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In the News

Russian Schools Welcome God Onenewsnow.com 23Feb09

In the early 1990s, officials in Russia asked Tim Todd, president of Revival Fires International, to help supply Bibles for public school students. Since then, copies of God's Holy Word have been distributed to students through his ministry.

Todd finds it ironic that Russia welcomes Bibles in its public schools, while courts in America have had a chilling effect on Christianity in the classroom.

Christians Wary As Recession, Unrest Hit China Compass Direct News

BEIJING, – With China's central government last December issuing a number of secret documents calling on provincial officials to strive to prevent massive unrest in a rapidly collapsing economy, observers are watching for signs of whether authorities will view Christian groups as a threat or a stabilizing influence during social upheaval.

Contemplative Spirituality

By Lighthouse Trails

A belief system that uses ancient mystical practices to induce altered states of consciousness (the silence) and is rooted in mysticism and the occult but often wrapped in Christian terminology. continued on page 4 ...

The expanded edition of STT is now available on request.

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Sound the Trumpet!

Joel 2:1



THE COMING PEACE TREATY

Bible prophecy tells that some day there will be a false peace treaty signed in the Mid-East by the Anti-Christ, called the beast in the book of Revelation. Daniel, Paul and John tell us about this coming event. Today the whole world is crying out for peace in the mid-east, they seem to believe that this peace will solve all of the world's problems and troubles. They believe that Islam will be satisfied and that terrorism will cease and the world will come together as one big happy family. The basis of this peace is the division of Israel, part going to the Islamic Palestinians and part going to Israel (Joel 3:2 Daniel 11:39).

Behind the scenes Satan is

“The national aim: the eradication of Israel” Egyptian President Nasser (1965)

moving to take control of the Temple Mount. Why is Satan so determined to take control of the Temple? Paul tells us why in 2 Thessalonians 2:4, he wants to put his man in the temple and have the world worship him. Satan will be indwelling his man and through him the world will worship Satan. Satan not only wants to be worshipped as God has been worshipped but he wants to be worshipped in the very place where God has been worshipped in the past, in the Temple at Jerusalem. He wants to replace God, Satan knows that God is planning to be worshipped in the Temple for all of eternity, and he wants to defeat that purpose of God. The Lord speaking to Ezekiel about the Temple said, “.....Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever...” Ezek. 43:7.

Satan needs Israel in the short term, to rebuild the Temple and to re-establish the worship so that his man can usurp the Temple. Satan's ultimate goal is to eliminate Israel altogether, He is even now preparing Islam to ultimately attempt to fulfill that purpose. Listen to some of the statement of the leaders of Islam.

“The Arab people will not be embarrassed to declare: We shall not be satisfied except by the final obliteration of Israel from the map of the Middle East,” Muhammad Salah al-Din Egyptian foreign minister” (1954) “We aim at the destruction of Israel. The immediate aim: perfection of Arab military might. The national aim: the eradication of Israel,” Egyptian President Nasser (1965). “The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy, which has been with us

since 1948. Our goal is clear-to wipe Israel off the map.” Iraqi President Abdur Rahman Aref (June 4 1967). “We are announcing a war against the sons of apes and pigs (Jews) which will not end until the flag of Islam is raised over Jerusalem”, Hamas leaflet (Sept. 1 1993). “Jerusalem is the property of the Muslim nation....Nobody can ever decide the fate of Jerusalem. We shall re-take it with the help of Allah out of the hands of those of whom the Qur'an said: ‘It was written of them that they shall be demeaned and made wretched’...We are getting ready for them, O brethren!” Former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat. That attitude and purpose has never changed over the years and is still the passion of Islam today.

The method may change but not the goal. “We seek to establish a state which we can use in order to liberate

the other part of the Palestinian soil”, George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. “Now we accept the formation of the Palestinian state in part of Palestine, in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. We will start from that part and we will liberate Palestine, inch by inch”, Salah Khalaf Abu Iyad (1991).

Iranian President Ahmadinejad has almost daily repeated the pledge to annihilate Israel and has called on

all Islamic nations to join in that mission.

The question that we are left with is how will there ever be a peace treaty between Islam and Israel? The answer is that Satan will deceive the nations, including Islam into accepting such a treaty. Satan is the great deceiver, but not only will Satan deceive the nations into this false peace but the Lord will also send the nations a strong delusion to cause them to accept this false peace, see 2 Thess. 2: 9-12.

Following the Peace Treaty, in the early part of the tribulation period, the Islamic nations along with Russia will descend on Israel to fulfill their passion and attempt to annihilate Israel, as is recorded in Ezekiel 38-39.

Today preparations are being made for both of these scenarios to be fulfilled, the stage is being set, the trumpet soon to sound, you have been warned, are you ready?



Thoughts for Time and Eternity

1 LIFE IS SHORT – I remember as a boy watching the steam rise up from the kettle on the old kitchen stove. It would rise up about a foot or so and then be gone. Life is like that, life is short. We had the most wonderful parents; we all enjoyed their presence, so many good times. My father died at age 83 and my mother died three months later. Eighty three years is a long time, but do you know that from the time I was a child in the home until the time of their death it all seemed such a short time! So quickly they lived and were gone! Life at its fullest is so very, very brief, life is short!

2 ETERNITY IS LONG – In John 3:36 there is a man who leaves Christ out of his life “He that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth upon him.” At the judgment of the great white throne, the Saviour who loved this man and died on the cross for his sin, is forced to send him down into the flames of hell forever. The man thinks, maybe this will be over in a year, but the year goes by and the flames are as hot as ever, the suffering is just as intense. A thousand years later he cries out, how long, how long must I be tormented in this flame? The walls resound with the echo, “Forever – Forever – Forever”, hell never ends, eternity is long!

3 SIN IS BLACK – Sin is rebellion against God. Sin is deeply rooted in the heart of every man and woman. God hates sin with an eternal hatred. John tells us that in hell men shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. The Bible speaks often regarding two things about God; God hates sin and His anger against sin will burn forever. God is merciful and will forgive and cleanse away sin forever if only men will come in genuine repentance and faith in Christ.

4 HELL IS CERTAIN – The Bible speaks far more about hell than it does about heaven because God doesn’t want people to go there. Suppose I was driving down the road at 100 kilometers an hour and you knew that a few miles down the road the bridge was washed out. What would you do if you were my friend? The Bible does that! God does that! I am trying to do that! Hell is no joke! Jesus said that hell is a place of Torment, of darkness, of weeping, of gnashing of teeth, where the smoke of their torment ascends up day and night forever and ever. Don’t go there!

5 HEAVEN CAN BE YOURS – Jesus said, “Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. Salvation is by repentance and faith in Christ. Why go to hell when it is so easy to go to heaven? Heaven is free.

***Quickly the years of my life have flown, Gathering treasures I thought my own,
There I must reap from the seed I have sown, five minutes after I die.***

Crossing the Line

God chose the nation of Israel to glorify His name, to be loved of God, to receive and transmit truth to the world and to be the vehicle through whom the Saviour would come into the world. Times, almost without number Israel sinned, disobeyed God and worshipped idols. Times without number God pardoned Israel and restored her. Israel responded by sinning more and more.

There came a day when Israel crossed the line of God’s mercy and grace and patience. As the poem says, “There is a line that crosses every path, the hidden boundary between God’s patience and His wrath”. Unknown, unseen and unheard, the day came when Israel stepped over that line. The Lord said to Jeremiah, “Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer

for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee” Jer.7:16. The line was crossed, again the Lord spoke to Jeremiah, “...”Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth” Jer. 15:1. “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved” Jer. 8:20. Too Late!

“They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth. For thus saith the LORD, enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even loving-kindness and mercies” Jer. 16: 4,5 This is not the line of chastening, this is the line of judgment, the line of abandonment, God would yet bless Israel, but not this generation.

There is an unmistakable parallel between Israel of that hour and our society today. I believe America (and Canada) has crossed the line of God’s mercy. Our government run educational institutions have declared for a generation that God did not create the heaven and earth and that God does not exist. Fifty million babies created in the image of God have been murdered in their mother’s wombs with our society’s

approval. Heterosexual immorality, homosexuality, child pornography and every conceivable perversion has filled our society. The word of God is rejected and disobeyed at every turn.

For twenty years America has given Israel billions of dollars and in return has demanded that Israel give up the land God has promised them. For twenty years God has been sending warnings of Judgment to America each time new pressure has been put on Israel. The warnings have come in the form of storms, floods, fires, earthquakes and hurricanes. Each warning has been totally ignored. I suspect that the time of warnings is now past, and what we are seeing in the financial meltdown is a not a warning but perhaps the beginning of the judgment of God on America. There are many who believe that America will not come out of this crisis, and I think they could be right. There are signs that the US dollar could collapse leaving America to become a third world country overnight, we are living a day when unusual things happen.

The new administration is continuing the betrayal of Israel; they are turning against Israel altogether. America has announced a contribution of nearly one billion dollars to rebuild Israel’s enemies in Gaza. Some democrats are saying, the world is against Israel, and because America supports Israel the world is against America the answer is to stop supporting Israel.

When God gives an individual or a nation up, he gives them up to their own way, they cross the line of God’s mercy resulting in judicial blindness. It seems to me that some of the things that are happening in America today can only be attributed to blindness of heart.

God alone knows who has crossed the line of His patience and mercy, we cannot make that determination. We can, however, when we compare what we see happening with what we read in God’s word, have great reason to fear for our contemporaries.

The Times of the Gentiles

The Times of the Gentiles are those times when Israel is oppressed by the gentiles, years when they are without a king and dominated by gentile powers. The Times of the Gentiles began in 586 BC and will not end until their rightful king, Jesus Christ comes to reign on the throne of David, and Jerusalem will be the centre of His world wide kingdom. Hosea 3:4, 5 tells about that time, “And the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice... Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days”.

Today, Israel is an independent nation and yet they are still oppressed by gentile powers. They do not possess the very spot where Christ will reign over them, the Temple Mount. Recent commentaries have stated that Israel must have a government that will be sensitive to the needs and desires of the countries around them. Unless

that happens there will be no peace in the world. They cannot have a right wing government that will put Israel’s needs and ambitions first.

Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey and Russia can all have whatever type of government they choose but not Israel. Today the world reserves the right to intervene in Israel’s affairs, which is the spirit of the Times of the Gentiles. One editorial last week said that Israel needs to be wise in forming the right kind of government or the world will impose the right kind on her.

Today, the EU, the UN, Russia, the USA and Islam are continuing to ratchet up the pressure on Israel to give up her God given land to those to whom it does not belong. Like a broken record the scriptures say over and over again that the land belongs to God and He has given it to Israel. Along with those promises are warnings to those who would try to rob Israel’s land from her. “I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead (judge) with them there for my heritage

Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land”, Joel 3:2.

In a disturbing news report, word is filtering through that President Obama is about to appoint Charles W. Freeman Jr., as the chairman National Intelligence Council a very influential post when it comes to policy formation. The following are quotations from this man and reveal his attitude toward Israel.

"American identification with Israeli policy has also become total. Those in the region and beyond it who detest Israeli behavior, which is to say almost everyone, now naturally extend their loathing to Americans. This has had the effect of universalizing anti-Americanism, legitimizing radical Islamism, and gaining Iran a foothold among Sunni as well as Shiite Arabs. For its part, Israel no longer even pretends to seek peace with the Palestinians; it strives instead to pacify them. Palestinian retaliation against this policy is as likely to be directed against Israel’s American backers as against Israel itself. Under the

circumstances, such retaliation – whatever form it takes – will have the support or at least the sympathy of most people in the region and many outside it. This makes the long-term escalation of terrorism against the United States a certainty, not a matter of conjecture."

This man is saying that Israel is responsible for all of America's troubles; the way to solve America's problems is to turn against Israel and force her to do what her enemies want her to do.

Freeman goes on to say, "We destroyed the Iraqi state and catalyzed anarchy, sectarian violence, terrorism, and civil war in that country... Meanwhile, we embraced Israel's enemies as our own; they responded by equating Americans with Israelis as their enemies. We abandoned the role of Middle East peacemaker to back Israel's efforts to pacify its captive and increasingly ghettoized Arab populations. We wring our hands while sitting on them as the Jewish state continues to seize ever more Arab land for its colonists. This has convinced most Palestinians that Israel cannot be appeased and is persuading increasing numbers of them that a two-state solution is infeasible. It threatens Israelis with an unwelcome choice between a democratic society and a Jewish identity for their state. Now the United States has brought the Palestinian experience – of humiliation, dislocation, and death – to millions more in Afghanistan and Iraq. Israel and the United States each have our reasons for what we are doing, but no amount of public diplomacy can persuade the victims of our policies that their suffering is justified, or spin away their anger, or assuage their desire for reprisal and revenge."

This seems like a major change in American foreign policy. Recently two US congressmen, Brian Baird and Keith Ellison, returned from the Gaza with the recommendation that the US cut off all military aid to Israel.

The EU is also putting great pressure on Israel to yield Judea and Samaria to the Palestinians. It seems

that we are on the threshold of the whole world turning on Israel and forcing on her the Peace Treaty that divides the land of Israel for a false peace, (1 Thess. 5:2-4).

Israel's Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, has become the champion of urgently surrendering Israel's biblical heartland including East Jerusalem (biblical Jerusalem) to the Palestinians. That is the exact climate needed to sign the false peace treaty.

Daniel tells us that a ruler will one day come out of the Revived Roman Empire (Dan.9:26-27) and that he will carry out that which is now being prepared for, (Dan. 11:39) the signing of a treaty calling for seven years of peace.

The final chapter in this whole scenario will take place after the false peace treaty is signed, we read about it in Joel 3:2, "I will gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and

will plead (judge) with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land".

The whole world has for sometime now been heading for a great climax, a climax which they seem to believe will solve all their problems and bring peace to the world. The climax will result in Israel's surrender and a great peace treaty that will seem to promise utopia.

The hour is late, the stage is set, the trumpet is soon to sound!

IN THE NEWS: Contemplative Spirituality (continued)

The premise of contemplative spirituality is pantheistic (God is all) and panentheistic (God is in all). Common terms used for this movement are "spiritual formation," "the silence," "the stillness," "ancient-wisdom," "spiritual disciplines," and many others.



Old Things Pass—All Things Become New

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 2 Corinthians 4:7

The Christian who has dedicated his life to God and has shouldered his cross need not be surprised at the conflict in which he at once finds himself engaged. Such conflict is logical; it results from the nature of God and of man and of Christianity!

He will, for instance, discover that the ways of God and the ways of men are not equal. He will find that the skills he learned in Adam's world are of very little use to him in the spiritual realm. His tried and proven methods for getting things done will fail him when he attempts to apply them to the work of the Spirit. The new Adam will not surrender to the old Adam nor gear His new creation to the methods of the world. God will not share His glory with another!

The true Church of God, the company of the forgiven and regenerated, is a marvel and an astonishment in the eyes of the old creation, a perpetual sign of the supernatural in the midst of natural things.

The Church is a sheet let down from heaven, an interposition of something unlike and dissimilar, a wonder and a perplexity which cannot be understood nor explained nor gotten rid of. That about her which yields itself to analysis by the historian or the psychologist is the very thing that does not signify, the earthen vessel in which the precious treasure is contained.

The treasure itself transcends the art of man to comprehend! Those who follow on to know the Lord discover that old things will pass away and all things will become new!

A.W. Tozer