



*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,  
and sound an alarm in my holy  
mountain: let all the inhabitants  
of the land tremble: for the day of  
the LORD cometh, for it is nigh  
at hand;"*  
Joel 2:1

# Sound the Trumpet!

- Section 2 -

## **"Matthew 5:8 Happy are the Holy"**

*by Art Sadlier August 7th, 2011*

**"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."**

Background - Israel was burdened by an oppressive, authoritative group known as the Pharisees. They were the dominant influence and force in Israel at that time. The Pharisees were one of three major political parties; the others were the Sadducees and the Essenes. There were approximately 6,000 Pharisees in the time of Christ. They were a relatively small group and needed the support of the people. That is why they feared Christ's ability to influence the people.

The Pharisees had a problem: they couldn't keep the moral aspects of the law. The fact is that no one can keep the law. That is why God gave it. *"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God..."* (Galatians 3:11a). *"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."* (Galatians 3:24).

The Pharisees thought that God expected them to perfectly keep the law. They thought that salvation was by keeping the law. They did not understand that the law was given to show us how sinful we are in order to convict us of sin and bring us to God for salvation through repentance and faith.

Instead of the Pharisees recognizing their sin and coming to God in repentance and faith. They decided to change the law to make it possible to keep it. They changed the law from moral things to physical things. They invented new laws and called them traditions. By keeping these traditions they pacified their conscience.

For example; instead of repentance for sin, they developed a series of washings that took the place of repentance and faith. *"Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread."* (Matthew 15:1-2). They externalized that which God intended to be a matter of the heart. If you can't wash your soul from sin, substitute ceremonial hand washing.

For example in Israel today, on the Sabbath day if you go to a hotel and get into an elevator, the elevator will stop at every floor. The elevator is programmed that way. The reason is because the orthodox Jews will not lift a finger on the Sabbath day to press the elevator button. They consider that to be work. That is the type of regressive legalism that oppressed Israel in Christ's day. The people of Israel were oppressed with a legal system they could not keep. It produced in them tremendous guilt and anxiety.

In that situation when Christ came and gave them eight principles (beatitudes) for happiness they were all ears.

### Outline

- 1 – The goal of every Jew: happiness.
- 2 – The key to happiness: purity.
- 3 – The place where happiness begins: the heart.
- 4 – The way happiness is enjoyed: seeing God or enjoying His presence.

### **The Goal of Every Jew was Happiness**

You started on a great quest the moment you were born. You have been searching, searching for something that is missing in your life. You are searching for happiness. All of mankind is traveling with you. All of humanity is on the same quest.

Maybe we can find it in a new car or a boat or perhaps in a new home. Pleasure, education, success, power or popularity may seem to hold the answer. Each one of those things can give a temporary sense of satisfaction or enjoyment or an emotional boost but they cannot give us what our hearts are really searching for.

The Jewish people gathered around Jesus that day were on the same quest. They may not have fully comprehended their hearts and desires but they were on a quest for happiness.

The happiness Jesus was talking about was the ultimate happiness, a lasting happiness, the happiness that God Himself enjoys, the happiness that God designed for man to enjoy.

### **The Key to Happiness is Purity**

What is impurity?

**A** – The impurity of the air. The atmosphere we breathe, the air around the earth is only six miles high. The winds that ventilate the earth are only six miles high. We are pouring into that thin strip of space some 300 million tons of pollution annually.

**B** – Impurity in the water. It is estimated that 5-10 million tons of petroleum pollutants are released into our lakes, rivers and streams annually. Many cities and towns in Canada do not even have sewage treatment plants.

**C** – Pollution of the land. Each year in North America we litter the land with 48 billion cans, 26 billion bottles and 20 million tons of paper. Add to that dangerous chemicals like dioxin and arsenic as well as radioactive wastes.

All of that is impurity. But it is not the impurity Jesus was talking about. The impurity that Jesus was talking about is in the spiritual realm, it is called sin.

Sin is nothing more and nothing less than disobeying God's known will. That, is how it started in Eden. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12).

We need to understand that sin is not going contrary to man's standards or going contrary to man's laws. Sin is disobedience to God. That is the impurity Jesus is talking about. Jesus is teaching the key to happiness is purity. The key to happiness is obeying God.

### **The Place where happiness is found is in the heart**

The heart beats approximately 75 times a minute, 40 million times a year, 2.5 billion times in a lifetime. It pumps 3000 gallons of blood a day, 650,000 gallons a year. It produces enough energy in 12 hours to lift a 65 ton tank car off the ground. It produces enough energy in a lifetime to lift the largest battleship right out of the water.

But that is not the heart that Jesus is talking about. He is not talking about that which is at the center of a man's body. He is talking about that which is at the center of a man's total being. He is talking about the soul. Proverbs 4:23, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*" Proverbs 23:7, "*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he....*" I know now there is much we do not understand about the soul. We do know that out of the soul flows the thinking process, the emotions and the decision making process, the will.

When our Lord is talking about a pure heart, he is thinking first of all about the mind. The mind of the soul controls the emotions and the will. God wants a changed mind and a changed will.

God wants us to change our mind about two things.

First: about sin. We need to face it for what it is. Christ is not demanding an improvement in our lives. He is demanding perfection. Matthew 5:48, "*Be ye therefore, perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven, is perfect.*"

Second: about how to obtain perfection. He wants us to change our minds about obtaining purity or righteousness by our own efforts or good works. He wants us to change to trusting God by faith to provide His righteousness to us. God is saying just trust me, just believe me.

After Pentecost God indicated, I have provided for your sin. I have provided purity of heart for you. And that provision is in Jesus Christ, believe Him and trust Him and accept Him.

### **The way to enjoy happiness**

The happiness that the human heart craves is found in and only in a personal relationship with Christ and in personal fellowship with God as revealed in Christ.

Revelation 3:20, "*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*"

John 14:23, "*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*"

John 14:20, "*At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*"

That is the purpose for which man was created and designed. Only that fulfilment will satisfy the human heart. True happiness is found by seeing God with the eyes of your soul and by enjoying an intimate, personal relationship with Him in the Person of Christ. That's the starting point of real happiness.

**Joy is a fruit that will not grow in nature's barren soil; all we can boast till Christ we know, is vanity and toil. But where the Lord has planted grace, and made His glory known, those fruits of heavenly joy and peace are found and there alone.**

---

## **“The U.S. Military Does not Want to Fight for Al - Qaeda Christian Killers in Syria”**

*by Michael Synder September 5th, 2013*

Why is the Obama administration so determined to have the U.S. military help al-Qaeda win the civil war in Syria? Why are we being told that the U.S. has "no choice" but to help rabid jihadist terrorists that are slaughtering entire Christian villages,

brutally raping Christian women and joyfully beheading Christian prisoners? If you are a Christian, you should not want anything to do with these genocidal lunatics. Jabhat al-Nusra is a radical Sunni terror organization affiliated with al-Qaeda that is leading the fight against the Assad regime. If they win, life will be absolute hell for the approximately two million Christians in Syria and other religious minorities. According to Wikipedia, Jabhat al-Nusra intends "to create a Pan-Islamic state under sharia law and aims to reinstate the Islamic Caliphate." As you will see below, many members of the U.S. military understand this, and they absolutely do not want to fight on the side of al-Qaeda.

Not that we should be supporting Assad either. Assad is horrible. He should be rotting in prison somewhere. But just because a country has a bad leader does not mean that we have justification to attack them.

The U.S. military should only be put into action when there is a compelling national interest at stake. And getting involved in a bloody civil war between Assad and al-Qaeda does not qualify.

For the moment, we have a little bit of time to educate the American people about this because the Obama administration has decided to try to get the approval of Congress before striking Syria. Hopefully cooler heads will prevail.

Unfortunately, some members of the U.S. Congress are actually trying to push Obama into even stronger action. In fact, some Senators are now saying that they will not support military intervention in Syria unless it is a part of an "overall strategy" to remove Assad from power.

If the U.S. does try to remove Assad, it will unleash hell in the Middle East. Syria has already threatened to attack Israel if the U.S. tries to remove Assad and so has Hezbollah.

As I mentioned the other day, right now there are 70,000 Hezbollah rockets aimed at Israel.

When Hezbollah and Syria start sending rockets into the heart of Tel Aviv, Israel will respond with even greater force.

And if a single one of those rockets that land in Tel Aviv have an unconventional warhead, Israel will respond by absolutely flattening Damascus.

When I say that, what I mean is that a city of 1.7 million people will be gone permanently.

Do our politicians have any idea of the hell that they are about to unleash?

Do our leaders actually want Israel to be attacked?

Do our leaders actually want major cities in the Middle East to be completely wiped out?

Do our leaders actually want millions of precious people to die?

As I mentioned above, those serving in the U.S. military understand these things better than most people, and right now many of them are expressing a very strong desire to stay out of this conflict.

According to a tweet from U.S. Representative Justin Amash, he has heard from numerous members of the U.S. military that are urging him to vote against an attack on Syria...

"I've been hearing a lot from members of our Armed Forces. The message I consistently hear: Please vote no on military action against #Syria."

Journalist Paul Szoldra says that he has also heard from a lot of service members that want nothing to do with this conflict...

I've reached out to my own sources who are either veterans or currently on active duty in the military, and asked them to share their thoughts on whether we should, or should not, intervene in the two-year-old Syrian civil war. Most have responded with a resounding no.

The following is what a Marine Corps infantry veteran with three deployments to Iraq named Jack Mandaville wrote to Szoldra...

The worst part about this Syria debacle, among many things, is how closely it resembles Iraq. Those Vietnam veterans who warned us about disastrous results in Iraq were doing so based off their experience in a war that, contrary to popular belief, was vastly different from our war and was separated by at least two decades. Many veterans of Iraq are still in their twenties and have a firsthand understanding of Arab political issues. The complicated things we faced with Syria's next door neighbors is freshly ingrained in our memories. How quickly the American people and our political leaders forget.

Our involvement in Syria is so dangerous on so many levels, and the 21st century American vet is more keen to this than anybody. It boggles my mind that we are being ignored. My anger over this issue has actually made me seriously comment on our foreign policy for the first time since 2006 when I was honorably discharged after three stints in Iraq and subsequently watched it continue for nearly another six years. I'm sickened that we're putting ourselves in a position for another prolonged war where the American people will quickly forget about the people fighting it.

And even an establishment mouthpiece like the Washington Post is admitting that top U.S. military officials are expressing "serious reservations" about a war with Syria...

The Obama administration's plan to launch a military strike against Syria is being received with serious reservations by many in the U.S. military, which is coping with the scars of two lengthy wars and a rapidly contracting budget, according to current and former officers.

Having assumed for months that the United States was unlikely to intervene militarily in Syria, the Defense Department has been thrust onto a war footing that has made many in the armed services uneasy, according to interviews with more than a dozen military officers ranging from captains to a four-star general.

One officer even told the Post that he "can't believe" that Obama is even considering a conflict with Syria...

"I can't believe the president is even considering it," said [one] officer, who like most officers interviewed for this story agreed to speak only on the condition of anonymity because military personnel are reluctant to criticize policymakers while military campaigns are being planned.

What Obama wants to do is utter insanity.

Why would we want to enter a war on the side of Christian killers?

In areas of Syria that are controlled by the rebels, Christians are being treated brutally. The following is from eyewitness testimony from a Christian missionary who recently visited the region...

"The Christian residents were offered four choices: 1. renounce the 'idolatry' of Christianity and convert to Islam; 2. pay a heavy tribute to the Muslims for the privilege of keeping their heads and their Christian faith (this tribute is known as jizya); 3. be killed; 4. flee for their lives, leaving all their belongings behind."

How would you like to be faced with those choices?

In other instances, Christians are not even given any choices. Instead, they are being summarily executed for their faith.

For example, the following is one incident that made news back in December...

Syrian rebels beheaded a Christian man and fed his body to dogs, according to a nun who says the West is ignoring atrocities committed by Islamic extremists.

The nun said taxi driver Andrei Arbashe, 38, was kidnapped after his brother was heard complaining that fighters against the ruling regime behaved like bandits.

She said his headless corpse was found by the side of the road, surrounded by hungry dogs. He had recently married and was soon to be a father.

How would you feel if a member of your family was beheaded and fed to the dogs?

And the rebels have continued to slaughter Christians even though they know the world is watching. The following is from an NBC News report on August 18th...

Syrian rebels killed at least 11 people, including civilians, in an attack on a checkpoint west of the city of Homs on Saturday that official state media described as a massacre.

Most of those killed were Christians, activists and residents said.

Sometimes these psychotic Syrian rebels actually round up Christian women and children and gun them down. The following is from a report about what the rebels did to the Christian village of al-Duvair when they took control...

Images obtained exclusively by Infowars show the aftermath of an alleged massacre of a Christian village in Syria during which men, women and children were slaughtered and churches desecrated by Obama-backed FSA rebels.

The photos, which were provided by a source inside the village of al-Duvair in Syria's Western province of Homs, show ruined homes, ransacked churches as well as the burned remains of what looks like an infant.

According to the Assyrian International News Agency (AINA) on May 29, "The armed rebels affiliated to the Free Syrian Army (FSA) raided the Christian-populated al-Duvair village in Reef (outskirts of) Homs near the border with Lebanon...and massacred all its civilian residents, including women and children."

But sometimes women are not killed by the rebels. If they are young and lovely, they are often systematically raped. What happened to one 15-year-old Christian girl from Qusair named Mariam is a total abomination...

The commander of the battalion "Jabhat al-Nusra" in Qusair took Mariam, married and raped her. Then he repudiated her. The next day the young woman was forced to marry another Islamic militant. He also raped her and then repudiated her. The same trend was repeated for 15 days, and Mariam was raped by 15 different men. This psychologically destabilized her and made her insane. Mariam, became mentally unstable and was eventually killed.

This is who Obama wants to help?

We are going to shed American blood to help those monsters take over Syria?

Are we insane?

Of course one of the most prominent examples of rebel brutality was even reported on by CNN...

The ghastly video shows how barbaric the Syrian civil war can be.

A man, said to be a well-known rebel fighter, carves into the body of a government soldier and cuts out his heart and liver.

"I swear to God we will eat your hearts out, you soldiers of Bashar. You dogs. God is greater!" the man says. "Heroes of

Baba Amr ... we will take out their hearts to eat them."

He then puts the heart in his mouth and takes a bite.

After reading that, can anyone out there possibly justify helping the Syrian rebels?

But the Obama administration insists that we "must" attack Syria because Assad supposedly used chemical weapons against his own people.

Secretary of State John Kerry says that samples taken by UN inspectors have tested positive for the nerve agent sarin, and therefore what we must do is clear.

But is it really?

According to Reuters, the UN has had evidence that Syrian rebels have been using sarin gas against Assad forces since May...

U.N. human rights investigators have gathered testimony from casualties of Syria's civil war and medical staff indicating that rebel forces have used the nerve agent sarin, one of the lead investigators said on Sunday.

And as I discussed the other day, Syrian rebels have admitted to an Associated Press reporter that they were the ones that used sarin gas during the incident that the Obama administration is so concerned about.

The chemical weapons were supplied to the rebels by Saudi Arabia, but the Obama administration will never, ever admit this. If the U.S. called the Saudis out on this, it would potentially endanger the status of the petrodollar.

Instead, the U.S. government is going to end up doing exactly what the Saudis want, which is to attack Syria.

But people all around the world are seeing through this charade. For example, the following is a statement that Pat Buchanan made during a recent interview with Newsmax...

"I would not understand or comprehend that Bashar al-Assad, no matter how bad a man he may be, would be so stupid as to order a chemical weapons attack on civilians in his own country when the immediate consequence of which might be that he would be at war with the United States. So this reeks of a false flag operation."

Sadly, it doesn't really seem to matter what any of us think. According to James Rosen of Fox News, the Obama administration has apparently made the decision to go ahead with an attack on Syria no matter what Congress decides...

A senior State Department official tells Fox News the president's decision to take military action in Syria still stands, and will indeed be carried out, regardless of whether Congress votes next week to approve the use of such force.

The official said that every major player on the National Security Council – including the commander-in-chief – was in accord last night on the need for military action, and that the president's decision to seek a congressional debate and vote was a surprise to most if not all of them. However, the aide insisted the request for Congress to vote did not supplant the president's earlier decision to use force in Syria, only delayed its implementation.

"That's going to happen, anyway," the source told me, adding that that was why the president, in his rose Garden remarks, was careful to establish that he believes he has the authority to launch such strikes even without congressional authorization.

Very soon, the U.S. military will be embroiled in a vicious civil war between a brutal dictator and absolutely psychotic Christian-killing jihadists.

Should American blood be spilled in such a conflict?

Of course not.

Is it worth potentially starting World War III just to teach Assad a "lesson"?

Of course not.

Hopefully this war will not happen, because if it does I fear that it is going to be very, very bloody.

---

## **“Temple Mount: Arabs Pelt Jewish Visitors With Stones”**

*by INN - Kochava Rozenbaum September 4th, 2013*

Police forces were dispatched on Wednesday to break up Muslim stone throwers who were targeting Jewish visitors on the Temple Mount (Har Habayit).

As soon as stones were thrown and riots broke out, police forces stepped in to make arrests.

Security forces were prepared for a riot as this incident follows renewed incitement by Islamic Movement leader Sheikh Raed Salah, who called for Muslims to physically prevent Jews from visiting the Temple Mount last week.

Yesterday, the leader of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel was arrested on charges of "incitement against Israel and regarding the Temple Mount," and is currently being questioned by police.

This morning's attack on Jewish visitors is likely connected to Salah's claim last week to his followers that Israel is planning to "break in" to the Temple Mount, on which the Islamic Al Aqsa compound is located, built atop the ruins of two Jewish Temples.

After warning of the alleged "danger" of increased Jewish prayer at the site, Salah called on Muslims from across Israel - from the Negev and Galilee, Akko and Haifa - to descend on the Temple Mount to prevent the "dangerous mass invasion into Al Aqsa" with their bodies.

In the past, such statements have led the Israeli Police to close off the Temple Mount to Jews, out of concern that Jewish presence at the holy site could be met with Muslim riots, which on Wednesday proved to be true.

The police policy of restricting Jewish access in order to maintain quiet has led to complaints of discrimination.

"The Temple Mount is the holiest place for the Jewish People, and must be open at any hour to every Jew," said Minister of Construction and Housing, Uri Ariel on Wednesday.

Ariel ascended this morning on the eve of Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year) 5774 to the Temple Mount, as is his custom. Ariel declared that the Temple Mount belongs to the Jewish people without a doubt.

"I intend to continue to support the State of Israel's full sovereignty over the site. This is a non-negotiable issue, with no room for argument."

The Temple Mount is Judaism's holiest site, but Jews are forbidden from holding prayers there due to the presence of an Islamic complex, and against the backdrop of threats of violence by Islamists.

---

## **"Warped Politics - Iowa Democrat Prayer Thanks God for Abortionists"**

*by hotair.com September 3rd, 2013*

Hey, this could be progress. About time last year, the Democratic National Convention booed when the platform committee tried to backtrack and add a mention of God that had been earlier removed. In Iowa, at least Democrats have gone back to openly praying, but perhaps they should be hoping that God isn't listening:

They made the unusual decision, for Democrats, to begin the event with a prayer. This was likely in response to a prayer vigil being conducted by pro-life activists at the same time nearby.

Des Moines activist Midge Slater took the podium and spent five and a half minutes thanking God for abortion rights, abortion doctors and taxpayer funding for abortions. She also referred to the decision to have an abortion as "a blessing".

During the entire prayer, State Senator Jack Hatch and Rep. Tyler Olson, both of whom are running for governor, kept their heads bowed and eyes closed, joining in the group prayer.

The Iowa Republican transcribed a bit of the prayer, which goes on for quite a while:

"We give thanks, oh Lord, for the doctors, both current and future, who provide quality abortion care."

"We pray for increased financial support for low-income women to access contraception, abortion and childcare."

"Today, we pray for women in developing nations, that they may know the power of self-determination. May they have access to employment, education, birth control and abortion."

"Today we pray for the families who have chosen. May they know the blessing of choice."

Here's my favorite part, very obviously aimed at the pro-life demonstrators:

"We pray for women who have been made afraid by their paternalistic religion."

Those in attendance applauded the prayer at its conclusion.

Afraid? For feminists, they don't seem to have much faith in women to decide for themselves whether to live as Christians and follow its tenets without fear forcing them into it. However, based on this prayer for blessings on abortions and the demand to spread it worldwide, I'd guess that they're less interested in faith than they are in their own political agendas anyway.

---

## **"For the First Time in 1900 Years - Temple Institute Preparing for 'perpetual Offering'"**

On Tuesday the 20th of August, the Temple Institute, along with various other organizations tasked with the rebuilding the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, held a special practice drill in preparation for the reinstatement of the 'daily perpetual offering' recorded in the book of Leviticus. This is the first time such an event has taken place in over 1900 years, since the destruction of the Second Temple by the hands of the Romans in 70 AD.

#### KOHANIM-IN-TRAINING

The Mishmeret Kehunah, the Organization for the Renewal of the Priestly Shifts, has inaugurated a new school to help train the kohanim—Jewish people belonging to the priestly tribe of Israel—on the intricacies of their role in the administration of a rebuilt Temple. Kohanim gathered in Jerusalem last week to be shown how to wear their special garments, created by the Temple Institute a few years ago according to the Biblical requirements, and how to perform the 'perpetual offering' as the Levitical priesthood did so many years ago...

(Temple Institute [Facebook])—"On the evening of Tuesday, August 20th, 2013, the 14th day of Elul, 5773, the Temple Institute, in cooperation with Mishmeret Kehunah (the Organization for the Renewal of the Priestly Shifts) and other Temple organizations inaugurated a new school dedicated to teaching kohanim the 'lost' art of performing the daily Tamid service in the Holy Temple.

That evening, for the first time since the destruction of the Holy Temple, a historic practice drill of the daily Tamid offering was reenacted by a group of contemporary kohanim-in-training. ...

The Temple Institute has made many preparations for the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple on Mount Moriah over the past number of years. Last year the organization performed an 'educational' passover sacrifice of a live goat in a basketball court near to the Temple Mount. Israeli police have routinely forbidden the Temple Mount Faithful from performing the sacrifice on the mount itself for fear of inciting a Muslim backlash. A few years ago the group began construction of the foundation of the altar, they have completed the manufacture of the golden censers, the laver, the golden crown, and have drawn up blueprints for a chamber for the Sanhedrin in the rebuilt Temple. The kohanim have also been actively preparing for the rebuilding of the Temple, reciting a priestly blessing on the Temple Mount in 2007 for the first time in 1900 years.

Of course the only thing that is missing in all of this is the Messiah Himself. Some Ultra-Orthodox Jewish people believe that according to the Old Testament, the Messiah will be the one to rebuild the Temple, and that this is not something that we have a right to take on ourselves. Scriptures like Amos 9:11 speak of the Lord raising up the tabernacle of David which is fallen down.

On the other hand there are those who believe that the Jewish people must somehow merit the Messiah's coming by actively preparing for it. And so groups like the Temple Institute and Temple Mount Faithful urge both the Jewish people and the nations of the world to pray and contribute towards the rebuilding of the Temple.

---

### **“Assad's Arsenal: 100,000 Missiles and Rockets”**

by YnetNews September 3rd, 2013

While the US is bolstering its naval force in the Mediterranean with additional warships ahead of a possible strike in Syria, the Middle East is preparing for the aftermath of such a strike, if and when it occurs. Israel in particular is raising its alert level, as Syria's retaliation may include an attack on Israeli targets.

According to estimates, the Syrian army has in its possession some 100,000 missiles and rockets. Several thousand of them, such as the Scud-D missiles, are considered very powerful and accurate and can reach any target in Israel. President Bashar Assad's army also has Russian-made SS-22 medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, which can carry some 120 kilograms of explosive material.

The Syrian army is not only weary from fighting the rebel forces over the past two-and-a-half years, it has also used up a fair amount of its weapons. However, Russia continues to send arms shipments to Syria and is making certain the regime in Damascus receives more rockets, anti-tank missiles, small arms and ammunition. The Syrian army also receives logistical support from Iran.

The events of the past week have raised fears in Israel that Assad will use chemical weapons not only against his own people. The Syrian army is capable of arming its missiles with chemical agents, as it did this week prior to the attack on rebel strongholds on the outskirts of Damascus, and use them against Israel, although such a scenario seems unlikely at the moment.

Assad has moved his chemical weapons stockpiles from the desert in eastern Syria to more protected areas on Syria's coast that are ruled by his Alawite sect. These stockpiles, among the largest in the world (some 1,000 tons of chemical warfare agents) are under the complete control of Assad's regime.

Not only Syria; Lebanon, Gaza as well

A response to an American attack could also come from Syria's regional allies. Israel is convinced that Hezbollah will not take action against "the Zionist enemy" without a direct order from Iran, and thus, in the event of a Western attack that may break the Tehran-Damascus-Hezbollah axis, Israel may take a blow from the north.

Hezbollah currently holds approximately 70,000 projectiles; dozens of them are guided missiles that can reach Beersheba, but are targeted for more strategic objectives: Accurate hits to national facilities such as power plants or important bases such as the Kirya compound or Israeli Air Force bases.

Hezbollah also has an advanced system that includes dozens of drones that can carry explosives and detonate on targets in northern Israel, before interception by the IAF.

Hamas in Gaza, on the other hand, suffered a critical blow during Operation Pillar of Defense and is in distress due to the demise of its patron in Cairo. Hamas decided a year ago to break away from the Iranians and choose the Muslim Brotherhood, and is not expected to intervene in favor of the Syrians. This will leave several hundreds of rockets (mainly short-ranged), belonging to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza, together with an unknown number of rockets in Sinai, in the hands of global jihad, which currently focuses its fighting efforts against the Egyptian army.

The Israeli opening blow

The Israeli response will start with an attack which will be primarily based on intelligence that will allow the IAF to launch a powerful opening blow to Hezbollah's strategic assets in southern and central Lebanon.

The Intelligence Division has gone through unprecedented upgrades and improvements, including in the field of tactical intelligence that will be provided to the paratroopers' commander who will arrive at a Lebanese village to seek hidden launching pads.

The military intelligence has also taken a major role in the updating of operative plans against Syria. Only two months ago, The Times reported that according to Israeli sources, if Assad will be removed from power, 18 storage sites of weapons of mass destruction will be attacked. However, the time needed to complete this action will be derived primarily by the home front: The sixth Iron Dome battery is currently being deployed by the IAF, and within one year four more batteries will be installed.

The system's improvement over the past few months will allow the army to intercept longer-ranged rockets and cover a larger area. However, the scenario of rocket attack from up north will be completely different than the one seen in Pillar of Defense. The 80% success rate of the Iron Dome batteries in November is far from being guaranteed in light of the mass of rockets and populated area that will need to be protected in northern and central Israel (a snap preview was noted last Thursday with two hits in villages and one successful interception).

Yet to be discussed within the security establishment is whether or not Iron Dome batteries should protect villages and cities or important military bases and strategic establishments.

---

## **“You Can't be An Occupier in Your Own Home”**

*by INN - Gil Ronen September 3rd, 2013*

Economy Minister Naftali Bennett (Bayit Yehudi) reassured the public on Monday that in his opinion, the citizens of Israel will not come under any attack from Syria, and explained why he is firmly against the establishment of a "Palestinian State" in Judea and Samaria.

Speaking on the Knesset Channel, he said that Israelis could go on living their lives' normally and even noted, when asked, that his family has not renewed its supply of gas masks yet.

Asked if he was disappointed by US President Barack Obama's decision to hold off on attacking Syria until Congress debates the idea, he said that he does not want to give advice to the US President. He added, however, that "Israeli citizens have to be realistic and know that at the end of the day, 'If I am not for myself – who will be for me?' [a Talmudic adage in favor of self-reliance – ed.]. If we do not take care of our own security, no one else will. Look at how the entire world is reacting to the murder of 1,000 children with gas."

“All things told,” he said, “the world is stuttering. And on the day of truth we can only depend on ourselves. Not international guarantees, no relying on agreements – in the end, our strength, which comes from our hold upon the Land and our belief in the Land, [and] the IDF where I still serve in the reserves and am proud of it – that is what will keep us alive here.”

"We have to look at what is happening and internalize the lessons," he explained. "In the moment of truth, the world will not be with us. The people who now want to hand over Judea and Samaria in exchange for guarantees from the world, should



see what is happening. The world turns its back.”

Similar comments have been made by a number of Israeli politicians in the past few days, as the perceived dithering of the Obama administration is watched carefully by friend and foe alike, splitting Arab opinion and provoking ridicule from the Syrian regime and its allies.

Asked whom we can trust, Bennett said – “first of all, we have G-d, but also our own strength. We will not depend on the world anymore. We will not! Seventy years ago, when we hoped that the world would be there, they were not. No one was,” he said, in a reference to the failure by the Allies to bomb Nazi extermination camps during the Holocaust.

### **"We are not occupiers"**

In a wide-ranging 30-minute interview with Nehama Duek, Bennett firmly rebuffed her contention that Israel is an occupying power in Judea and Samaria.

“We are not occupiers. You cannot be an occupier in your own home. Internalize this, Nehama. We are not controlling them, they have been ruling themselves for a long time.”

“In Lebanon, in Syria, in Egypt, everything is in chaos. The only stable place is here, in our land. We have stability and quiet thanks to the IDF, from the fact that we are present in Judea and Samaria and that we live there. The same geniuses who told us that if we give Syria the Golan Heights we will have peace, are now telling us that we have to hand over Judea and Samaria. I don't accept this.”

When Bennett described his proposal for applying Israeli sovereignty on parts of Judea and Samaria – Duek protested that the Palestinians want a state.

“Okay,” he said. “And I want to live. What takes precedence? My will to live? My wanting that my four children survive – or their will to have a state and an army that will annihilate me? What can I do? Even though they'd really love to annihilate me, they have no partner in this. I have this bug in my system – I love to live in my country.”

During the interview, Bennett spoke about national unity, saying that part of his political mission is to unite different streams in the nation, and “to lower tensions.”

On August 22, Bennett had a similar message for the public regarding the Syria gas attack:

“Seventy years ago, when they annihilated children and babies, the world was silent,” he wrote. “The internet and television stations are not moving the world out of its complacency. Images of mass graves and piles of children cannot pass in silence.”

“A child is a child is a child,” he stated. “And don't tell me '[it's just] Arabs killing Arabs.' I will not be silent.”

---

## **“Spring Up, O Well! - Numbers 21:17”**

*by F.B. Meyer September 8th, 2013*

This was a sweet song. It must have been a stirring scene, when Israel, in its thousands, sang forth this command to the waters that were under the earth, to show themselves, with the musical accompaniment of the gushing rill.

Spring up, O well, in our hearts. - Too long has the soil been arid and bare. A great drought has smitten it, and devoured every green thing. The flowers wither, the fruit falls. But Jesus promised to open in believing hearts a well, the waters of which should spring up unto eternal life. Not a stagnant pool, but a spring. Not a failing Cherith, but a perennial Siloam. Let that promise be realized in us here, and now; and if we have permitted rubbish to accumulate, or the weeds to grow rank, may we have grace to put them away, that there may be a clear course for the living water to flow through us and refresh the lives of all with whom we come in contact.

Spring up, O well, in the Church of God.-This is a petition with which we may enter the place of worship where we meet God's people. Spring up, O well, to-day! With this petition, we may plead for distant mission stations, and for the entire Church. Jesus dug the well with the staff of His cross; but we wish that the Spirit, who is as a fountain of living water, fed from eternity and returning to its source, may spring up within it with greater volume and force.

Spring up, O well, in the world. - It is weary with sorrow and sin. Too far and long have the desert sands swept their devastations. Hasten the millennial day, when springs shall break out in the desert, and wildernesses shall blossom as the rose!

---

## **“Abbas: U.S. Promised us Full Withdrawal As Basis of Talks”**

*by INN - David Lev September 2nd, 2013*

Speaking in Ramallah, Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas said that the United States had promised him that it

would support the PA's demands that Israel withdraw to the 1948 cease-fire lines as the basis for any final status agreement with Israel. The statement shoots down claims by Israeli officials, such as President Shimon Peres, that the PA had agreed to Israel's retention of the so-called "settlement blocs."

In the speech Monday night, Abbas stressed that the U.S. had made this promise to the PA before the start of negotiations. Without it, he said, the PA would not have agreed to participate in the talks.

Israel has said that it had did not agree to any preconditions in order to enter the talks. The recent release of terrorists by Israel was not fulfillment of a preconditions, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said, but a "gesture" to encourage the PA to enter into talks. Netanyahu also said that in any final status agreement, Israel would retain the settlement blocs.

Israel agreed to release about 100 terrorists, many of whom had planned or participated in the murder of Jews. Abbas said in his speech that the PA would demand that Israel release an additional 250 terrorists as a condition for continuing the negotiations. Abbas added that the PA had shelved plans to charge Israel with "war crimes" in the World Court after Israel agreed to release the terrorists.

Earlier, Peres praised the Oslo Accords, declaring them a great success and the right thing for Israel. In an interview on Army Radio, Peres praised the accords as "the right decision," one which led to a "great revolution."

---

## **"Collapse Reported on Temple Mount"**

*by Israel Today Staff September 1st, 2013*

Eyewitnesses told Turkish media this week that a portion of the Temple Mount platform near the Al Aqsa Mosque has collapsed, creating a serious safety hazard and a possible threat to the stability of the Islamic structure.

If the report is accurate, it would be the second serious collapse on the Temple Mount in the past five years.

Palestinian officials claim that the collapses are caused by deliberate Israeli action to bring down the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock so that the Jewish Temple can be rebuilt.

But archaeologists and engineers have been warning for years that the heavy construction projects being carried out by the Muslims atop the Temple Mount are destabilizing the huge number of ancient structures and water cisterns that riddle the sacred plateau.

Many believe it is only a matter of time before most of the platform collapses. And there are fears such a collapse could occur during Ramadan, when upwards of 100,000 Muslims gather atop the Temple Mount for weekly prayers.

---

## **"Israel's Natural Gas Reserves Reshape Middle East Dynamics"**

*by Financial Post August 30th, 2013*

As the prospects of another war in the Middle East increase, one country is looking to cut its energy ties with the region and manage its own needs, thanks to newly discovered gas riches.

Indeed, the recent discovery that Israel's offshore natural gas reserves are far larger than previously thought has the potential to revolutionize the country's economic fortunes. The find could save Israel tens of billions of dollars in energy imports from Egypt and other places, and see it positioned as a new natural gas source for Europe, one of the world's largest LNG markets.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, recoverable natural gas in the Levant Basin located in Israeli and Cypriot waters of the eastern Mediterranean Sea, amounts to a massive 18.9 trillion cubic feet.

One industry CEO called the finding "a once-in-a-decade opportunity."

The Leviathan Field, 130 kilometres off the Israeli coast and under 5,000 feet of water, is a potential game changer not just for the country's economy – the third-largest in the Middle East – but in shaping broader regional dynamics.

Houston-based Noble Energy along with Israeli conglomerate Delek Group and subsidiary Avner Oil Exploration are behind the exploitation of the field expected to produce initial volumes of 750 million cubic feet per day when it opens in 2016.

For Israel, a country once with little or no domestic energy resources, natural gas is set to become the beating heart of future energy plans.

Experts say gas from the nearby Tamar field, which opened this year, will meet domestic demand for the next 25 years, acting as Israel's "safety net" and leaving Leviathan free for export markets.

Israel's energy minister said in June the Jewish state would keep more than half its estimated natural gas reserves for domestic production and there's an ongoing national debate over whether the US\$300-billion expected to be generated from recovered gas should be exported or used to safeguard the country's descendants.

The argument for cashing in is a convincing one.

This month, Israel signed a memorandum of understanding with Greek Cyprus and Greece to cooperate on energy, binding Israel and Cyprus together over Leviathan, a section of which is located in Cypriot waters. Israel also began talks this week with other regional interests, including Turkey, about constructing a pipeline to pump gas to Europe.

But aside from the spritely arguments inside Israel, regional anxieties may become a sticking point as it attempts to unlock two main options to get gas to lucrative markets.

Having aligned with Cyprus, any proposal to build a pipeline with Turkish assistance appears somewhat remote. Tensions have been high between Turkey and Greek Cyprus ever since the former's invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus in 1974.

---

## **“Egypt: Schools, Churches and Orphanages Burnt to Erase All Traces of a Christian Presence”**

*by asianews.it August 29th, 2013*

With at least 20 attacks against churches, Christian schools and orphanages, Minya Governorate is the part of Egypt where Islamists struck with greatest violence and brutality.

“The Islamists”, one resident said, “burnt and destroyed everything. Their goal was to erase all the traces of a Christian presence; even the orphanages were looted and destroyed.”

After storming the Prince Tadros el-Shatbi Church, the armed Islamic extremists turned their attention to two homes for disadvantaged children located near the parish church, residents said.

They stole church offerings, clothes, and children's games before torching the entire building. The fire lasted over 5 hours.

“Fortunately,” the source said, “the children were taken to safety before the arrival of the Islamists.”

Like other Christians sites, the two homes that housed hundreds of orphans are now a pile of rubble.

The criminals did not only destroy the two orphanages but also the homes of some families working for the orphanages as well as a nearby art gallery that sold objects and artefacts made by orphans to raise money.

Shurkri Huzayn, 40, is the orphanage guard. He, too, grew up as an orphan at the facility. He witnessed the Salafist attack.

“What kind of people are they? Even unbelievers would not attack an orphanage,” he said.

Islamists raged particularly against anything that symbolised the Christianity and modernity, including computers.

After they left the building, the terrorists burnt nearby shops and schools, such as the St Joseph Coptic School, which is run by nuns, a pharmacy and a restaurant. Anti-Christian graffiti were sprayed on the walls along a road.

A few days after the massacre, the guard said that Copts wrote a message on the wall of the orphanage in response to the militants' insults that read, “Despite of what you did, we ask God to forgive you,” and “God exists.”

According to a teacher at St Joseph, the attack will have a major impact on Christians' daily life.

“The teachers,” she noted, “do not know when the school year will start. The school is open to Christians and Muslims and has taught hundreds of children from rural areas, many of whom were housed in the two orphanages.”

---

## **“Moroccan Christian Jailed for Evangelising”**

*by World Watch Monitor September 9th, 2013*

**A Moroccan Christian man has been jailed for two-and-a-half years and fined for evangelising.**

Mohamed el Baldi, 34, from the town of Ain Aicha, near Fes, was ordered to pay 5000 dirhams (\$600) for “shaking the faith of a Muslim”, at a court hearing on September 3.

He was arrested after his house was raided on August 28 and items linked to his faith such as his Bible were confiscated.

Propagating Christianity is prohibited under Article 220 of the Moroccan Penal Code. The law states that it is unlawful to stop one or more persons from practising their religion by force, violence or threats.

By law, the maximum punishment for this offence is three-to-six months' imprisonment and a fine of 200 to 500 dirhams. However, el Baldi has been punished much more strictly.

El Baldi, who is understood to have converted to Christianity around seven years ago, admitted friendship with two American Christians, who provided him with Christian materials, and confirmed that he attended Christian meetings in the cities of Meknes and Rabat.

During the court hearing, his mother was said to have been hysterical and to have asked Allah to exact revenge on whoever “tampered” with the mind of her son.

Morocco is ranked 39th in the Open Doors International's World Watch List, which reports on countries where it is difficult

to practise Christianity.

In 2010, a number of foreign Christians were declared as “a danger” to the country and [expelled](#).

Of the 33 million population of Morocco, over 99 per cent is Muslim. The rest is comprised predominantly of Christians and Jews.

---

## “Nominal Christianity”

*by Ian C. Kurylyk September 8th, 2013*

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (II Timothy 3:5). God designed, planned and instituted Christianity. He sent His own Son to die so Christianity would be possible. He sent out the apostles to get it started and gave us the Bible for its continuation. God also foretold its deterioration in practice as time passes.

Our opening text regarding a form of godliness is very revealing. When movie makers want to film a Western they do their best to make it look real. They build a set which looks to the eye of the camera like the real thing. They do not, however, go behind all the facades on main street to ensure the unseen parts are genuine. They do not really build a town exactly like Dodge City or Abilene or Tombstone was over a hundred years ago. In fact it is empty. It is only a “form”. It is not a real town at all. Even when people are there they are only acting a part. This illustrates well what this verse is talking about. Church going and religion may flourish while Bible Christianity is absent altogether.

God has shown us beforehand that with time Christianity would deteriorate from the life-changing reality revealed in the New Testament. We are warned of a lifeless form with no “power” against the great problem of humanity’s sin. In fact, the earlier verses in the chapter recite a long list of sins that we are told will prevail in lives as Christianity becomes simply a nominal religion. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (II Timothy 3:1-4).

These are the same people that are described in the next verse as “having a form of godliness” (verse 5). The attitude is very up to date. Many people now have the idea that they can make Christianity to be what they want it to be and nobody dare wonder at the inconsistencies. The point of this passage is to refute such confusion and that Christianity must be what God says it is. Bible Christianity cannot be made to coexist with what the Bible condemns as evil. Three things stand out in the list of sins which will emerge and be embraced in the last days. Men will love self, money (“covetous”), and pleasures (rather than God). This self-centered, self-indulgent, self-worshipping lifestyle has many other things that go along with it. Many of the sins mentioned speak for themselves, and a little comment helps us understand some of the others.

“Unholy” people drag the holy things of God down to the level of common things. “Without natural affection” describes those without even normal human feelings towards others who should be dear to them.. This leads to abuses of all kinds: elder abuse, wife abuse, child abuse, infant abuse, and even hardness of heart to the unborn by abortion. “Trucebreakers” refers to a heart condition that will not allow itself to be reconciled to others but clings to hatred and grudges. “Incontinent” means an absence of self control morally, “fierce” means savage, and “heady” describes a person who is driven to a reckless state, disregarding the consequences of his actions.

These things are revealed so that those who live in these last days of the church age would be able to see if they have missed the life-transforming salvation offered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Bible distinguishes in many passages between nominal Christianity and the Christianity of the New Testament preached by the apostles. Bible Christianity cannot be made to fit into a lifestyle of sin. It is God’s answer to sin. It opposes sin. It imparts forgiveness from sin. It is a new life that is lived in harmony with God. Bible Christianity is a gift for those who are willing to receive the Saviour from sin, the Lord Jesus Christ.