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Messianic Perspectives®

God has not forgotten the Jewish people, and neither have we.

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Most people don't understand the true nature of the War on Terror. It's already the second longest war in our nation's history, surpassed only by the Vietnam War (1959-1975). And it's unlike any other war we've fought.

Past wars have been instigated primarily by competing political ideologies or territorial disputes. The Civil War, for instance, was fought over states' rights and slavery. In the Spanish-American War, the US contested Spain's control of certain islands in the Pacific and the Caribbean (to include the Philippines, Guam, Cuba, and Puerto Rico). World War I was a conflict between four warring European empires. In World War II, we were fighting Fascism (Italy), Nazism (Germany), and nationalistic imperialism (Japan). In Korea and Vietnam, the enemy was international, expansionist Communism.

The War on Terror, however, is completely different. Our enemies in the War on Terror are militant, fanatical Islamic ideologues who are guided by the principle of *jihad*, or holy war. Their ultimate objective is to bring the world into submission (Islam means "submission" in Arabic) to Muslim law, or *Sharia*. Militant Muslims believe the Qur'an (Koran) teaches that those who refuse to accept the Islamic religion must be fought against until they submit by paying tribute (*jizyah* in Arabic) to their Muslim masters (Qur'an 9:29).

Is This the Decline and the Fall of the West?

Muslim extremists like Osama bin Laden see the "Christian" West as hopelessly decadent and corrupt; and unfortunately, they're not entirely wrong in their assessment.

Nowadays, America is Christian in name only. There is much about our country and its people that's still great, of course, but our spiritual foundations have been seriously eroded. Prayer has been banned from our public schools, the Ten Commandments can no longer be displayed in many public buildings, the traditional family is rapidly becoming a relic of the past, and

Seven Things They Don't Want You To Know About THE WAR ON TERROR

PART 1 By DR. GARY HEDRICK, PRESIDENT, CJFM

our school children can study every kind of religious (or irreligious) book except the Judeo-Christian Bible. Our postmodern society is obsessed with materialism, secularism, illicit sex, and self-indulgence. Sexual perversion is now considered acceptable and even fashionable.

So the militant imams are not wrong about everything. Their appraisal of the weak and decadent West is what leads them to the conclusion that they can win this war. They are convinced that we have lost our way and that we lack the resolve to resist their onslaught.

A Conspiracy as Old as Time

As we make our way through this study, we will examine the Islamic

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threat in some detail. We must also keep in mind, however, that the fanatical imams and their followers are not our primary foes. They are only dupes, string puppets, in a much broader conflict. Forces far more sinister than militant Muslims are lurking in the shadows. Those forces are manipulating the jihadists (and others) to do their bidding.

Most Americans have a dangerously simplistic view of the War on Terror. They think that all we have to do to win this war is simply project our military might halfway around the world and overwhelm the jihadists. Then when it's over, life will return to normal.

Well, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but that's not going to happen. The truth is that our lives will never be the same again. The people who want to kill us aren't going to just go away. Is this one of those situations where resistance is futile? We hope not; but so far, our military might has seen only limited success.

The Apostle Paul offers this explanation as to why this has been the case:

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12).

These, then, are our true enemies: Satan and his minions. Ultimately, the enemy's goal is to usurp God's position as Lord of lords (Isa. 14:14) and to establish a counterfeit kingdom on this earth (Rev. 17:1-18). He and his emissaries work behind the scenes, manipulating their human drones and scheming against God and His people. They work methodically and with almost infinite patience. From one generation to the next, these insidious and seditious agents of evil use unwitting political and religious leaders to achieve their purposes for this world.

Invisible Emissaries of Evil

Some people say they don't believe in the devil because they can't see him. They think he's a myth, a mere figment of humanity's collective imagination. But we

can't see the wind, either, can we? But we certainly see its effects, particularly when our coastal cities are battered by a hurricane! Likewise, we may not see the devil, but we certainly see what he does. In every generation since the beginning of time, the "works of the devil" (1 John 3:8) have been reflected in the immeasurable toll of heartache, despair, grief, and pain he has exacted upon the human race.

So it's an age-old conspiracy against the Son of God and His people. And the reality is that we can't fight a spiritual foe with physical weapons. How can one fight an unseen enemy? Troops, missiles, guns, and bombs are useless against these sinister forces that are at work in our world today.

This is one of the hard lessons that we've had to learn in Iraq. Even the United States of America, the mightiest military power in human history, has been unable to stem the murderous tide of evil in that troubled part of the world. Our well-intentioned President challenged the terrorists to "Bring it on!" and that's exactly what they have done!

Yet one gets the distinct impression that no one in Washington, from the President on down, knew what to expect once this war was in full swing. They were blindsided by an enemy unlike any other enemy we've ever faced—and a war unlike any other war we've ever fought.

There are certain aspects of this War on Terror that the perpetrators don't want you to know about. As far as they are concerned, the less we know about their ideology, motivations, and tactics, the better. So in this study, we will talk about seven specific things every believer in the Messiah needs to know about the ongoing War on Terror.

1. This war has a spiritual component at its very core.

The front lines in this war are not localized merely in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is a war for the hearts and

minds of men and women the world over. It's an epic struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil; and it's being waged all over the world, in every place where faithful believers are preaching the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ).

One battle line, for example, may be drawn in Arad, Israel, where Jewish believers pass through picket lines of hostile *Haredim* (ultra-Orthodox) just to come together and worship on the Sabbath. Another battle line may be in England or France, where one of our missionaries goes door-to-door in a Jewish neighborhood, telling people about Jesus the promised Messiah. Ground zero in this war is anywhere on planet earth where the Good News is proclaimed and the Holy Spirit is drawing people to the Lord Jesus.

This is not to minimize the sacrifice of our brave young men and women in the military. On the contrary, we have only the highest regard for our soldiers who have served (and are serving) in

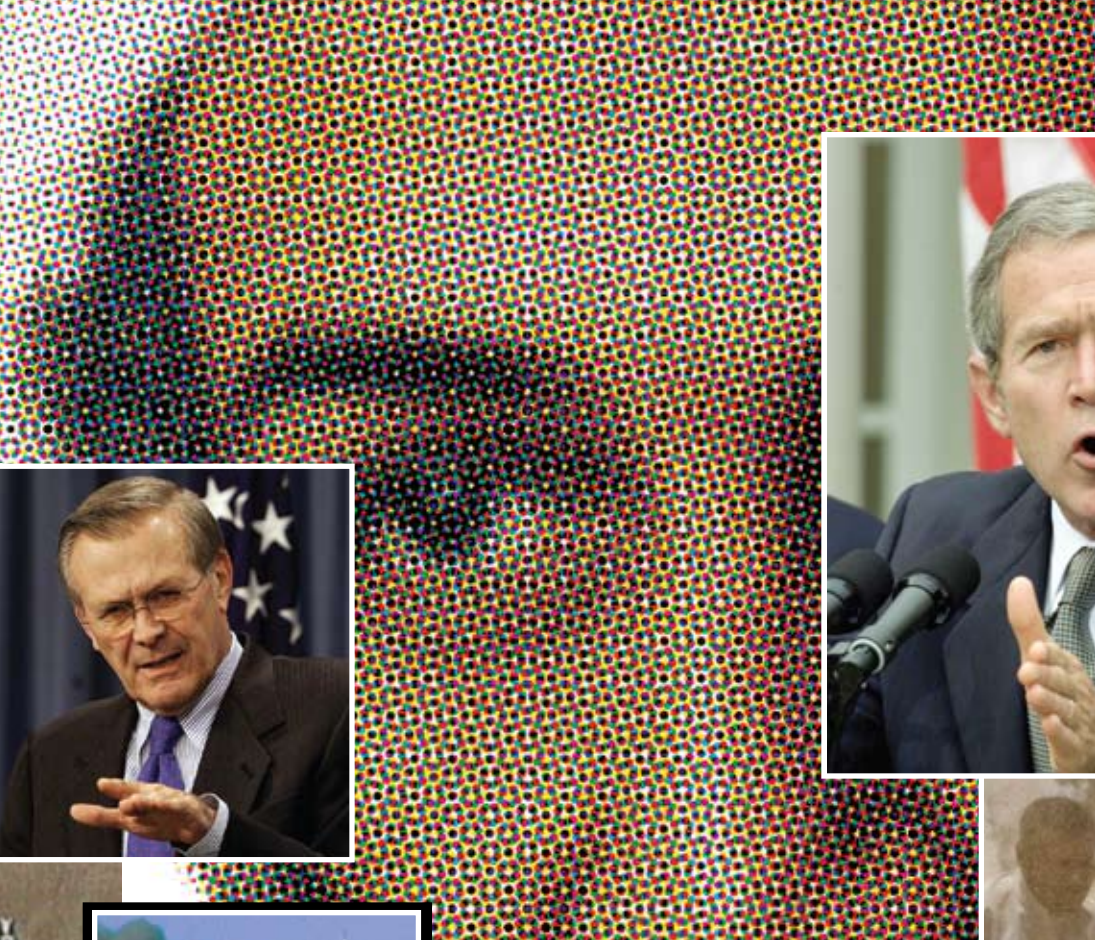


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Afghanistan, Iraq, and other parts of the world. My own two younger brothers, Bruce and Bill, are in the reserves and both have done tours in Iraq. While they were there, we prayed every day and hoped for their safe return—and thank God, they did. Other families have not been so fortunate. Our hearts go out to all of those families who have suffered tragic losses in this ongoing conflict.

Nonetheless, the fact remains that the only way to achieve a decisive and permanent victory in the War on Terror is through the power of God—and only as He changes the hearts and minds of those who are so bent on our destruction.

So What Can We Do?

Flexing our military muscle might be impressive in some superficial or carnal

way, and it might make us feel like we're lashing back at the enemy; but the reality is that physical force cannot and will not prevail in a spiritual war. That's why the most positive and constructive action we can take to help combat the global forces of terrorism is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ far and wide. It's "... *the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek [Gentile]*" (Rom. 1:16).

The Gospel itself is the only weapon at our disposal that Satan has no answer for. He is helpless when confronted with the powerful, penetrating, and persuasive Good News of Jesus the Messiah.

Yes, it's appropriate to take precautions at our airports. It's also helpful to cut off sources of funding for terrorist

organizations and to monitor the movements of known terrorists. Securing our borders is a prudent idea. And it's wise to draw the line against terrorists in places like Afghanistan and Iraq rather than to wait for them to reach our own shores. All of these measures are well-intentioned, but realistically, they're a lot like using your pinkie finger to try to stop a leak in Hoover Dam. The only ultimate solution to this problem is spiritual, not political or military, because only God can change the hearts and minds of those who wish to do us harm. Only He can transform people from the inside out (2 Cor. 5:17) and bring peace to this war-ravaged world (Isa. 9:6).

2. The geographical boundaries in this war are dangerously blurred.

In previous wars, we have generally known the identities and whereabouts of our enemies. But again, that is not the case for the War on Terror. Terrorists may strike

In May 2007, al-Qaeda said that they are planning an attack on the US that will make 9/11 look like a minor incident. They said that their next attack will rival the devastation of Hiroshima.

Terrorist Acts Suspected of or Inspired by al Qaeda



February 26, 1993

A 500-kg bomb exploded in the underground garage of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing 6 and injuring at least 1,040 others.



October 4, 1993

Members of a Somali militia shot down two Black Hawk helicopters, killing 18 American servicemen.



June 25, 1996

A fuel truck bomb exploded outside Khobar Towers, a US military housing facility, in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 American servicemen, and wounding 240 US personnel and 515 others.



August 7, 1998

Bombs exploded nearly simultaneously at the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, and the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: 12 US and 247 Kenyan citizens, 32 foreign service nationals were killed, and approximately 5,000 Kenyans, 6 US citizens, and 13 foreign service nationals were injured; 7 foreign service nationals and 3 Tanzanian citizens were killed, 1 US and 76 Tanzanian citizens were injured.



December 1999

A plot to bomb millennium celebrations in Seattle was foiled when Customs agents arrested an Algerian for smuggling explosives into the US.



October 12, 2000

US Navy destroyer USS Cole in port in Aden, Yemen, was heavily damaged when a small dinghy loaded with explosives rammed it. 17 US sailors were killed, and 39 others were injured.



September 11, 2001

Hijackers crashed two commercial airliners into twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. One hijacked plane was crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and another in a rural field in southern Pennsylvania. The death toll was 3,025 US citizens and other nationals.



December 23, 2001

American Airlines Flight 63, which was carrying 197 passengers from Paris to Miami, was diverted to Boston after Richard Reid was seen trying to light a fuse in his shoe and was subdued by crew members and passengers.



April 11, 2002

A fuel tanker was blown up outside a historic synagogue on the Tunisian island of Djerba, killing 16 people, including 11 German tourists.



May 8, 2002

A car bomb exploded outside the Sheraton Hotel in Karachi, Pakistan, killing 14, including 11 French citizens. 40 others were wounded.



June 14, 2002

A bomb exploded outside the US Consulate and Marriott Hotel in Karachi, Pakistan, killing 12 and wounding 51.



October 6, 2002

An explosive-laden boat rammed the French oil tanker Limburg, which had been anchored about five miles off al-Dhabbah, Yemen. One person was killed, and four were wounded.



October 12, 2002

A car bomb exploded outside the Sari Club Discotheque in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, killing 202, and wounding 300 more. The dead included 7 Americans and 88 Australians.



November 28, 2002

A three-person suicide car bomb attack on the Israeli-owned Paradise Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya. Both Israelis and Kenyans were among the 16 dead and 40 wounded.



May 12, 2003

Suicide bombers attacked three residential compounds for foreign workers and a US-Saudi office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: 10 Americans were among the 34 dead. A truck bomb explosion demolished a government compound in Znamenskoye, Chechnya, and killing 54.



May 16, 2003

A team of 12 suicide bombers attacked five targets in Casablanca, Morocco, killing 45, and wounding 100. The targets were a Spanish restaurant, a Jewish community and cemetery, a hotel, and the Belgian Consulate.



August 5, 2003

A car bomb exploded outside the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing 12, and wounding 150. Among the dead was a Dutch citizen. Among the wounded were an American, a Canadian, an Australian, and 2 Chinese citizens.



November 8, 2003

In Riyadh, a suicide car bombing in the Muhaya residential compound, which was occupied mainly by other Arab nationals, killed 17, and wounded 122, including 4 Americans.



November 15, 2003

Two suicide truck bombs exploded outside the Neve Shalom and Beth Israel synagogues in Istanbul, Turkey, killing 25, and wounding at least 300 more.

anywhere and at any time. Some are Arabs and others, like the Iranians, are not (the Iranians are Persians). They massacre people indiscriminately and without hesitation—including innocent civilians, even women and children—and (we repeat) they can strike *anywhere* in the world, *suddenly* and *unexpectedly*.

My brothers, both of whom served in and around Baghdad during their respective tours of duty, said that this was one of the big problems in Iraq. They couldn't identify the enemy because everyone looked the same! A harmless-looking grandmother might be wearing a belt of deadly explosives under her garments. The next car or truck that approaches might be a gigantic bomb on wheels. Al-Qaeda operatives are trained to hijack a plane anywhere in the world and use it as a weapon of mass destruction, as they did on 9/11. Now we are told that they are

trying to acquire nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons—and many security experts say it's only a matter of time before they succeed.

Al-Qaeda's leaders, in fact, said in May 2007 that they are planning an attack on the US that will make 9/11 look like a minor incident. They assure us that their next attack will rival the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki of World War II. Of course talking about it and doing it are two different things.

Can they actually pull it off? Pat Robertson of Regent University and The 700 Club says that they not only can, but they will. Earlier this year he said God told him that the US will be hit with a massive terror attack sometime after September of this year (The Associated Press report, 01/02/2007). Actually, whether he really heard from God or not, the odds are stacked in Mr. Robertson's favor. Sooner or later, the terrorists will hit us again—or at least, they will try.

As President Bush has pointed out, we have to detect and stop terrorist incursions 100 percent of the time. The terrorists, however, only have to make it through 1 percent of the time.

That's why terrorism experts say

it's only a matter of time before another 9/11 happens on American soil.

The fact that there have been no major follow-up attacks in the aftermath of 9/11 is a testament to the dedicated work of the many law enforcement and Homeland Security personnel all over the US, with the help of our allies abroad. It is also a testament to the grace of God. But how much longer will He continue to show mercy toward a country that so brazenly and persistently disobeys Him?

3. Many terrorists are influenced by the prophetic teachings of radical Islam.

A notable exception to the general lack of geographical definition (as discussed above) is Iran. Tehran is undoubtedly at the vortex of this swirling cesspool of international terrorism.

Islamic extremists have their own eschatology of where this world is headed and what the future holds. One of their expectations is that Allah will send a savior and deliverer to lead them to victory over their “infidel” enemies.

Following the overthrow of the Shah during the 1979 Iranian Revolution, an Islamic state (the Islamic Republic of Iran) was established with a jihadist Grand Ayatollah, Rouhollah Mousavi Khomeini, as its Supreme Leader.

Today, the Iranian presidency belongs to a Shiite Muslim, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose policies reflect his understanding of Islamic prophecy. In February of this year, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) website posted a lengthy document entitled, “The World Toward Illumination.” It’s based on an IRIB series of programs about the coming of the *Mahdi* (also known as the Twelfth or Hidden Imam), the Islamic messiah.

This is yet another missing dimension in our understanding of the War on Terror. Islamic extremists have their own eschatology of where this world is headed and what the future holds. One of their expectations is that Allah will send a savior and deliverer to lead them to victory over their “infidel” enemies.

One transcript offers a detailed description of this Islamic messiah:

He will appear as a handsome young man, clad in neat clothes and exuding the fragrance of paradise. His face will glow with love and kindness for the human beings and because of this reason a famous hadith from the Prophet of Islam . . . has referred to him as *Inn-al-Mahdi Tavous ahl al-Jannah*, which means “Indeed the Mahdi will be like a Peacock among the People of Paradise.” He has a radiant forehead, black piercing eyes and a broad chest. He very much resembles his ancestor Prophet Mohammad . . . Heavenly light and justice accompany him. He will overcome enemies and oppressors with the help of God, and as per the promise of the Almighty, the Mahdi will eradicate all corruption and injustice from the face of the earth and establish the global government of peace, justice, and equity (“The Seat of the Mahdi’s Global Government Will Be the City of Kufa [in Iraq],” Islamic Republic of Iran broadcast on Monday, November 20, 2006).

Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, has this entry under “Islamic eschatology”:

Islamic eschatology is concerned with the *Qiyamah* (end of the world; Last Judgement) and the final judgement of human-

ity. Eschatology relates to one of the six articles of faith (*aqidah*) of Islam. Like the other Abrahamic religions, Islam teaches the bodily resurrection of the dead, the fulfillment of a divine plan for creation, and the immortality of the human soul (though Jews do not necessarily view the soul as eternal); the righteous are rewarded with the pleasures of *Jannah* (Heaven), while the unrighteous are punished in *Jahannam* (Hell). A significant fraction (one third, in fact) of the Quran deals with these beliefs, with many *hadith* elaborating on the themes and details. Islamic apocalyptic literature describing the Armageddon is often known as *fitna* (a test) and *malahim* (or *ghayba* in the shi’ite tradition).

A more detailed analysis of Islamic eschatology is available on The Middle East Media Research Institute’s website (www.memri.org).

4. We must oppose evil with every means at our disposal.

No one in his right mind relishes the prospect of war. Warfare is a horrible blight on human history. It has caused untold misery, pain, and heartache for millions of people over many generations. But sometimes war is necessary to oppose the evil forces of this world. Many antiwar activists both here and abroad do not understand this. They say we should call off the War on Terror—as if that were really possible—and bring the troops home. In fact, the US Congress has called for a timetable for the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. Now the jihadists know that all they have to do is wait patiently and, eventually, when we leave, they can sweep in and take over the country.

When this happens, Iraq will almost certainly fall into the hands of the Shiites, who outnumber the Sunnis and other groups by a great majority and who are closely allied with Iran. And if Iraq were to become a Shiite state, it would create a jihadist axis of evil in the Middle East that’s far more dangerous and threatening to Israel and her allies than Saddam Hussein ever was—particularly if and when Iraq acquires nuclear weapons.

The Ostrich Mentality

Evidently, many Westerners think the jihadists will go away if they simply ignore



November 20, 2003

Two more suicide truck bombings devastated the British HSBC Bank and the British Consulate General in Istanbul, Turkey, killing 27, and wounding at least 450. The dead included Consul General Roger Short.



March 11, 2004

10 bombs on 4 trains exploded almost simultaneously during the morning rush hour in Madrid, Spain, killing 191, and injuring at least 1,800.



May 29-31, 2004

Terrorists attacked Saudi oil company offices in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, taking foreign oil workers hostage in a nearby residential compound, and leaving 22 dead, including 1 American.



June 11-19, 2004

Terrorists kidnapped and executed American Paul Johnson, Jr., in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. 2 other Americans and a BBC cameraman were killed by gun attacks.



September 9, 2004

A one-ton car bomb, packed into a small delivery van, exploded outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing 9, and wounding over 150 others.



December 6, 2004

Terrorists stormed the US Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, killing 9.



July 7, 2005

Bombs exploded on three underground trains and one bus in London, England, killing 52 commuters, and injuring 700.



October 1, 2005

Three suicide bombings at two locations in Bali, Indonesia, killed 22 people.



November 9, 2005

Suicide bombers hit three American hotels (Radisson, Grand Hyatt, and Days Inn) in Amman, Jordan, and killing 57.



August 2006

More than 25 suspects were arrested in a plot to blow up commercial jetliners between London and the US.

Basic timeline for al-Qaeda activity comes from the Infoplease.com website, with cross-referencing to the BBC News’ al-Qaeda timeline and the US Department of State’s website of terrorist activities from 1961 to 2003.

www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0884893.html
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/3618762.stm
www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/5902.htm

Some terrorist activities committed by Muslims may be confused with Islamist terrorism and do not properly fall under that category. These include acts committed by nationalist and separatist organizations which derive inspiration from secular ideologies rather than Islamic beliefs.

What Is the Relationship Between Israel and the Church?

BY DR. W. A. CRISWELL

In Galatians 6:16, Paul writes: *“And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.”* What does Paul mean by “the Israel of God?” Who are the people whom Paul refers to as “the Israel of God?” In the Epistle to the Romans, Paul writes: *“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people for which he foreknew . . .”* (11:1-2). Who are “his people?” Again, in Romans 10:1, Paul writes: *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer . . . for Israel is, that they might be saved.”* Who are Paul’s “brethren?” Then in Romans 9:1-4, Paul writes: *“I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; . . .”*

Who are these people whom Paul refers to by name of “Israelites?” To me the answer is simple, rudimentary, and a primary identification. However, my answer places me in an almost inconsequential minority in the theological world, since the large majority of Christians identify Israel with the New Testament Church. All of the prophecies and all of the promises of God made to the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, say these Christians [i.e., the majority of Christendom], were not made to God’s ancient people but to the Church.

Can this identification of God’s ancient people with the Church be correct? Is there now no Israel in the mind of God, no continuing of Israel in the Bible? Are the Old Testament prophecies and promises pertinent only to the Church? Does Israel, God’s ancient people, as such, no longer exist in the mind and purpose of God?

At this point, let me say that the correct identification of Israel is a key to the true interpretation of the whole Bible. If Israel means God’s ancient people,

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the Bible becomes as clear as truth itself. If Israel means the New Testament Church, the teaching of the Bible becomes obscure.

What About the Seed of Abraham?

That the Bible clearly teaches Israel to mean the seed of Abraham and that this is the only meaning of the term *Israel* is my sincere conviction. As I read the Bible, I always had the perfect satisfaction in my heart as to its teaching, except for one passage—Galatians 6:16—wherein Paul writes: “*And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.*” This phrase, “*the Israel of God,*” troubled me. It troubled me for a long time. The question which kept pressing itself upon me was, “Is this an instance where the word *Israel* refers to the Church?”

As I studied and pondered over the matter, praying and asking God for an answer, the rule of biblical interpretation came to my mind; namely, the guide to sound biblical interpretation is always to be found in the context.

God does not speak to us in isolated texts—in words pulled out of context and considered by themselves. Reviewing in my mind the setting of Galatians 6:16, I remembered that the subject of Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia was the Judaizing controversy. When Paul began preaching the message of the Son of God, he was violently opposed by the Judaizers—those who believed and taught that *no* man could be saved by faith alone, without works.

These false teachers said that man must superimpose upon his faith in

Christ all the Mosaic institutions and the Mosaic Law. Remembering this, I came to the very definite conclusion that in the Galatian letter Paul is speaking of those Jewish converts who had accepted the Gospel by faith *apart* from works. In contradistinction to the Judaizers, Paul called the Jews who had accepted the Lord Jesus Christ “*the Israel of God.*” Hebrew Christians of Paul's day and the Hebrew Christians of today are, therefore, “*the Israel of God*”; that is, Israelites who have found in Christ—by faith alone—pardon for sin, life everlasting, and the fulfillment of all the messianic prophecies. They are the Jews who have found a Savior in Jesus Christ.

Paul's Great *Musterion*

I cannot imagine it possible that the New Testament Church and this present Age of Grace were hidden from the eyes of the Old Testament prophets and seers. But the fact is, they never saw it. This is why Paul in the Ephesian letter (3:3) calls the Church a *musterion* (mystery), a secret hidden in the heart of God, not revealed until God made it known through the Apostle. And what was this *musterion* of Paul's? That some time between the first and second comings of Jesus Christ, there would be this present Age of Grace, an age of the Holy Spirit, in which the Gospel would be preached and God would call out and make of Jew and Gentile one body, a new thing, to be called “the Church.”

The Old Testament prophets saw the coming of Christ as the suffering servant, the Messiah, by whose stripes we are healed. Again, they saw Him as the coming *pantokrator* (king and ruler) of the whole creation. But they never saw the

valley in between the first and second comings. This is the valley in which we now live, the Age of Grace, the age of the Holy Spirit, in which the *mysterion* (mystery) was revealed through the Apostle Paul, to make of one body Jew and Gentile—a new thing—the Church of Jesus Christ.

Has God Cast Away His People?

In the Roman epistle, Paul asks: “. . . Hath God cast away his people? . . .” (11:1). We Gentile Christians of today are in the Church; we are members of the Body of our Lord. We are living in the Age of Grace in which the Gospel of the Son of God is being preached. But what about the Israelites of today and Paul’s question, “. . . Hath God cast away his people? . . .” Is this question not as pertinent today as when Paul raised it? What of those Israelites who belong to the household of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Is God done with them? Has God found Himself through with them? And what about the prophecies and promises that cover the pages of the Old Testament concerning God’s ancient people? Are these prophecies and promises to fall to the ground? Does God forget? He made these promises long ago. Are they old and worn out, is God weary of them, and will He forget them? Has God indeed cast away His people? Paul replies, “*God forbid!*”

How could God make a promise and not keep it? Paul argues this point: “*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery [mysterion], . . . that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it*

is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance [i.e., change]” (Rom. 11:25-29).

Or as Numbers 23:19 says: “*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent [i.e., change]: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*”

Has God Forgotten His Promises?

Every syllable of our Bible shall be fulfilled in God’s time and in God’s way, and every promise God has made He will faithfully keep. This is our message concerning Israel in the remembrance of God. Has God forgotten? Has He cast Israel away? Are they no longer in the mind and purpose of the Almighty? Are there no future events in history that shall include Israel, God’s elect and chosen people? Let us look in the Scriptures.

The story of the Book of Exodus begins in a remembrance of God: “*And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: . . .*” (2:23a). This king was that cruel monarch under whose surveillance Moses fled when he killed the Egyptian taskmaster (2:12,15). “. . . *And the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant*

But what about the Israelites of today and Paul’s question, “. . . Hath God cast away his people? . . .” Is this question not as pertinent today as when Paul raised it? What of those Israelites who belong to the household of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Is God done with them?

with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them" (vv. 23b-25).

God appeared unto Moses and appointed him to stand before Pharaoh, and said to Moses: "... *I am the LORD: I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, . . . [and] established my covenant with them to give them [this land], the land of their pilgrimage [where] they were strangers . . . I have also heard [their groanings] . . .*" (Ex. 6:2-5). "I am sending thee to deliver my people Israel, for I will bring into remembrance my covenant with them" (paraphrase of vv. 6-8).

God kept His word and delivered His people Israel from Egyptian bondage. Then came the wilderness journey and idolatry, the worship of the golden calf; and the Lord said to Moses: "Stand aside and let my fury turn against these people, and out thy loins will I raise up a nation that will do my will" (paraphrase of Exodus 32:10). And Moses stood before the Lord and besought the Lord for the people: "*Remember Abraham, Isaac, and [Jacob], thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever*" (Ex. 32:13).

And the Lord remembered His covenant. In the 26th chapter of Leviticus, Moses assures the people by power and in the Spirit of God that in the day that they transgress and are scattered among the nations, God will not forget them. "*Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land. . . . And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God*" (vv. 42, 44).

Paul asks in Romans 11:1: "... *Hath God cast away his people? . . .*" How could God cast away His people and be God? How could He forget what He said to Moses: "... *I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, . . . But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, . . . I am the LORD*" (Lev. 26:44b-45).

Then David in Psalm 105 sings of God's covenant: "*He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant: Saying, Unto thee will I give the*

***In the 26th chapter of
Leviticus, Moses assures
the people that in the day
that they are scattered
among the nations, God
will not forget them.***

land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance" (vv. 8-11).

Truly, God is not a man that He should lie, that He should repent (change) or forget, or that He should make a promise and fail to fulfill it. God has a purpose and a gracious one for His people Israel. Should not this fact fill our hearts with joy?

What About the Jews of Jesus' Day?

When our Lord lived here on earth in the days of His flesh, the Bible says [that] His own brethren did not believe on Him. This is expressly pointed out in the Gospel of John (7:5). His own brethren, the young men with whom He grew up in the household of His mother Mary and her husband Joseph, did not believe Him to be the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the Messiah of Israel. Evidently, this doubt for our Lord and His messianic ministry on the part of His own brethren was so deep-seated that when our Savior was about to give up His human life on the Cross, He did not commit His mother Mary to James, or Jude, or Joseph, or Simon, but to the beloved and sainted disciple John, who took her to his own home and kept and cared for her as he would have cherished his own mother. Even after our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection, when the time arrived for His ascension and return to glory, his brethren were still in unbelief.

It is impossible for those of us who love our Lord to imagine a sadder or more grievous condition than to have such an antipathy develop toward our Lord and His messiahship by members of His own family in the house-

hold where He was brought up, and to have His brethren remain in rejection and unbelief after His ascension and return to Heaven! We can all derive some consolation from the fact that before our Savior returned to Heaven, He appeared personally to James, the eldest son of Joseph, and probably also to the whole family. This may be assumed from Luke's language in the first chapter of the Book of Acts, where he says they were "all assembled together" for prayer with the disciples and probably with Mary (His mother) and His own brethren. Before our Lord returned to Heaven, He personally appeared to His brethren and undoubtedly won them to the faith that saves.

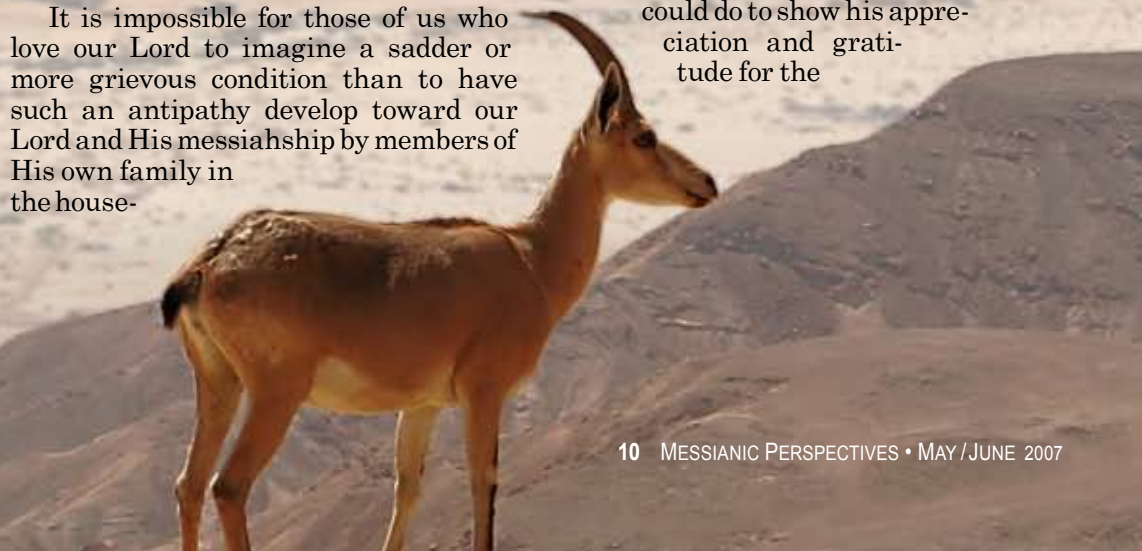
This much we may safely believe with much rejoicing. One can scarcely think of anything more blessed and precious that God could do for His people than win them back to Himself that they too might be saved. What greater blessing could God bestow upon His own? Isn't such an act in complete harmony with Paul's prayer to God for Israel? "*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved*" (Rom. 10:1). Thus, it will be with Israel in the remembrance of God just as it has been and will continue to be with Gentiles in the remembrance of God.

A Personal Experience

Some years ago when I was a pastor of a small country church, I attended, in another church, the funeral service of a man who had been saved and brought to Christ "in remembrance of a friend." The deceased had been prodigal and wayward in his youth, although his father had been a faithful Christian believer and continued as such until his death.

In his earlier years, the father had befriended a newcomer to the small farming community in which the father and his family lived. As a result of the father's advice and encouragement, the stranger prospered, and he never forgot the kindness and encouragement, which he had received from the father over the years. Then when the father died, this stranger began to wonder what he

could do to show his appreciation and gratitude for the



never-failing help he had received from him. He thought of the prodigal and wayward son the father had left behind and said to himself, "In remembrance of what that boy's father did for me, I will win this boy to Christ."

A revival meeting was to be held on a certain evening in the local tabernacle in which I had often preached as a teenager during my first pastorate. Before the meeting, this stranger made the rounds of all his friends and neighbors, urging them to be present at the meeting, because a certain young man, whom he named, would be there and "was going to be saved."

The young man was there, the sermon was preached, and the appeal made. During the appeal, the young man fled the tabernacle. The stranger followed and caught up with him. Relying upon the promises of God, he prayed with the young man and persuaded him to return to the meeting and go to the front. There, attended by his kneeling Christian friends, the young man came through and gave his heart to Jesus.

During the years that followed, this young man became an outstanding Christian. At his death, some years later, I attended his funeral, although I was then pastor of another church in another community. Can you think of a finer thing anyone could do than what that stranger did in remembrance of a friend than to bring that friend's wayward son to Christ? This is exactly what God will do for the erring children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God will remember their faithfulness, His covenant with them, and their sacrifices in laying down their lives that the Word of God might prosper, and that Israel might be the fleshly channel through which the Son of God would come into the world.

Israel in the Remembrance of God

I repeat: God will remember His people and will appear before them in person at the consummation of the present age—before history is finished. Just as the Lord Jesus appeared to His own brethren before He returned to glory,

so He will appear to Israel at the end of the age. The prophets have promised it. Zechariah says: "... I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications; and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, . . ." (12:10-11). "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness" (13:1).

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, . . . and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee . . . that at [the] evening time it shall be light . . . And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: . . . In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: . . ." (14:4-5, 7, 9, 20-21).



The Word of the Lord stands forever.

The covenant-keeping God who remembers His ancient people is the same covenant-keeping God who will remember us. God will not forget the least of His saints who put their trust in Him.

The Prophet Zechariah is saying here that when the Lord shall appear to His brethren and show them His scars, they shall mourn and be in bitterness for their rejection of Him and their past sins, and they shall turn and accept Him as their Messiah. Then shall there be holiness over the whole earth, even in the kitchen with its pots and pans which will then be as holy as the golden vessels before the altar. What a miracle this will be! Truly God has not forgotten or cast away His people. Although the present day sees them [Israel] in rejection and unbelief, the day is coming when we shall see them in mourning, in repentance, in contrition—which will be followed by joyful acceptance of the Messiah whom they in their ignorance had once delivered to be crucified. Think of it!

In this consummation of God's purpose for Israel, we have the explanation of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8: *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren . . . After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one [bosperei to ektromati] born out of due time."*

This explanation of Paul's is an amazing one. Paul is saying that after Christ appeared to the Apostles and to over five hundred brethren, and then to James His brother, He was seen of Paul also *bosperei* (as it were) *ektromati* (in abortion); that is, before I [Paul] was supposed to be

born. The expression is full of meaning. In other words, Zechariah has prophesied that the Lord will appear before His people Israel at the consummation of the present age and that His appearance before His own brethren and preceding His ascension was, in a sense, a promise of His future appearance before the nation—so that His appearance to Paul on the Damascus Road was *bosperei to ektromati*, and as it were, an abortion to "one born out of due time."

God's Promises Are Yea and Amen

The remembrance of God! The Lord will not forget His covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their descendants who for the faith that sustained them poured out their lifeblood in His glorious service "of whom the world was not worthy," and through whom, according to the flesh, Christ came. The covenant-keeping God who remembers His ancient people is the same covenant-keeping God who will remember *us*. God will not forget the *least* of His saints who put their trust in *Him*.

Dr. W. A. Criswell (1909-2002), longtime pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was also the founder and chancellor of Criswell College. He earned the degrees of Th.M. and Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was awarded eight honorary doctorates in the course of his distinguished ministry. He also [wrote] fifty-four published books. Dr. Criswell was known primarily for his commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture, expository preaching, and a love for the Jewish people. This [article] was based upon a sermon by the same title that Dr. Criswell preached in 1982.



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Note: Italicized Scriptures in this study are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

This article is available in booklet form for \$3 (including postage and handling) from The Pasche Institute of Jewish Studies, Criswell College, 4010 Gaston Ave., Dallas, TX 75246.

QUESTION: We've been seeing articles in *The Jerusalem Post* recently about the restoration of the ancient Sanhedrin in Israel. Do you see this development as being prophetically significant?

ANSWER: Yes, we do, for a variety of reasons. Perhaps the most compelling consideration is the practical need for a Sanhedrin. That is, when the Messiah arrives in Israel—an event viewed by traditional Judaism as the Messiah's first coming, and by messianic believers (or Christians) as His second coming—an official, legal body must be empowered to grant Him formal recognition on behalf of the entire nation.

We know that the prophetic Scriptures talk about a future spiritual rebirth of Israel (e.g., Rom. 11:26, Jer. 31:31-34). Someday, Israel will receive the Lord Jesus as her Savior and Messiah. But what many of us have wondered is, how, exactly, will this happen? Will there be an election or some sort of nationwide referendum? How will Israel decide to receive the Messiah?

Now it appears that the answer may have been right under our noses the whole time—specifically, in the biblical accounts of the betrayal, arrest, trial, condemnation, and crucifixion of Jesus (Yeshua) of Nazareth. Why couldn't the same body that rejected Him 2,000 years ago also be the one to receive Him when He returns at the end of this age?

Matthew tells us that when the Jewish leaders and their Roman escorts arrested Jesus, they immediately took Him to appear before a hastily called, middle-of-the-night assembly of the Sanhedrin (Matt. 26:57). This is where He was presented, officially, to the Jewish nation as the Messiah (v. 63). The Lord acknowledged that He was, indeed, the Messiah (v. 64). The High Priest, in turn, declared that His confession was blasphemy (v. 65). The other assembled members agreed and condemned Jesus to death (v. 66). So they rejected Him on behalf of the entire nation. The Bible says, "*He came unto his own, and his own received him not*" (John 1:11, KJV).

The difference, however, is that when He comes the second time, He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords, rather than as the meek and lowly suffering servant. No one will beat, taunt, or spit on Him as they did 2,000 years ago (Matt. 26:67-68, 27:29-31).

When the armies of the world surround Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-3), the High Priest and members of the Sanhedrin will realize, somehow, that Yeshua is their only hope. In desperation, they will fall on their faces and cry out, "*Ba-ruch Haba BaShem Adonai*" ("Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord").

Bible Questions AND Answers

By DR. GARY HEDRICK

The Sanhedrin's confession appears to be the prophetic trigger that signals the Lord's return to earth and His intervention at that crisis moment to rescue Israel from annihilation. Speaking to the nation 2,000 years ago, He said, "*I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'*" (Matt. 23:39). This is the order of events: First, the members of the Sanhedrin "see" Him with their spiritual eyes and make their messianic declaration from Psalm 118:26; then they see Him with their physical eyes when He descends from the heavens to intervene in the Armageddon campaign (Rev. 16:16, 19:11-16).

This is why we believe that the revival of the Sanhedrin is prophetically significant. It doesn't necessarily mean, however, that the group currently in the news will be the same body that eventually recognizes Him as Messiah. We must realize that there's nothing to prevent anyone from getting 71 rabbis together and then declaring that they are the "Sanhedrin"—and that is basically what has happened. This present "assembly" has little credibility and is made up largely of rabbis from marginal groups with minimal mainstream support in Israel. Some of them advocate that Israel's democratic government should be replaced by a religious monarchy. One of their leading candidates for "King of Israel" is reportedly an Israeli rabbi named

Yosef Dayan, who claims to be a direct descendant of King David.

Of course, we believe a much more direct descendant of King David will return one day to assume His rightful place as King of Israel—namely, *HaAdon Yeshua HaMashiach*, the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:1-17).

In any case, the Sanhedrin movement cannot be dismissed as merely the brainchild of a fanatical religious minority in Israel. Government officials, including the current Minister of Religious Affairs, have voiced their support for the idea of a restored Sanhedrin. Even the late Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, in a 1976 book that bore the Orthodox Union's seal of approval, wrote:

It is just possible that all Jewish leaders would agree to name . . . [a] leader and confer upon him the Mosaic ordination. The chain of this ordination was broken some sixteen hundred years ago and must be renewed before the Sanhedrin, the religious supreme court and legislature of the Jews, can be re-established. If this Tzadik was so ordained by the entire community, he could then re-establish the Sanhedrin. This is a necessary condition for the rebuilding of the Temple, as we find (Isa. 1:26): "And I will restore your judges as at first, and your counselors as at the beginning, afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city." Such a Sanhedrin would also be able to formally recognize the Messiah (*The Real Messiah* [New York, NY: National Conference of Synagogue Youth, 1976], p. 93).

So the Sanhedrin movement in Israel has been simmering on the back burner for decades. It's nothing new, and it's here to stay. In the future, watch for an effort to establish a much more diverse Sanhedrin in Israel that includes representatives from many Jewish groups, including Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, and other factions. This will be one to keep an eye on!



Réunion des Musées Nationaux / Art Resource, NY



SOULS FOR THE MESSIAH

In Leviticus 23, God instructed Israel to celebrate each of the seven feasts. Passover, the first feast, was to be celebrated as a *permanent* ordinance (Exodus 12:14). And for thousands of years, the nation of Israel has been observing these holy days, which date back to the time of Moses. However, beginning with the first century AD, the festivals have taken on a new significance. Jesus was crucified during Passover, thereby providing the ultimate exodus from bondage, not only for Israel, but also for the world. It is with this in mind and God's plan of redemption through the seven feasts that CJFM workers conduct "Messiah in the Passover" demonstrations, or Seders (dinners), with such heartfelt urgency.

Richard Toviah, CJFM missionary (Phoenix), writes, "As we are seeing the Day of the Lord approaching, I've been asking the Lord to place in me a greater hunger for souls. During the Passover season this year, I've been emphasizing the Good News as never before." During a Passover presentation at a church where he had spoken occasionally in the past, Richard noticed quite a number of new faces. He said, "At the end of the service I was led to let people know that they needed to repent of their sins and cover the doorposts and lintels of their hearts by the Blood of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus the Messiah, to receive eternal life through Him. I was amazed to see six individuals give their hearts to the Lord through repentance and faith in Jesus. I later learned that the heart of one of these individuals had hardened, but on that day he rededicated his life to the Lord."

From Las Vegas, **CJFM missionary, Richard Hill**, writes, "We started the Passover Seder with great anticipation, knowing that there were some unsaved Jewish and Gentile people in the audience of 111. I taught about Yeshua

by adults who have been in mainline churches for years." This has been the case in many of the churches that she has ministered in of late. She relates how, "Following a 'Messiah in the Passover' presentation, a woman member of a mainline church responded to the message

(Jesus) being the one and only Passover Lamb who died shedding His blood on the doorposts of our hearts, so that we could be redeemed and have eternal life with Him. After a wonderful Jewish-style family meal, I gave an invitation, and a Jewish couple and a Gentile man prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Talking with me afterwards, they told me they loved the Passover Seder and now know how much God loves *them*! Following a Passover presentation at another church, four children prayed to receive Jesus. At still another church, five people trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Praise the Lord for His grace!"

Michelle Beadle, CJFM missionary (New Orleans), is also blessed by "how often decisions are made as a result of our 'Messiah in the Passover' presentations by children who are hearing the message for the first time and sometimes

and gave her heart to the Lord." On another occasion, "An impoverished man who had been helping out at a church in Baton Rouge prayed the sinner's prayer with me at the conclusion of the program. At still another mainline church, I presented 'Messiah in the Passover' and, although this is a wonderful program for the whole family, there was only one child in attendance with his mother. It was this child, however, who gave his heart to the Lord. At another Passover

I gave an invitation, and a Jewish couple and a Gentile man prayed to receive Jesus.

presentation, two children prayed to receive Jesus. Altogether, from February to the end of April, as a response to our 'Messiah in the Passover' presentations, 61 decisions were made for the Lord."

All of our CJFM missionaries praise the Lord and thank the participating churches for the privilege of using them for His honor and glory and bringing souls to the saving grace of Messiah Jesus through the feast of Passover.

Photography by R. A. Higbee



From left to right: Michelle Beadle, Richard Hill (while sharing the Gospel in New York City last summer), and Richard Toviah.

America and Israel will be eliminated, Sheik declares

Acting Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Sheik Ahmad Bahr, delivered the "sermon" at a Sudan mosque in April, 2007. The translation of his message and prayer was provided by the Middle East Media Research Institute. Below are excerpts taken from www.memritv.org #1426:

"They [Israel and America] are cowards who are eager for life while we are eager for death for the sake of Allah."

"Allah willing, 'you will be victorious,' while America and Israel will be annihilated."

"Oh Allah, vanquish the Jews and their supporters . . . kill them all, down to the very last one."

"Oh Allah, . . . defeat the Jews and the Americans, and bring us victory over them."



Credit: Getty Images

"A Muslim mother should raise her children on prayer, good deeds, and . . . on Jihad, . . . [this] in Islam is a duty that one cannot forego. . . . If we are remiss in this duty, we sin. I am willing to sacrifice my ten sons."

Maryam Mohammad Yousif Farhat, Palestinian Council Member, and mother of three "martyred" Hamas terrorists.

Seven Things They Don't Want
You To Know About the War on Terror
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them. What they don't seem to understand is that our enemies are coming after us, no matter where we are. If we withdraw from Iraq, we will have to confront them in Europe. And if we don't confront them in Europe, we will have to confront them somewhere else. Eventually, we will find ourselves fighting for our very survival right here on our own soil.

I said earlier that the War on Terror cannot be won merely with physical weapons and military

There is an inescapable spiritual component at the core of this conflict with Islamic terrorism.

might—and that is certainly true. I also said there is an inescapable spiritual component at the core of this conflict with Islamic terrorism—and that is also true. We should not, however, discount the physical means at our disposal to fight terrorism. Would you want to live in a city where there was no police force to enforce the laws and help stem the tide of evil? I know that I wouldn't! The tragic events of 9/11 were a foreshadowing of things to come right here on our home turf if we don't at least try to fight back.

A popular cable talk show host recently declared his own pacifist

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From the Grand Jury Indictment of Zacarias Moussaoui The Words of Usama Bin Laden



The Fatwah Regarding Deaths of Nonbelievers

On various occasions, an unindicted co-conspirator advised other members of al-Qaeda that it was Islamically proper to engage in violent actions against "infidels" (nonbelievers), even if others might be killed by such actions, because if the others were "innocent," they would go to paradise, and if they were not "innocent," they deserved to die.



The August 1996 Declaration of War

On or about August 23, 1996, a Declaration of Jihad indicating that it was from the Hindu Kush mountains in Afghanistan entitled "Message from Usama Bin Laden [Osama bin Laden] to His Muslim Brothers in the Whole World and Especially in the Arabian Peninsula: Declaration of Jihad Against the

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Right: © Peter Macdiarmid | Getty Images,
Left: © Scott Barbour | Getty Images

Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Mosques; Expel the Heretics from the Arabian Peninsula" was disseminated.



The February 1998 Fatwah Against American Civilians

In February 1998, Usama Bin Laden endorsed a fatwah under the banner of the "International Islamic Front for Jihad on the Jews and Crusaders." This fatwah, published in the publication *Al-Quds Al-Arabi* on February 23, 1998, stated that Muslims should kill Americans—including civilians—anywhere in the world where they can be found.

In an address in or about 1998, Usama Bin Laden cited American aggression against Islam and encouraged a jihad that would eliminate the Americans from the Arabian Peninsula.



Bin Laden Endorses the Nuclear Bomb of Islam

On or about May 29, 1998, Usama Bin Laden issued a statement entitled "The Nuclear Bomb of Islam" under the banner of the "International Islamic Front for Fighting the Jews and Crusaders," in which he stated that "it is the duty of the Muslims to prepare as much force as possible to terrorize the enemies of God."



Usama Bin Laden Issues Further Threats in June 1999

In or about June 1999, in an interview with an Arabic-language television station, Usama Bin Laden issued a further threat indicating that all American males should be killed.

Excerpted from Count One of the Grand Jury Indictment of the Defendant, Zacarias Moussaoui, in the United States District Court, Alexandria Division, December 2001 Term.

Source:
www.usdoj.gov/ag/moussaouiindictment.htm

A popular cable talk show host recently declared his own pacifist position on the War on Terror. He said, "I'm not at war with anyone." What he doesn't understand, apparently, is that the Islamic terrorists have declared war on us, not vice versa. It's not like we have a choice.

The War on Terror Continued from Page 15

position on the War on Terror. He said, "I'm not at war with anyone." What he doesn't understand, apparently, is that the Islamic terrorists have declared war on us, not vice versa. It's not like we have a choice. We can't say, "We're not at war," because we are at war whether we want to be or not. These militant Muslims won't hesitate to kill us if they have the opportunity. They have sworn not to rest until the entire world is under Islamic rule and all resistance has been crushed.

This same television personality then said that we should try to figure out why the terrorists want to kill us—as though we may have offended them in some way. The response to his suggestion is simple. They want to kill us for two reasons: (1) we're not Muslims, and (2) we stand in the way of their quest for world domination and for the annihilation of Israel.

Modern-Day Kamikazes—Only Worse

We have never before faced an enemy with this sort of suicidal-homicidal mentality. Muslim fanatics are not just *willing* to die in the service of Allah, they are actually *eager* to do so. And they are convinced that their god, Allah, wants them to take as many of the "infidels" as possible with them when they kill themselves. So they wantonly slaughter dozens, and sometimes hundreds, of innocent men, women, and

children by blowing themselves up in crowded public places.

Sometimes the Israelis call the homicide bombers *kamikazes* because what they do is reminiscent of what the Japanese suicide pilots did during World War II. But this analogy ultimately fails because the Japanese did not target civilians as do the jihadists. The kamikazes attacked primarily military targets.

Incredibly, militant Muslims will even *kill each other* if they feel it furthers their agenda. In Iraq we have Sunnis hitting Shiite targets, and vice versa. Just a few days ago, a homicide bomber struck in a Shiite neighborhood and massacred nearly a hundred people. But that doesn't necessarily mean the attack was carried out by the Sunnis. Sometimes the attacks on Shiite targets are carried out by other Shiites! It's a clever tactic that's designed to incite a Shiite-Sunni civil war and destabilize the United States-backed government in Baghdad because they know their own people will blame the Sunnis for it. Sadly, it's a strategy that appears to be working in Iraq.

(To Be Continued in the Next Issue)



Gary Hedrick has served as President of CJF Ministries since 1988.

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