

The DEFENDER - November 2015

“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



From the Director's Desk: Thank God For Heaven

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away”
Revelation 21:1-4.

God has spoken, and every believer throughout history has not only been comforted by His words, but anxiously awaits all that the Lord has prepared for him. The apostle Paul may have said it best when he said “...to die is gain” **Philippians 1:21.**

Now hear the words of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who spoke of “a dream of a world of peace and dignity for all.” The United Nations is promising that if we all work together we can turn our planet into some kind of utopia, but the truth is that all of this talk about unity is masking a very insidious agenda. The latest attempt by the progressive elitists of the world to achieve their global goals can be found in the 2030 Agenda. We are being trained, with the help of useful idiots in the media, academia, and the entertainment industry, to think of ourselves as global citizens that belong to a global community. With the help of a complicit media we'll be told that through worldwide participation we'll be able to save the environment and end poverty. This promotion has already begun with the help of leaders around the globe, including the pope. The true agenda, of course, is the establishment of a one-world government, one-world economic system, and one-world religion. The ultimate goal is for the entire world to become a single marketplace, with uniform laws, rules, and regulations. By the year 2030 the promoters of this diabolical plan hope to end poverty, bring about gender equality and empowerment worldwide, put all the world's citizens on an even financial playing field, expand and promote free education for everyone, and of course, control the climate and environment. Every crisis, real or fabricated, will be used to advance this agenda. And every solution the progressives offer will involve more globalization and centralization. If we all work together, the mantra will go, all of our problems will be solved.

The real solution to our problems is found only in Jesus Christ. By placing your trust and faith in Him alone you can receive the promise of salvation, which offers you internal peace in this life as well as eternal heaven in the next. And there is no substitute for that, as only God can “...wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.” Thank God for heaven, not utopia.

Rev. David Lewis

The End of the World – Part IV Russia Invades Israel?

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Christ's disciples asked Him "... and what shall be the sign of Thy coming and the END OF THE WORLD?" (Matt. 24:3). Christ's disciples were as yet not altogether alert or abundantly aware of the full import of what Jesus had been teaching them. Even though He had more than once informed them that He came to earth predetermined to suffer and die a cruel death by crucifixion (Ps. 22; Is. 53; Dan. 9:24-26; Zech. 12:10, 13:4-6; et. al.).

At that point in time, the disciples seemed to be in a state of dormancy or arrested development. Some even attempted to circumvent the Lord's divine mission (Matt. 16:21-23; Mark 8:31-33). However, once the Lord in fact defeated death by rising from the dead, He began to bestow encouraging wake-up calls to His inner core of disciples. In one instance, at the sepulcher, "two men stood ... in shining garments ... they said ... Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: REMEMBER HOW HE SPAKE ... saying, the Son of man must ... be crucified and the third day rise again. And they REMEMBERED" (Luke 24:1-9).

Even more to this point, there were the two followers of Christ on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus that were joined on their journey by the resurrected Savior who graciously imparted to them a detailed exposition of Old Testament Messianic prophecies. "... and beginning at Moses ... he expounded unto them in all scriptures ... the things concerning himself ..." (Luke 24:13-27). "... then their eyes were opened ... and he vanished out of their sight ..." (vs. 30-35). They immediately returned to Jerusalem to inform the disciples, "and AS THEY SPAKE Jesus himself stood in the midst of them ... But they were terrified" (vs. 37). "And he said, these are the words which I spoke ... that ALL THINGS MUST BE FULFILLED ... in the law of Moses ... the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning me. Then he OPENED THEIR UNDERSTANDING" (vs. 44-48).

None should miss the fact that the scriptures cited by Jesus were ALL from the Old Testament. These ancient promises were finally fulfilled in Christ's miraculous conception and virgin birth, His sinless life, His preordained suffering and death, and His victorious resurrection—all now history. So we easily recognize that hindsight is much nearer to 20-20 vision than what we can infer or conclude from prophecies yet unfulfilled—events yet future. In this regard, we do well to consider those lessons learned by Christ's disciples.

Consider an event yet future recorded by the Prophet Zechariah, "I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle" (14:2). What could possibly cause ALL NATIONS to want to come against Jerusalem? And worse, that no nation will be disposed to aid tiny Israel—why? What we do observe in 2015 is a rapidly growing movement to isolate and condemn Israel. It is called BDS (the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement) meant to harm Israel politically, economically and socially. The BDS movement is an attempt to cloak an evil (anti-Semitism) as if it could somehow be justifiable, yet resting on a baseless foundation of alleged but unsubstantiated crimes. The BDS has been primarily led by extreme leftist university professors and errant

theologians—particularly those advocating “Replacement Theology”—the concept that Christ’s Church replaced Israel once Israel rejected the Messiah 2,000 years ago. Matters are made worse since some of Israel’s Islamic enemies are now a part of the BDS evil.

Fantastic charges have been brought against Israel at the ICC (the International Criminal Court—at the Hague), yet all Israel has done is to retaliate against unprovoked rocket attacks and cross-border incursions by fanatical Muslims coming through secretly dug tunnels under Israel’s fences.

Americans and Christians should not forget that our own General Petraeus was irrationally and illegally charged at the ICC for alleged war crimes in Iraq. America’s “Just-War” there did unfortunately produce some civilian casualties as does all wars. History shows that to end WWII, cities in Germany and Japan were reduced to rubble resulting in a high death toll of civilian casualties. Should all American and British airmen be brought before the ICC? Such blatant nonsense is just more proof that leftwing liberalism and political socialism stem from mental and spiritual disorders.

Since we live in an era of rampant radicalism, especially among media types, imagine the state of affairs should Israel ever be compelled to launch a devastating preemptive strike against one or more enemy nations to prevent their own annihilation. Could such an eventuality be that which causes the destruction of the Northern Armies of Gog and Magog (Russia and her allies?—vs. 22). When this destruction occurs, the nations will recognize God’s hand in Israel’s defense (vs. 23). God Himself causes Gog’s utter defeat on the mountains of Israel (Ez. 39:1-4). It further appears that God (or an Israeli counter-attack) destroys home areas of her enemies (vs. 6) which will be followed by a religious revival when Gog is defeated (vs. 7-13) and God saves Israel.

Today Israel is heavily armed—every citizen is considered a frontline soldier. However, if most of Israel’s current enemies were destroyed, militarily (with divine aid) peace could seem assured. Their hearts crave peace. They long for the day when “swords will be beaten into plowshares” (Is. 2:4). But this will instead be a time of grave danger—yet to come in the “LATTER TIMES” for “by PEACE HE [the Antichrist] shall destroy many” (Dan. 8:23-25).

Bible scholars know that world events will inevitably follow God’s preordained plan for the ages. True, lasting peace only comes with the return of the Prince of Peace and even then only after the most devastating war of all wars—Armageddon.

Jerusalem is still yet to become the “cup of trembling” and the “burdensome stone” to all nations (Zech. 12:2-3). So the nation, “born in a day” (Is. 66:8) that has endured centuries of banishment, God has regathered (Zech. 7:13-14; 8:7-8). Israel is truly God’s timepiece (Dan. 9:24-27).

Once God crushes the Northern Armies (Ez. 39:6) a greater regathering of Jews will ensue. A world-wide revival is prophesied (Joel 2:1-2, 20-21, 28-32). The Apostle Peter reported that a “token” or an “earnest” of this revival was prefigured or typified at Pentecost (Acts 2:17-21).

Still there is danger, and caution is warranted in that the Church must not think that Joel’s revival is the full and final coming of Christ’s Kingdom. Many will be deceived at this time (Matt.

24:24; Mark 13:22). As terrible as these coming wars will be, the world still faces the appearance of the False Prophet and the Antichrist who will initiate the great deception of the false peace when the 7-year peace treaty is offered to Israel. By this time, Israel will have reduced her military power considerably and become the land of “unwalled villages” (Ez. 38:11).

Now comes the time when the world is forced to endure the “Woman who rides the beast” (Rev. 17). This woman has been described by theologians as the now consolidating one-world religion that will be a unification of world religions except that Judaism and true Christianity will be excluded. The “beast” she rides is identified as the “New World Order” that is so beloved by secular internationalists and globalists as their hoped for utopia.

Can anyone be absolutely certain regarding the minute fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies yet unfulfilled? If history is our guide, the dogmatist is always on thin ice. What we can safely rely upon is God’s promise to the Church of Jesus Christ (His adopted children—Ep. 1:4-7) to “never leave or forsake us” (Heb. 13:5). So while watching the Middle East:

Keep looking up.

Prime Source:

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Israel, the Future and You
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Give Thanks

By Nancy Long

The phrase "**give thanks**", so states the internet, appears 35 times in the King James version of the Bible. The single word "**thanks**" comes to light even more, and often is accompanied with the words "gave" or "giving" or "have/had given".

2 Sam. 22:50 -- "Therefore I will give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto Thy name."

1 Chron. 16:8 -- "Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people."

1 Chron. 16:34-35 -- "O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to Thy holy name, and glory in Thy praise."

1 Chron. 16:41 -- "And with them Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the Lord, because His mercy endureth forever."

1 Chron. 25:3 -- "Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the Lord."

2 Chron. 31:2 -- "And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the Lord."

Neh. 12:24 -- "And the chief of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward over against ward."

Psalms 18:49 -- "Therefore will I give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto Thy name."

Psalms 30:4 -- "Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness."

Psalm 30:12 -- *"To the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee for ever."*

Psalm 75:1 -- *Unto Thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto Thee do we give thanks; for that Thy name is near Thy wondrous works declare."*

Psalm 92:1 -- *"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most High."*

Psalm 97:12 -- *"Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness."*

Psalm 105:1 -- *"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people."*

Psalm 106:1 -- *Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."*

Psalm 106:47 -- *"Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto Thy holy name, and to triumph in Thy praise."*

Psalm 107:1 -- *"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."*

Psalm 118:1 and 29 (repeated in first and last verses of this psalm)
"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: because His mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 119:62 -- *"At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments."*

Psalm 122:4 -- *"Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord."*

Psalm 136:1-3 and 26 -- *"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of gods: for His mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for His mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of heavens: for His mercy endureth for ever."*

Psalm 140:13 -- *"Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto Thy name: the upright shall dwell in Thy presence."*

Romans 16:4 -- *"Who have for my life laid down their own necks:
unto Whom not only I give thanks, but also
all the churches of the Gentiles."*

1 Cor. 10:30 -- *"For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil
spoken of for that for which I give thanks?"*

Eph. 1:16 -- *"Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention
of you in my prayers."*

Col. 1:3 -- *"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, praying always for you."*

1 Thess. 1:2 -- *" We give thanks to God always for you all, making
mention of you in our prayers."*

1 Thess. 5:18 -- *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

2 Thess. 2:13 -- *"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for
you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the
beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification
of the Spirit and belief of the truth"*

All the way through the unchanging truth of God's Holy Word, from the Old Testament and continuing into the New, we are urged, advised, and instructed in wise counsel, to give God thanks!

For this month's Defender, I felt almost compelled, or led maybe, to use more of God's Words and less of my own. The more I delved into the above Scriptures, the more I saw the need to be grateful in **all** things in conditions we would consider to be good and also in matters we might deem not so desirable or suitable being privileged to live in a God fearing country, or living and breathing in a nation where God has been, over the years, pushed away in times of plenty, and also in seasons of want in sickness and in health in **everything**, give thanks!

Give thanks to God for who He is. Give thanks with a heart full of gratitude and praise. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son, to be *"a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins"* (Romans 3:25). Be grateful if you have been given the faith to believe, because *"without faith it's impossible to please Him"* (Heb. 11:6a). To God be the glory!!

Give thanks, my Defender friends give thanks!!!



Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
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We are now on internet radio: www.evangelismradio.com (various times).

Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"
airing Monday through Friday during morning drive time
on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Tuesday Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 PM
Thanksgiving Day Service (Nov. 26)	10:00 AM