was set, he said. Skubiszewski separately told reporters that he, too, had accepted an invitation to Israel.

### Chlorine for All Drinking Water

According to a new Health Ministry regulation, all drinking water in Israel must be chlorinated.

Health Minister Ya'acov Tsur reported this in writing to the Knesset Speaker recently, following a debate in the plenum on water pollution in the North. A State Comptroller's report had revealed that water from some wells in the area was not being treated. Tsur said the regulation, which mandated continuous treatment with disinfectant, was put into effect when the ministry realized there was no way of totally preventing pollutants from entering the water supply.

## Exhausted Pelicans Die on Beaches

About 250 pelicans have washed up dead on beaches in Israel and nature officials said they had apparently drowned from exhaustion, Israel Television reported. Another 200 were found dying. Inspectors from the *Society for the Protection of Nature* collected them and started resuscitating them.

Officials from the society at first suspected mass poisoning, but autopsies showed that the birds had drowned, probably from exhaustion.

Israel is a major migration route for birds returning to Europe from winter feeding in Africa and the pelicans apparently were blown out to sea in a storm on their way north, Dr. Amnon Lavov, a veterinarian for the society, said. They probably became exhausted over the sea and could not continue their flight, he said.

## Iraq Threatens to Scorch Israel

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein threatened to incinerate half of Israel with advanced chemical weapons if it joined what he called a big power conspiracy against Iraq.

*"I swear to God we will let our fire eat half of Israel if it tries to wage anything against Iraq,"* he said in his first major reaction to charges that Iraq had tried to obtain triggers for nuclear weapons.

The remarks came amid mounting tensions between Iraq and the West, fuelled by the London arrest of five people allegedly involved in trying to smuggle triggers for nuclear weapons to Baghdad.

Saddam said in a radio broadcast that Iraq had no need of nuclear arms because it had become the only nation besides the U.S. and the Soviet Union to possess binary chemical weapons, composed of two components that, when combined, produce a deadly nerve agent.

*"Do they think the \$10,500 worth of triggers were enough to produce atomic bombs?"* the Iraqi leader asked. *"What nonsense! We don't need an atomic bomb because we have binary chemicals."*

Avi Pazner, a senior adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said last night that *"Israel has no aggressive intentions against anyone, but has sufficiently proven in the past that it is able to defend itself and will not be blackmailed by threats like that."*

Iraq's possession of binary chemical weapons has been known to Israel since 1988, Dr. Gerald Steinberg, an arms control specialist at Bar-Ilan University noted. He doubted that Saddam is actually capable of carrying out his boast of destroying half of Israel, given the inaccuracy of Iraqi missiles during the Gulf War and the failure of its recent efforts to launch a satellite.

*"They could probably get a few missiles through to Tel Aviv, but they'll also hit Damascus, Cairo and Beirut in the process,"* Steinberg said.

During his speech, Saddam also criticized the West for its outcry over Iraq's execution recently of London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft on espionage charges. Iraq, he claimed, is facing a major conspiracy.

*"The big powers seem to have decided to play the game themselves and directly,"* he said. *"Let the one who wants to try his luck (against Iraq), let him try."*

*"He who threatens us with an atomic bomb, will be annihilated by binary chemicals,"* he said.

The Iraqi president said his country acquired

binary weapons in the final days of the eight-year Gulf War, but had not used them against Iran.

Iraq has admitted using other chemical weapons against Iran, but denied reports that it used them on its own dissident Kurdish minority.

In a phone interview, Laurie Mylroie, a specialist on Iraq at Harvard University's *Center on Middle Eastern Studies*, told the Post that Saddam seems to be deliberately trying to create a sense of crisis to shore up his domestic position, and knows that Israel probably has no intention of attacking Iraq. Still, she added, Israel should state clearly that it has no plans of attacking Iraq, while at the same time advising Baghdad to back down from its threats and making clear that Israel can "wreak great devastation" if Iraq does use its weapons.

## Shamir Lashes Back at Bagdad's Threat

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir lashed out sharply against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's chemical warfare threats in an official statement warning him that Israel would find the way to foil the villainous intentions of its enemies.

Shamir said Saddam's declaration "once more lays bare the fundamental truth which lies at the basis of the Middle East situation: the extreme hostility towards Israel and the ongoing aspiration to destroy it." He stressed the "brutality at home and abroad for which the Iraqi regime is notorious."

## Iraqi and Israeli Capability

Veiled hints of possible Israeli efforts to interfere with the Iraqi nuclear effort have been made periodically over the past year.

A year ago, Israeli authorities, in a briefing to reporters, warned that Iraq was attempting to build a nuclear warhead for ground-to-ground missiles. They said that the first test of such a warhead was planned for mid-1991. Iraq still possessed 12.5 kilograms of enriched uranium, they said, which had survived the Israeli Air Force attack on the Iraqi nuclear plant in 1981 and was sufficient for two "small" bombs.

Three months ago, then-Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset that Israel was closely following Iraqi weapons development, "in order to permit the security establishment to take the necessary steps." A former Israeli Air force intelligence officer said that Israel was capable of reacting to Iraq's nuclear threat "where and when we want."

According to foreign press accounts, Iraq has constructed five or six well-protected underground facilities to house nuclear laboratories and workshops.

## Samaritan Tora Now in Print

The tradition of the Samaritans has leaped across thousands of years in an instant — from the age of ancient scribes to computers — with the publication of the Five Books of Moses in Samaritan script by a special laser printer, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Until now, Samaritan priests have painstakingly produced their sacred texts in handwritten manuscripts. The death of many sages who can write the text has forced them to turn to the computer to preserve their heritage.

*Yozamco*, a Tel Aviv importer and distributor of

hightech office equipment, teamed up with *Kyocera*, a Japanese producer of laser printers, to turn the ancient script into computerized fonts. The religious texts will be distributed among the 1,000 Samaritan families in Holon, Nablus and Mt. Gerizim. They will now be able to study the texts without sharing rare and crumbling manuscripts.

The Samaritans consider theirs as the most ancient Hebrew script and holy in itself. It should be only used to preserve their heritage in holy texts.

### Freak April Snow

Jerusalem early yesterday morning had its third recorded April snowfall in 120 years — the others were in 1870 and 1949.

Rain was plentiful throughout the country, especially in the Golan region, where reservoirs are sorely in need of water. Safed was the coldest place in the country, with the mercury dipping to near zero.

As the temperature in Jerusalem dropped to two degrees, snow fell for about an hour, reaching a depth of one centimeter. Roughly the same amount fell on Hebron and Mt. Meron in the Galilee, while heavy snows fell on Mt. Hermon.

In the south, the meteorological center reported, some 56mm. of rain fell in the 48 hours up to yesterday morning. Eilat received 4mm. of rain. In the Negev, where the Electric Corporation reported brief power outages, a number of low-lying roads were closed to traffic. Some flooding occurred in the Arava.

A violent storm damaged "millions of dollars worth of property" at *Moshav Pri Gan* in the Negev. The storm brought down solar heating installations, roof tiles and electric power lines. Moshav residents estimate that families that were hit may have suffered \$100-300,000 worth of damage each.

The snow and heavy rain in the north, however, has not made a significant impact on the state of the Sea of Galilee, which remains at a record low for this time of year.

The heavy snow on Mt. Hermon raised the hopes of ski-buffs who were dreaming of a white Passover. The deputy manager of the ski-site there, Menahem Baruch, reported "we now have about 15cm. of snow on the lower slopes with up to 40cm. at the top of the chair lift."

### Widow of Murdered Lebanon Missionary Vows to Continue Work

METULLA — The widow of American Christian missionary William Robinson, who was assassinated by *Lebanese Communist Party* gunmen, has vowed to carry on her husband's work helping the handicapped and underprivileged, sources in Lebanon reported.

Barbara Robinson reportedly told journalists, that despite threats against her and her family she intends to remain at their home in the south Lebanon village of *Rashaya al-Foukhar*, where Robinson was shot to death.

The *Lebanese Communist Party* said its members murdered the 56-year-old former U.S. Marine from Chicago, because of his alleged collaboration with Israel and the IDF.

Robinson, who ran a home for handicapped children, was involved in negotiations to purchase land to extend the home's facilities, and provide accommodation for orphans and the elderly.

He had been the victim of a smear campaign, started by opponents of the project, in which he was baselessly accused of conspiring to establish a settlement in the village for 200 Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Robinson was buried in *Hazbiyah*, in what local reporters described as a simple ceremony attended by his widow Barbara, their four children, and friends of the murdered missionary.

### Israeli and Soviet Scientists Sign Pact on Energy Seminars

TEL AVIV — Israeli scientists will travel to Moscow late this year to begin planning joint projects on ecologically-safe energy, visiting soviet scientists the Energy Ministry said.

Two representatives of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, signed an agreement with Energy Minister Moshe Shahal providing for seminars in the Soviet Union and Israel to discuss alternative energy sources, such as oil shale and the sun. Bi-national research will also be conducted on such problems as converting coal and oil shale into gas, with the *Ben-Gurion Center on Solar Energy*, coordinating Israel's contribution.

### Islamic States Press for End to Exodus

Islamic states have appealed to the Soviet Union, the U.S. and the European Community for help in halting the Soviet Jewish exodus to Israel.

"Our patience has reached the limit," said King Hassen of Morocco who, in his capacity as head of the Jerusalem Committee of the *Islamic Conference Organization*, is to visit the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Vatican to press for action.

In a statement at the end of a two-day meeting in Rabat, the committee asserted that the migration would spark a "dramatic demographic explosion and artificial growth of the population in a territory of limited size and resources."

### Katyushas Hit Israel

HAIFA — Several katyusha rockets exploded in Western Galilee without causing any injuries or damage.

The 122 mm. rockets, which have a maximum range of around 21 km., were apparently fired from north of the security zone in South Lebanon.

No organization has claimed responsibility for the attack — the first in three months.

Katyushas were last fired from Lebanon in the middle of January, when a number of rockets exploded harmlessly in Upper Galilee.

Lebanese sources reported that the incident may have been connected with the second anniversary of the assassination of Abu Jihad, a senior PLO leader.

Security sources in the security zone said the rockets had probably been fired from groves south of Tyre.

Holidaymakers in Western Galilee reported hearing the explosions and some took cover, but there were no injuries.

The first blast left a small crater and caused a brush fire, which was extinguished by residents from a nearby settlement.

Another rocket reportedly exploded harmlessly in the same area about an hour-and-a-half later.

## More Parts of Iraqi Super-Gun Seized

Controversy surrounding Iraqi weapons smuggling widened as trucks carrying steel-tube components, for what Britain alleges is an Iraqi super-gun, were seized in Greece and Turkey.

Two British manufacturers, *Sheffield Forgemasters* and *Walter Somers*, who originally believed they were supplying pipes for a petro-chemical plant, gave British Customs officials details of the routes across Europe of trucks carrying the pipes.

The sting operation followed the seizure by customs officers in Middlesborough, England, of eight Baghdad-bound cylinders which Britain said were components of a "super-gun."

The super-gun may be intended to give Iraq a long-range delivery capability for nuclear or chemical weapons, according to British officials.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry on Friday issued a new denial of the British allegations and hinted at possible Arab trade retaliation against Britain. Iraq claims the seized pipes are for industrial use.

Six *Walter Somers* pipes — each between 10 and 12.5 meters long, with a 350-millimeter bore — were being transported to Iraq by a fleet of trucks, according to David James, chairman of *Eagle Trust*, the parent group of *Walter Somers*.

One of the trucks, carrying a pipe weighing 31 tons, was detained in Turkey, James said.

Turkish officials confirmed they were examining a truckload of British-made steel piping. A Turkish Foreign Ministry source said the piping appeared to be "missile barrels linked with Iraq."

James said he had also heard "an unconfirmed rumor" that a second truck — carrying another of the *Walter Somers* pipes — was intercepted in Turkey. The rumored seizure would be consistent with the transport company's planned route, James said.

Meanwhile, in Patras, Greece, British truck driver Paul Ashwell has been charged with illegal transport of weapons. His truck bearing 29.5 tons of Iraqi-bound metal tubing has been impounded.

"I'm shocked," Ashwell said after the Greek district attorney read the charges. "I was told I was carrying steel piping. I had no idea what was going on until I was stopped."

Stathis Katsas, head of customs operations in Patras — who cooperated with British customs in the sting — said: "There is no doubt that the steel cylinder on the truck is part of a barrel for a massive cannon." The tube was identical to the eight Iraqi-bound cylinders seized by British customs, he added.

The shipment originated in Britain and travelled through France and Italy before reaching Patras. Its final destination was listed as the 'Iraqi Ministry of Industry'.

Meanwhile the *London Independent* reported on Friday that the "super-gun" was not intended to fire shells, but was part of an expensive project — "*Operation Babylon*" — designed to provide Iraq with a ballistics test-bed for launching a satellite into space.

According to the newspaper, pipes supplied by the two British companies have already been assembled to form three static, horizontal test barrels "pointing harmlessly at a mountainside near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul."

One of the guns is already in use, it reported, enabling Iraqi scientists to learn the complex

ballistic technology within a barrel.

The test bed, noted the newspaper, would enable the Iraqi regime to launch a simple, small satellite by the comparatively cheap means of a gun rather than a rocket.

The *Independent* said acquisition of the new technology at relatively low cost is expected to upset the military balance in the region and further reduce Israel's qualitative edge.

The Iraqi installation was designed by the Brussels-based *Space Research Corporation (SRC)*, whose head, ballistics expert Gerald Bull was killed on March 22. It has been announced that the corporation and all its subsidiaries are being dissolved.

(Note: seven executives from *Sheffield Forgemasters Ltd.* and *Walter Somers Ltd.* have since been arrested under suspicion of selling the components knowing they were to be used for the super-gun.)

## 'A Name for Every Lost Soul'

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the Holocaust must never fade from our memory and that the current *aliya* from the Soviet Union constitutes a renewal of the Zionist vision. He was speaking at the opening ceremony of *Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day*, at Yad Vashem (the Holocaust museum).

President Chaim Herzog lit the *Flame of Remembrance* and six torches were lit in honor of camp survivors. Jewish soldiers in the Allied armies, partisans, underground fighters, prisoners in forced labor camps and *Righteous Gentiles*. At 9:45 this morning Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky will start "A name for every lost soul" operation, by reading out the names of members of his family and friends who were killed.

## Baker: Jews May Live Throughout Jerusalem

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker says that Jews should be permitted to live throughout all of Jerusalem.

In a letter to Representative Mel Levine (Democrat, California), Baker appeared to somewhat soften U.S. opposition to Jews living in East Jerusalem. "I am also very aware of the great significance which Jerusalem has for the Jewish People as well as for people of all religions," Baker wrote. "Clearly, Jews and others can live where they want, East or West, and the city must remain undivided."

Last month, President George Bush caused a major uproar in Israel when he said that the U.S. opposed the creation of Jewish settlements on the West Bank and East Jerusalem. He later issued a clarification noting that Jews could live in East Jerusalem "in the context of a negotiated settlement."

Baker's comments now appeared to go somewhat further than Bush's — a development clearly welcomed by Israeli officials and American Jewish activists in Washington.

## Nudel: Declare Emergency

Former Prisoner of Zion Ida Nudel said that panic-stricken Soviet Jews were rushing to Israel as the threats of a large-scale pogrom loom on the horizon. Nudel spoke at a gala dinner in Tel Aviv Museum marking the closing of a four-day congress on *Free Economy and Entrepreneurship*.

## 'Egypt Close to Nuclear Bomb'

LONDON — Egypt is close to achieving nuclear capability, according to an article in the *London Times*.

The article, based on the Bahraini daily, *Al-Ayam*, claimed the CIA was currently investigating a joint Egypt-Argentinian project to produce six kilograms of plutonium — enough to produce a nuclear bomb.

A Western military expert was quoted as saying: "The Egyptians are letting it be known to their own people that they are not being left behind in the nuclear arms race, without admitting anything openly." He believed Egypt would join the "nuclear club" within the next few years.

Furthermore, *Mayo*, the weekly newspaper of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party, prominently quoted a statement made in congress by the chief of U.S. Naval Intelligence that Egypt was further advanced than Iraq in the production of a nuclear bomb.

*Mayo* also quoted Egyptian Energy Minister Maher Abaza as saying that Egypt's nuclear research programme was being conducted openly under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and that Egypt was signatory of the Vienna-based Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Observers noted, however, that Iraq was not only a signatory but a member of the organization's board of governors.

According to *The Times*, it is an open secret that Egypt, Iraq and Argentina have collaborated in producing an inter-continental ballistic missile, known both as the *Badr-2000* and the *Condor-2*, with a planned range of about 800 kilometers, and capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

## Nazis Never Made Human-Fat Soap

*Yad Vashem* (the Holocaust museum) upheld the recent statement by Professor Yehuda Bauer, an eminent Holocaust historian, that the Nazis never made soap from human fat.

No documentation exists to back up such allegations against the Nazis. *Yad Vashem* spokesman Menachem Fogel said. "That is the position *Yad Vashem* has always held."

Bauer, a professor at the Hebrew University and head of the International Center for Research on anti-Semitism, said at WIZO House in Tel Aviv. "The Nazis never made soap from Jews because they did not have such technology."

Shmuel Krakoski, archives director at *Yad Vashem*, explained that the reason many believed, and still believe, that the Nazis made such soap was because during the war the Germans created rumors to that effect.

"What is clear is that soap was made on which the letters RIS were inscribed, and there was propaganda that this soap was made from Jews," said Krakoski. RIS supposedly stood for *Rein Idisha Seif*, or "pure Jewish soap," with Yiddish misspelled.

The Nazis did however use the skin and hair of human beings to make various products, said Krakoski.

Bauer said that the Nazis carried out many atrocities and there was no need to add false allegations to their already dark record.

## Dead Sea to Come Alive

The Dead Sea region may be destined to become one of the country's most attractive resort areas. Tourism Minister Gideon Patt, who appeared this week before the Knesset Finance Committee, disclosed that approved projects in the area include seven hotels at a total investment value of NIS 456 million and three tourist projects valued at NIS 12.8 million. The two largest hotels will each contain 750 rooms, with the total of additional rooms adding up to 2,430.



## Israel Products Go Russian

*Ryazhinka* — A yogurt-like Russian drink — is the latest, and most blatant, attempt by manufacturers and advertisers to capitalize on the popular wave of Soviet immigration.

The product's name appears in bold black Cyrillic letters on a bottle sporting the red and yellow colors of the USSR flag.

Bread, fish and vegetables are among the food products that have gone Russian, or are about to go, in the current local boom of gastronomic glasnost.

The frozen food giant *Sunfrost* is coming out next month with a "Russian Medley" of vegetables. It is said to include "those most common in the rural villages, particularly of the Ukraine."

The *Sunfrost* management conceded "it's trendy to do anything Russian today."

The *Super-Sol* chain is working with a leading fish processor to come up with "kilka," marinated sardines expected to appeal to the Russian palate.

*Sugat* of Kiryat Gat has nothing special to offer, but has begun labelling its kilo packages of sugar with the slogan in Russian, "Welcome to the sweet state." Nor is it all food for the stomach. The *Discount Bank* has provided food for thought in full-page advertisements in Russian in the Hebrew press.

*"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.  
If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of  
my mouth; if I prefer not JERUSALEM above my chief joy."*

(Psalms 137:5,6)



(Cover photos by W. Braun.)

Rosh Pinah is a small town in northern Israel, on the slope of Mt. Canaan, south of the Huleh Valley. This town was first established in 1878 by pious Jewish settlers who wanted to live independent of the aid the Jewish communities abroad were giving to the other Jewish settlements at that time. They gave their settlement the name *Gei Oni* meaning *Valley of My Strength*. Because of a lack of funds and farming experience, these settlers had to give up and disband after just two years of trying. Then, in 1882, the settlement was reestablished and given the name *Rosh Pinah* meaning *cornerstone* in Hebrew. The settlers chose this symbolic name, taken from Psalm 118:22, because theirs was the first Jewish settlement in the Galilee.

*"Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord: this gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is*

*marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:19-24).

### Our Righteousness

Jesus is our foundation stone. Without Him we are without holiness and the power to live in God's Kingdom. Jesus doesn't want us to continue living in bondage to sin and death — He paid a terrible price to redeem us. He took our place in death so that when God raised Him from the dead, we could live with Him in His life.

It says in Romans 8:32, "*He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" And, if the Son of God loved us enough to die in terrible agony in our place for our sins — then what a wonderful intercessor He must be on our behalf now that He has cleansed us and has given us life in His Kingdom.*

*What a firm foundation we stand on! Let's abound every day, more and more in His love.*