

Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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ISRAEL: THE COMPLICATED DANCE

There is a complicated dance emerging with regard to the on-again, off-again, Middle East peace process. In a TIME interview, even President Obama admitted that “if we had anticipated some of these political problems on both sides earlier, we might not have raised expectations as high.”¹ Still, the administration is driving hard toward a solution and the establishment of a Palestinian state. George Mitchell, the White House’s Special Middle East Negotiator headed to the region with what was reported to be a new 5-point plan that essentially is a rehash of the 2002 Saudi / Arab initiative. That would bring Israel back to the borders that existed in 1949, just after the successful War for Independence. According to al-Hayat, the Arabic voice of London, the issue of Jerusalem would be negotiated separately, but would result in its eventual division.² The Palestinian Authority’s chief, Mahmoud Abbas meanwhile is so confident in the Obama position that he has actually offered to let the US negotiate the borders for them.³ Not to be outflanked by their fellow-Palestinian rivals, some leaders in the terror group Hamas signaled that they are ready to accept Israel’s right to exist, and nullify their charter which calls for the total destruction of the Jewish state.⁴ That’s a development that is almost unheard of, - and one that was quickly reversed by Hamas head Khaled Meshaal. He told a Damascus rally, “Hamas will keep rejecting the occupation and refuse to recognize the legitimacy of the Zionist entity.”⁵

On the other side, while signaling a willingness to talk, Prime Minister Netanyahu has been accused, of sabotaging negotiations for a two state solution.⁶ The PM recently said that even after a Palestinian state was established, Israel would need to keep a military presence in the Jordan Valley to protect against a reoccurrence of the rocket attacks that followed by only hours, the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. And tensions are building on both the Syrian and Lebanese fronts too. Hezbollah is busy testing anti-aircraft missiles and relocating their offensive rocket sites to the Lebanese interior. That would mean that a fight between Israel and Hezbollah would likely quickly become a conflict involving Lebanon itself.⁷ *[And that is right in line with prophetic thought, by the way.]* A Kuwaiti newspaper reports that a US official said that “if Syria supplies Hezbollah with surface-to-air missiles (SA-2), war will break out and Tel Aviv will directly strike Damascus.”^{8 9} *[It is easy see how any event that led to war between Israel and its neighbors could lead to the direct fulfillment of many prophecies; including the destruction of Damascus (Isaiah 17:1) and the total annihilation of the Palestinian People (Obadiah 1:18 and forward). With Hezbollah, Hamas and even al-Qaeda in the region, all becoming increasingly armed with chemical / biological weapons and the vehicles to deliver them, it is not hard to imagine a desperate / determined / calculating Israeli response to a WMD attack on its civilian population. Those Arab entities are coming under the increasing influence and control of Iran. Tehran is quickly approaching the time when it will be able to complete the entire cycle of enrichment and nuclear weapon fabrication within its own borders. They can now enrich uranium up to 20% grade. DEBKA characterizes that development as moving “dangerously close to ‘break out’ point for a nuclear weapon capability.” So while the West dithers and threatens tougher sanctions, Hezbollah and Syria announce that they are militarily prepared for whatever the Israel wants to throw at them.¹⁰]*

And with all of that dancing comes the international pressure to ‘get something done’. The United States is turning up the pressure on Netanyahu to come to a deal that would truncate Israel, force them to evacuate thousands of Jews from homes they occupied for 40 years and accept nearly defenseless borders. They are backed in their quest by the world at large as represented by the UN, the EU and Russia. Now, the US, Israel and the Palestinians are currently downplaying any significant progress that may be being made at the talks in which the US is serving as honest broker. Both Abbas and PM Netanyahu are trying to maintain their internal domestic support by portraying themselves as hard-liners, not willing to sacrifice their nation’s interests for a peace agreement. But Aaron Klein of World Net Daily reports that Middle Eastern security officials – including sources from Egypt, the PA, Jordan and Israel, “told WND in separate interviews over the course of the last few weeks that Israel is in advanced stages of outlining a future Palestinian state that would encompass most of the West Bank. Also, Jerusalem is being discussed between Israel and members of the Obama administration.”¹¹

Now this drive to have Israeli surrender a significant amount of its territory to establish a Palestinian state is backed too by the Vatican, which officially considers the Israeli *occupation* to be the root cause of the conflict.¹² But doesn’t God’s word promise the Land to a revived Israel in the last days? Well, of course it does, but that’s not how Rome sees things. To understand why the Catholic position would ignore clear biblical truth one has to realize just what the Vatican believes and hopes to accomplish. The Roman Catholic Church has sought control of Jerusalem since at least the time of the first Crusade in the 11th century. It works like this. If the Church is in control of Jerusalem, then that proves its contention that the Church – headed by the pope – has replaced Israel in God’s promises, becoming in effect the “New Israel”. So they have been moving toward taking custody of the Old City of Jerusalem under the auspices of the UN. To the Illuminati / one-world types, this is a move toward the establishment of world government. East Jerusalem will then serve as an international worship center for the three monotheistic religions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.¹³ A temple will be rebuilt, with some sort of arrangement for joint worship between the three. The issue with that of course is that it all fits in so well with biblical prophecy. A three-winged temple has even been discussed and designed. Here’s Daniel 9:27. **“He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.’ In the middle of the `seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”** (NIV)

Might sound like a crazy theory until you consider the statement of Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Renato Martino regarding the “well-known and long-standing position of the Holy See with regard to Jerusalem.” He calls it a “treasure for all of humanity, and it is a city of two peoples, Arabs and Jews, and of the three monotheistic religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam.” Speaking in 1997, Martino recalled how UN Resolution 181 of 1947 called for that city to be administered by the “Trusteeship Council of the United Nations.” The Israeli news magazine Shishi reported in 1994 that just such a deal was cut with PM Peres. According to Shishi and other sources, an agreement was put in place that would have the Vatican someday control the Old City of Jerusalem.^{14 15} So as we watch the dance unfold we can see the outlines of what we know of the Illuminati plan falling into place.

THE IDENTITY OF JESUS – PART I

A couple of years ago, - 2008 to be exact, - a translation of an inscription found on a stone in the days just before Jesus was born, caused quite a stir in some circles. It opened up the question of just what type of Messiah the Jews were expecting and by extension, just who Jesus was? So...using that as an excuse – (and you never really need one to talk about Jesus) – let’s get exploring the true Identity of Jesus.

RETHINKING THE MESSIAH ?

“Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.” (Daniel 12:9)

So here’s the deal. There’s a debate going on in Israel these days, and it involves on some level, whether or not Jesus, (Yeshua in Hebrew), - might indeed be the promised Messiah. It revolves around the work of an Israeli professor at Hebrew University, - one Israel Knohl, - and a ten year old archaeological discovery and his new translation of the inscription on that ancient artifact. First of all let’s establish just what we’re talking about. What was found was a tablet or stone with ink inscriptions from the period just before Christ. For years it was very difficult to decipher some of the writing but now Professor Knohl believes he has successfully done so; - and the resulting translation could transform what we know about what Jews of that time believed about the nature of their faith. As Knohl puts it, - (and he’s not exactly buying into the Christian interpretation), - “The text changes the way we look at the historical Jesus, and provides a missing link connecting Judaism and Christianity”.¹⁶

OK, we’ll get technical – but just for a moment. Much of the debate between Judaism and Christianity, (originating as a Jewish sect believing that many prophetic Scriptures had been fulfilled by Yeshua), - centers on just what sort of Messiah was to be expected. Modern Judaism claims almost exclusively now, that what the Scripture called for was a triumphant Messiah who would rule a politically and spiritually ascendant Israel. Now much of this controversy centers around the interpretation of portions of Isaiah 53. Let’s look at Isaiah 53 verses 3 & 5. **“He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”** The now unanimous position of traditional Judaism is that the passage refers to the Jewish nation as a whole. The Christian position is that this Scripture is referencing the person of the Messiah, who must come first as the suffering servant, and later to return as King Messiah. To the Christian, Christ’s suffering and death as the payment for sin, is clearly visible in the phrase **“But He was wounded for our transgressions”**.

The rabbinic interpretation however was not always the case. Even the Babylonian Talmud written as late as AD 1000, held to the Messianic interpretation of the passage.¹⁷ It was ultimately a famous French Jew named Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, who put a definitive modern spin on the passage in the 11th century. From thence forward Jewish authorities have considered the passage to have in mind the entire nation of Israel.¹⁸ The Israeli paper Haaretz summarized it thus: “The premise that the Messiah died and was resurrected is considered the foundation of the Christian faith, one which differentiates it from Judaism”. But getting back to the tablet now, it is characterized as an apocalyptic vision given by the angel Gabriel. According to Professor Knohl, - here’s what it says. The beginning of the inscription describes an End Times or eschatological war. Jerusalem is besieged and “residents are expelled from the city in groups”. Then God sends forth “my servant David”, to in turn send the Messiah Son of Joseph to give a sign heralding “the coming redemption”. That’s when it gets critically interesting.¹⁹

Beginning in line 80 it reads “L’shloshet yamin hayeh”, which is translated “in three days live”. And its in the imperative case. What the entire line reads then is “In three days live, I Gabriel, command you”. So to who is this being said. The next line answers. To the “Sar hasarin” or “prince of princes”.²⁰

Knohl boldly goes on to suggest a link between the resurrection claims of Christians and ‘Gabriel’s Revelation’. He finds the link in the fact that the notion of a Messiah that dies and rises in three days is an established part of

Jewish thought by the time that Christ walked the earth. In his mind, it was not just an addition of later Christian thinkers. According to Knohl, Jesus saw “His mission” was to be put to death by the Romans “so his blood will be the sign for redemption to come... This is the conscious view of Jesus himself”.²¹ Yehezkel Kaufman, yet another professor from Hebrew University confirms that thought, seeing the “motif” of the resurrection after three days as something “adopted by Jesus and his followers based on an earlier messiah story”.^{22 23}

Christian authors like Hal Lindsey have been saying that all along. As Lindsey pointed out in a 2008 broadcast, many early Jewish thinkers were actually expecting 2 Messiahs; - The first, the Son of Joseph, a suffering Messiah, - and later, a Son of David, - or Messiah-King. Luke 4:16-20 records a very enlightening event, when Jesus goes into a synagogue and reads from the scroll of Isaiah. What’s interesting is that Jesus is reading from Isaiah 61 beginning with verse 1, but then stopping in the middle of a sentence, - right where today we find a comma, in the middle of verse 2.. Christ is pointing out the fact that the passage refers to the two phases of His coming. **“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD”** Luke 4:20-21 then records; **“Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing’”**. So not only was He claiming to be the very Messiah, but He also did something else unheard of; - He stopped quoting a Scripture in mid-passage. It was a signal as to what was going on. The very next words were clear reference to His 2nd Coming as Judge of the World. The rest of Isaiah 61:2 reads, **“And the day of vengeance of our God”**.

The upshot of all of this seems to be that there is growing evidence that the Christian view, that the Messiah would come as a ‘suffering servant’ was at least present in some 1st century Jewish thought. And that at least some Jewish scholars recognized that there had to be a double manifestation of the Messiah to fulfill the Scriptures. So perhaps, this translation of this fairly recent archaeological find may open that discussion. Despite reasoned argument, Scripture itself tells us that the Jews retain a blind spot when it comes to understanding that Jesus is the Christ, the fulfillment of the Law. **“But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”** (2Cor 3:14-16) But there is good news in even this. That blindness will run its course: It will have its end. Paul explains it in Romans 11:25-26, when he writes, **“that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved”**.

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WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Want to get a deeper understanding of what you’re reading? If you have any issues or questions you’d like us to address – or if you’d like this Newsletter’s author, Rob Palaszewski, to come and speak to your church or organization please contact us at rob@atpministry.com

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