

The Survival of Jerusalem

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

Is the Middle East a real enigma to you? There seems to be no logic there. Throughout history, war after war has been fought over Jerusalem. If someone recounted them for us, we'd all be astonished at the blood that has been shed, the thousands of lives lost. Perhaps millions of lost lives cover that city. When one visits Jerusalem he sees no beauty there, and that is disappointing to visitors after all they have heard and read about the place. A visitor may see nothing there for which a single drop of human blood is worth shedding.

One can understand the longing of the Jewish people for Jerusalem. It's a longing for home. A longing of a people long displaced who have only one center on the planet, and that's Jerusalem. It's easy to understand the longing of Christians to go there because that's where our Lord suffered and died for us and it makes it more real to us somehow. But what on earth did the Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Greeks, the Romans, and the Turks see in Jerusalem that made it worth fighting over?

Then there are the Muslims. With all the land they possess in the world, with all the oil, with all the wealth, why do they want that land? Why do they have to have that

place? And why do they want to destroy the Israelis? Jerusalem is supposed to be a holy place for Muslims as well, but we strongly suspect that is a carefully crafted lie. The legend that Mohammed ascended into heaven from the rock on the Temple Mount served two purposes: 1) it co-opted the Temple Mount from the Jews and made it impossible for the Muslims to go there and build another temple; 2) it established an equivalency with Christianity that had Christ ascending from the Mount of Olives. They seem to be saying, we're as good as you are. Our prophet also ascended into heaven from Jerusalem, and we have our

temple on the Temple Mount. Probably the historical motivation of Muslims concerning Jerusalem was jealousy of two older and better religions.

There's a prophecy in the Book of Zechariah that serves to illustrate the future of Jerusalem. We can't say this is a prophecy of Jerusalem today, but we do know that many

continued on page 3 . . .

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Survival of Jerusalem

From Ronald L. Dart's notes 1

Why Are You So Blessed? 1

2014 Feast of Tabernacles

YEA Lessons Available 2

Feast of Tabernacles Events

and Activities 2

Why Are You So Blessed? . . .

According to the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability, "100 million Christians in over 60 countries are persecuted for their faith." Christians in Iraq are being told they must convert to Islam by Saturday or they will be killed. How blessed we are that we can still worship God as we see fit without fear of government reprisal. It's such a blessing to be able to study your Bible, keep the Sabbath holy, attend Sabbath Services in peace, and give to the church and charities of your choice. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" Never take this blessing for granted. Build your eternal reward while you can. You can't take it with you. Our world is changing rapidly. No one knows how long we'll have these blessings. So do your good deeds and service to God now while they can still reach more and more people with the truths of the Gospel.

2014 Feast of Tabernacles YEA Lessons Available

As CEM usually does, we're making the special YEA Feast of Tabernacles full-color lesson books available to every Feast site or parent that loves their kids enough to want them to make it into God's Kingdom. These interactive, age appropriate lessons are available for five age groups. They will save teachers so much time and bring eager kids back daily to learn more about God's way. Each year these lessons are revised and brought up to date. Our program is designed so a child should never be taught a YEA lesson twice. Special bonuses

that come with your order are lessons for the younger kids to do on the Sabbath and Holy Days. The oldest teen books are written in a seminar format.

Age	Lesson Level	Title
3-5	Beginners	All Aboard
6-8	Primaries	Ready for Take Off
9-11	Juniors	Be A Winner
12-15	Intermediates	Zero In
16-19	Senior Teens	Plan It On Planet Earth

YEA lessons are designed to teach specific life lessons to improve

behavior and to understand the meaning of God's Feast of Tabernacles. There are five lessons in each book and they include daily devotionals to reinforce each lesson. Parent Teacher Guides are available for each lesson book as well and are necessary for teaching the lessons with ease and effectiveness. Call CEM at 1-888-BIBLE-44 to get our discounted prices for bulk orders. CEM must receive all orders by September 8th. That is our cut-off date for printing so you will have them for the Feast.

Feast of Tabernacles Events and Activities

The 2014 CEM Feast, October 9th through October 16th, will be held here in Tyler, Texas. There is so much to do in this area and here are some of the activities we plan to schedule group events for:

American Freedom Museum

The American Freedom Museum illuminates the American experience during crucial moments in our nation's history. From the hills and valleys of the American Revolution to the sands of Iraq and Afghanistan, you will step into history and discover the journey of those in our nation's military who have courageously and heroically sacrificed to ensure the many freedoms that we enjoy today. The mission is to: Honor American veterans and military personnel for the sacrifices they have made for our freedoms; Educate this and future generations about our rich heritage; and Inspire others to achieve greatness. **This is America's story.**

Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge

The Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge is the international home to over 50 rescued big cats. Come meet these majestic animals, learn about the feline species known as *Panthera Tigris* and find out how you can help to ensure their future in the United States and worldwide. Tiger Creek was started for the very specific purpose: "To provide rescue and rehabilitation of big cats that have been abused, neglected or displaced." It continues to be the guiding mission, and as they continue to expand, they are working to establish large natural settings for the big cats.

Brookshire's World of Wildlife Museum and Country Store

The Brookshire (grocery store) family museum started in 1975 and features 450 stuffed and mounted animals in wildlife and aquatic scenes from Africa and North America—tons of lions, tigers,

bears, sharks, wild boars, monkeys, swordfish, and much more mounted to view. For people who love history there is an old style reproduction grocery store and memorabilia including antique trucks. There is also a cute little candy store and an awesome playground. It is a fun stop for the entire family.

East Texas Oil Museum

The East Texas Oil Museum is located on the campus of Kilgore College in Kilgore, Texas. This fascinating museum houses the authentic re-creation of oil discovery and production in the early 1930s from the largest oil field inside U.S. boundaries. Here, visitors see the people, their towns, their personal habits, their tools and their pastimes—all colorfully depicted in dioramas, movies, sound presentations and actual antiques donated by East Texas citizens. It is full of Texas Pride and oilfield realism.

continued on page 4 . . .

*The Survival of Jerusalem
continued from page 1 . . .*

scholars see it solely in historical terms. What we can say is that the prophecy applies in principle, and that it is set in what sounds a lot like “the speak” of the last days. Here’s what the prophecy says: “The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it” (Zechariah 12:1-3). When the Bible uses the word “a cup” in this way, it’s about a cup of wine or strong drink, something you can get drunk on. “. . . I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces. . .” It’s striking how many times in history that has been true. What has never been quite true is that there’s never been a day when “. . . all the people of the earth be gathered together against [Jerusalem].” But the King James Version doesn’t require that; it says, “Although all the people of the earth be gathered. . .” and that’s probably correct.

The Darts had been to Jerusalem and lived in England prior to the Six-Day War in 1967. Here are some of Mr. Dart’s recollections. “I remember following it very carefully. I have little doubt that the

Syrians, Jordanians, and Egyptians thought they were going to crush Israel like a bug. They had the power—they all had an air force, they all had tanks, they had big armies. They had everything they needed, and poor little Israel had. . . not that much. Those three countries were sent reeling back into their own land. It was one of the most remarkable military events in history and I recall all of us staring in amazement when it happened. It was miraculous. And the whole thing was totally unnecessary. What it did was give Israel still more land and it helped create the situation we have today.”

One wonders if this vision of Zechariah’s lay at the roots of John’s vision of the last days. In John’s vision you have a sequence of events. If you read through the Book of Revelation carefully, you’ll spot this. It starts off with a scroll sealed with seven seals and each of these seals is opened in order. When the seventh seal is opened, seven angels come out with seven trumpets which they’re going to blow. So the seventh seal is comprised of seven trumpets. When the last trumpet is blown, it ushers in seven vials of God’s wrath. So the seventh is divided into seven, and the seventh of that seven is divided into seven again, and finally we come down to the sixth angel of those seven vials of God’s wrath in Revelation 16:12: “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared.”

Who knows how long this has been true, but today it’s hard not to see the armies of Islam in this

vision. The River Euphrates flows right through Baghdad in Iraq. The drying up of the River Euphrates, symbolically, is to open the way for the kings of the East, for the whole massed armies of Islam to come west. “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (vv. 13-14).

People call the battle that was about to take place “The Battle of Armageddon.” Armageddon has come into our language as the last great battle of all mankind. But that’s not the name of it. The name of it is the “Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty.” “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. It’s the Valley of Megiddo. In fact, if you go to Israel and go up on Mount Carmel, you can look down over the Valley of Megiddo, the place where these armies were to assemble.

History has a way of repeating itself. Isaiah tells us so. In the 41st chapter he’s actually challenging the false gods and false prophets. “Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen. . .” (Isaiah 41:21-22). That’s what we all want, isn’t it? Especially at a time like

continued on page 4 . . .

*The Survival of Jerusalem
continued from page 3 . . .*

this when Israel is fighting Gaza, we all want to know what's going to happen in the Middle East. ". . . Let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them. . ." We're told, categorically, that former things that happened in the Middle East are a help to us in understanding the latter. Isaiah says, ". . . or declare us things for to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods. . ." If you follow this back into biblical history, you will find a fascinating prophecy that connects to it. Isaiah 10:22-25 says, "For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: The consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the LORD GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land. Therefore thus saith the LORD GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction." Assyria did take Samaria and the house of Israel captive, but did not take Judah. "And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt. And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."

What follows in the tenth chapter of Isaiah is very interesting. A list of towns follow. If you have an atlas, look up all the cities listed in verses 28, 29 and 30. Notice: following them village by village, you will see how they got down to a place called Nob. Nob is within sight of Jerusalem. Verses 32-34 say, "As yet shall he remain at Nob that day: he shall shake his hand against the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem. Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature shall be hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled. And he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one." Time and again throughout history, Lebanon has gotten caught in the crossfire between those trying to destroy Jerusalem, only to find herself destroyed. This echoes what John saw at the gathering at Armageddon, when armies moved south from Armageddon toward Jerusalem and died before they got there. This continues in Zechariah. But space does not permit going there.

Please read the 12th chapter for yourself. We don't know how much time we have left. But there has never been a time in history when we have needed more to pull up our spiritual socks. "Be always on the watch, and pray, that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man (Luke 21:36 NIV Study Bible).

With the horrible bloodshed and fighting going on between the nation of Israel and Gaza, even as this is

written, it makes one wonder where it will end. These are perilous times and you have never needed to be informed more than now. And you've never needed to get your Christian life in order more than now. You need this CD titled *The Survival of Jerusalem*. It's FREE. Just call and order it today, or return the enclosed card.

*Feast of Tabernacles Events and Activities
continued from page 2 . . .*

Tyler Rose Garden and The Caldwell Zoo

Great places to visit and take your kids and grandkids. The Feast of Tabernacles will overlap the annual Tyler Rose Festival.

We want to know if there are fishermen and fisherwomen out there who would be interested in a fresh water fishing tournament during the Feast. We will also have the usual golf tournament this year. Call Linda Benton, 1-888-242-5344, to sign up or for more information. Check out the Activity schedule in this *Living to Win* mailing.

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*That the man of God may be proficient
and equipped for every good work.*