



April 2007

In the News

Iran, Syria prepping for US Summer War April 1, 2007

Iran, Syria and the Lebanese Hezbollah militia are preparing for a US-led war this summer, according to the Israeli Defense Forces.

"Their preparation is defensive ahead of war ... They fear a war initiated by the Americans because they understand that there might be an attack against Iran over the summer.

Hamas Tests Rockets

April 2, 2007

Palestinian terrorist groups yesterday used a former Gaza Strip Jewish city evacuated by Israel in 2005 to test explosives and rockets for use against Israel, according to senior members of Hamas' so-called military wing, who said they were preparing for a "coming" confrontation.

The Sanhedrin has purchased a flock of sheep with the intention of making a sacrifice on the Temple Mount. The government of Israel has refused permission but the Sanhedrin has made a statement about the future.

April 2, 2007

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Sound the Trumpet!

Joel 2:1

Israel's Surrender

The recent "Arab Summit" in Riyadh approved a peace plan that is in reality a call for Israel's surrender. The plan calls for a Palestinian state with Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and with East Jerusalem as its capital. It also calls for the return of millions of Palestinian refugees to the heart of Israel, which would mean Israel's demographic and military demise. The Arabs have stated that no amendments will be accepted, the alternative is war. The US administration seems to be indicating that it will accept this plan without amendments. The US seems ready to sacrifice Israel to get help in Iraq. The whole world is pressuring Israel to accede. Israel's P.M. Olmert is dithering, which is making the Arabs bolder by the hour. Now for the first time the Arab world from North Africa to Saudi Arabia to Iran is closing ranks in unprecedented unity.

At the same time there are incredible preparations for war going on by all sides, including Israel, US, Syria, Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas. Iran seems poised to obtain nuclear weapons, putting further pressure on Israel and the US to do something about it. Could there be another near cataclysmic war before the false peace treaty is signed, could this scenario be preparation for the war of Ezekiel 38 & 39 which will take place after the peace treaty is signed.

It is impossible to know the details of how this end time scenario will unfold.

This situation has climactic written all over it, the steam is building and there seems certain to be an explosion in the not too distant future.

Look up! Listen for the Sound of the trumpet!

In the meantime, if America sells out Israel, watch for the consequences.

Good Men in Bad Places and Bad Men in Good Places

In Ezekiel 44:16-18 the Lord made a fine distinction about the garments the priests were to wear, "They shall be clothed with linen garments, and no wool shall come upon them whilst they minister" God is God of fine distinctions, in this text he makes a fine distinction between linen and wool garments. We see that this fine distinction was very important to God, of course He is using physical things to teach spiritual realities. Fine distinctions in spiritual matters are very important to God. In verse 23 it says, "and they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean." That is a call to separation. Paul emphasizes this separation in

2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14 "... withdraw yourself from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition (teaching) which he received from us."

That is separation on the basis of sound doctrine and disobedience to God's Word, "have no company with him."

A Good Man in a Bad Place can be a terrible stumbling block to others, causing them to see no harm in wrong associations. A good man who believes the right things, but is pastoring an apostate church or is in an apostate group or denomination is a stumbling

block who will lead others into ecumenical compromise.

A Bad Man in a Good Place

will be the little leaven (evil) that will leaven the whole loaf. Calling a Pastor who is not sound in doctrine or is from an apostate denomination will ultimately corrupt and destroy the church. It matters not how pleasing a preacher he may be, God's Word teaches that the Bride of Christ is to be separate from apostate churches and apostate pastors.

This may seem unloving, but when a doctor cuts a cancer from the body it is an act of love toward the body. Jude wrote "... it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints."

The following is a list of Biblical principles which prevent ecumenical and doctrinal compromise.

- ✓ Scripture forbids us to have fellowship with unbelief.
- ✓ Scripture commands us to reprove apostasy.
- ✓ Scripture teaches us that we must purge unbelief if we can.
- ✓ Scripture teaches that believer and unbeliever cannot be yoked together in spiritual endeavor.
- ✓ Scripture teaches us to separate from disobedient brethren.
- ✓ God's work done in God's way produces only good results. God's work done in man's way produces good and bad results.
- ✓ Do not affiliate your church with any church, mission, movement or evangelistic effort which does not fully believe the Word of God.
- ✓ Do not affiliate your church with any church, mission, movement or evangelistic effort which does not practice Biblical separation.
- ✓ When in doubt, don't join.
- ✓ Separation is not the answer to every disagreement between brethren.

- ✓ The Spirit of God has never led one Christian contrary to one word of the Word of God.
- ✓ At any given time of Church history God is most severe on those whom He is using at that moment.

Global Religious TV Network

The Vatican is on the verge of launching not just its own television station, but a global television network! With the call sign H2O, the network is due to be launched by the end of the year, offering a mix of news and original entertainment in seven languages.

Benedict sees clearly that the power of the British and American peoples is rapidly waning. He sees their increasing lack of political will. He witnesses the sham of their pseudo-religiosity. He perceives their youth directionless, increasingly their minds perverted by unwittingly allowing the exploitation by a multiplicity of forces that are both character and soul destroying. He also sees the power of the primary force which is bending their minds - the power of mass media, via the music, film, video, web-based and telephonic sources so freely placed at their disposal.

So! Right at the juncture at where the masses are clamoring for an enlightening form of entertainment, Benedict xvi is about to go global with the Vatican's own brand of religious entertainment via its own global television network.

Take my word for it or not, the day will soon dawn when that network will air shows of a nature that will leave the public absolutely spellbound! In time to

come, the Vatican will produce religious entertainment which will make Hollywood box-office hits on religious themes look more like Disney cartoons by comparison. The visions coming down the tube from Vatican-networked TV will literally hypnotize their global audience with their out-of-this-world, mind-shattering imagery.

By examining Bible prophecy, we can easily picture the impact a global religious network like the one the Vatican is planning could have a successful future. Rapture alert.

You can envision Protestants of every stripe buying into this. This would appear to be preparation for Rev. 13: 13-15.

Human Rights for Apes?

David Kupelin

An international movement is growing to grant human rights and "personhood" to apes.

Elevating animals up to the level of human beings - as actor Steven Segal, one of PETA's celebrity advocates, puts it, "We have to view all life as equal" - is a round about way of saying that human beings are no more than animals and therefore have no souls.

For many, there is great comfort and "freedom" in believing that there is no soul, because if there is no soul, there is no God, no divine judgment, no accountability - you get the picture.

We're animals, so we act like animals, we do what animals do. They eat each other, mate in the street, run around naked - kind of like the '60s again, with "sex, drugs and rock 'n roll."

The animal rights radicals don't really love animals. They just want to be their own gods. The way you become your own god is to deny the real one.

Church Growth Movement

A strange distortion of truth has spread like a grass fire on a windy day, through churches around the world. It calls God's people not just to understand our changing times from the world's perspective, but to actually blow with the wind and help fuel the transformation. This Church Growth Movement (CGM) uses familiar old words to persuade the people, but it conforms God's Word as well as human thinking to politically correct views of unity, community, service and change.

Forget solid Bible teaching and the "offense of the cross." To win the masses "for Christ", the church must be re-cloaked in a more permissive and appealing image. It must be marketed to the world as a "safe place", purged of the moral standards which stirred conviction of sin and a longing to separate from the world's immorality. So they re-imagined a feel-good church stripped of offense – one the world could love and claim as its own.

Their march to a "better world" is well under way. In this new church, group thinking, compromise, conflict resolution, the dialectic process and facilitated consensus are *in*. Uncompromising conviction and resistance to group consensus are *out*. For God's way seems far too *intolerant* to fit the managed systems of the new millennium.

--Excerpt from Reinventing the Church

The Philadelphia Inquirer ran a story on Rick Warren which tells us a great deal about the man who is changing the face of American evangelicalism. Here's an excerpt:

"Warren predicts that fundamentalism, of all varieties, will be one of the big enemies of the 21st century. Muslim fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism, Jewish fundamentalism, secular fundamentalism – they're all motivated by fear. Fear of each other."

This remark is no surprise to Pastor Bob DeWaay of Twin City Fellowship in Minneapolis. DeWaay has published a book which shines the spotlight on Rick Warren's brand of Christianity and its sobering implications for the church. The title of DeWaay's book "Redefining Christianity: Understanding the Purpose Driven Movement" describes what a growing number of Christians are seeing. Rick Warren has subtly and critically changed the message of the Gospel.

In the forward to the book, Gary Gilley, author of This Little Church Went to Market and pastor of Southern View Chapel in Springfield, Illinois, writes,

"Bob (DeWaay) painstakingly shows that Rick Warren has done for the church what McDonald's has done for the restaurant industry. Unfortunately, the church is not in the hamburger flipping business. Applying franchising principles to Christ's church may result in outward success, but true success cannot be measured by simply reading the bottom line of 'nickels and noses', buildings and programs."

In his steady, scholarly way, Bob DeWaay demonstrates that the Gospel according to Rick Warren is not a biblical call to sinners to throw down their rebel arms at the cross and embrace the salvation offered by the Lord Jesus Christ. Nowhere in the Purpose Driven Life are readers told that sinners (what an archaic term now) are under the wrath and curse of God unless they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice on the cross. Rick Warren instead retools the Gospel message to appeal to the unregenerate. He does not believe that God's purposes are declared in His revealed Word, but rather teaches that unsaved should go on a journey of self-discovery in order to locate God's purposes for their lives.

To Rick Warren, church growth is not the result of the Holy Spirit converting sinners as seen in the book of Acts but is the result of the latest marketing techniques that will make church attractive to those who don't know Jesus Christ. Thousands of churches are now Purpose Driven franchises with success hungry pastors taking their cues and even their sermons from Rick Warren. Rick Warren calls this "Church-in-a box" and he offers it on his numerous websites. But the true Gospel of Christ, the narrow way that Christ spoke of in the Bible, has been altered to suit the world. Numerical success may be achieved, but the Gospel must be obscured to do it Warren's way.

Redefining Christianity has excellent chapters in which the author deals with Rick Warren's redefining of terms like "vision" and "commitment" and his misuse of countless Bible versions and paraphrases to try to justify his teaching. The most important chapter in the book deals with the Gospel according to Rick Warren. The author points out that when original sin and the blood atonement are removed from the message, there is no "good news". The world is then being given a gospel that is false. It really is that serious.

Rick Warren's distaste for Christian fundamentalism, as expressed in the Philadelphia Inquirer, is a result of his distaste for the fundamentals of God's Word. Those

who insist on hearkening back to the Word of God stand in direct opposition to Warren's "Purpose-Driven" marketing tsunami. Rick's much vaunted PEACE plan, his unprecedented popularity with the secular media and his continuing ascendancy in American evangelicalism is dependant upon those pastors and leaders who are willing to set aside the clear dictates of God's Word in order to ride the coattails of Rick Warren and his temporal success. Fundamentalists get in the way.

In the midst of the marketing hype and popular clamor for Rick Warren's man-centered Gospel, may the clear voice of our Savior Jesus Christ cut through the din.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, and few there be that find it."
Matthew 7: 13-14 -- excerpt from "The Gospel According to Rick Warren" by B. Kjos

A False Gospel

Thousands of small groups using Saddleback's study guide and Teaching Video for the 40 days of Purpose are led in a prayer. They hear Pastor Warren speak these words:

"Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ? If you aren't sure of this, I'd like the privilege of leading you in a prayer to settle the issue. Let's bow our heads. I'm going to pray a prayer and you can follow it silently in your mind:

'Dear god, I want to know Your purpose for my life. I don't want to waste the rest of my life on the wrong things. Today I want to take the first step in preparing for eternity by getting to know You. Jesus Christ, I don't understand it all, but as much as I know how, I want to open my life to You. I ask you to come into my life and make yourself real to me. Use this series to help me know what you made me for. Thank You. Amen.'

"If you just prayed that prayer for the very first time, I congratulate you. You've just become a part of the family of God."

Is this a response to the gospel? Where is repentance, acknowledgement of need, confession of personal sin? Where is the cross? The Bible tells us that saving "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17-18. But none of the Scriptures that show the gospel are mentioned in this first lesson. Biblically illiterate friends and neighbors who join the group would pray this prayer without any real knowledge of the cross, of the Savior, or of God's view of sin. In fact,

the meaning of salvation isn't included in the first lesson. And if it had been there, the context of the lesson would suggest that we are merely saved from a purposeless life --- not from bondage to sin.

-- Excerpt from Spirit Led or Purpose Driven

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In a polluted stream there may be some good water, but to drink of that stream you may greatly harm yourself. The Purpose Driven stream is a polluted stream; you drink of it at great spiritual peril.

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The PDC Program for Change

Focusing on the "customer's perspective" brings success. People feel satisfied. They come and they buy. When this process is applied to churches, it works! With polls and surveys, a church can easily uncover the "felt needs" of the unbelievers in the local community – then target their services to their intended customers. Pastor Warren learned that lesson early from Robert Schuler – the "possibility thinker" who called Mikhail Gorbachev a Christian despite the protests of this unrepentant Communist. The people-pleasing methods that worked so well at the Crystal Cathedral would prove just as effective at Saddleback.

You might still wonder why pastors would focus on the felt needs of unbelievers rather than the true needs of God's family. Doesn't this strategy turn God's principles upside down?

Yes, but it also attracts the spiritual diversity needed for the dialectic process – the heart of today's transformation in churches as well as in business, education, government and other organizations. Dr. Robert Klenck summarizes it in his report on

"The 21st Century Church"

"... in this movement, it is imperative that unbelievers are brought into the church; otherwise, the process of continual change cannot begin. There must be an antithesis (unbelievers) present to oppose the thesis (believers), in order to move towards consensus (compromise), and move the believers away from their moral absolutism (resistance to change). If all members of the church stand firm on the Word of God, and its final authority in all doctrine and tradition, then the church cannot and will not change. This is common faith."

-- Excerpt from Spirit Led or Purpose Driven

Has God Set Israel Aside Permanently?

A Bible Study

In Deuteronomy God promised Israel that if they would trust Him and obey Him He would bless them. He also promised that if they failed to trust Him and obey Him, He would bring terrible judgment upon them.

God made a promise to David and his seed:

- Ps 89:26-29 A promise of blessing.
- Ps 89:30-32 A warning of severe chastening for unbelief and disobedience.
- Ps 89:33-37 A promise of ultimate restoration and blessing.
- Ps 89:38-45 A further warning of chastening for unbelief and disobedience.
- Ps 89:46 We see David's expectation, he knew God's judgment on His people had a time limit on it. It would one day come to an end.
- Hos 3:4 For the past 2,000 years Israel has had no King, no Temple worship, no Priesthood. Since 70 AD this remarkable prophecy has been fulfilled.
- Hos 3:5 We see this promise of ultimate restoration of Israel to the land and to the Lord. Notice, "in the latter days." This prophecy has been partially fulfilled in our lifetime; spiritual restoration is yet to come. If the first half of that promise has been fulfilled, we know that God will keep His promise and fulfill the second half.
- Rom 11:1, 2 Paul addresses the same issue; Paul says emphatically, "God hath not cast away His people".
- Rom 11:25 Paul clearly teaches that Israel's spiritual blindness will be removed, "after the fullness of the gentiles be come

in." That is after the church has been completed and after the rapture takes place.

- Rom 11:26 All living Jews will be saved, Christ their Messiah, will come to deliver Israel and redeem her.
- Rom 11:27 This is the fulfillment of God's OT promises to Israel.
- Rom 11:28 Israel is still God's chosen people in spite of all their sin and rebellion and disobedience. God's love for them has not ceased, even as God's love for a wicked, rebellious gentile world never ceased. (see John 3:16) Of course not every Jew will enter into God's blessing, only those who obey and respond in repentance and faith to God's provision for salvation.
- Rom 11:29 God is not a God who makes promises and changes His mind.
- Zech 13:8, 9 tells us about that future day when Israel will be redeemed and restored to God's blessing.

Some believe that God is finished with Israel and that the church has replaced Israel. Those people are blind to the theme of the scriptures. They are blind to what God is doing in the world today and blind to God's future program for this world. Yes salvation is the most vital issue but that salvation is encompassed in God's great program for the Jew, the Church and the Gentile nations. This issue is important because God has taken much of the scripture to reveal it to us. Amillennialists call God a liar when they refute His promises to Israel, promises of a land, a blessing and a kingdom. All around us we see the stage is being set for the consummation of God's great program for Israel and the nations.

"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Isaiah 6:5

I have said it before and I will say it again: this low concept of God is our spiritual problem today. Mankind has succeeded quite well in reducing God to a pitiful nothing! The God of the modern context is no God at all. He is simply a glorified chairman of the board, a king of big businessman dealing in souls. The God portrayed in much of our church life today commands very little respect.

We must get back to the Bible and to the ministration of God's Spirit to regain a high and holy concept of God. Oh, this awesome, terrible God, the dread of Isaac! This God who made Isaiah cry out, "I am undone!" This God who drove Daniel to his knees in honour and respect.

To know the Creator and the God of all the universe is to revere Him. It is to bow down before Him in wonder and awesome fear.

A. W. Tozer

The enemies of the premillennial message have been gaining much ground. Movements like the prosperity gospel, the church growth movement and competing views on prophecy have been chewing away at the pre-trib rapture's evangelical base. We now have whole denominations and educational institutions that have turned their backs on Bible prophecy. During the past 15 years, Dallas Theological Seminary has largely abandoned the traditional dispensationalism view.

-- Nearing Midnight website

In the News ... continued

53% of Russian Nukes not Safely Secured

From Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin

Russian experts are expressing renewed alarm over the safety of the country's nuclear stockpiles, fearing terrorists will have no trouble gaining access.

"Only 47% of them are secured in a safe manner," according to Victor Mizin, a former high-ranking Russian diplomat.

That means about 300 tons of radioactive materials need modernized physical security, especially now, when global terrorists such as al-Qaida are striving to obtain access.

"If any of the terrorist groups will decide to obtain Russian nuclear materials for the purpose of making dirty bombs, they would be able to accomplish their goal relatively easy," Mizin said.

A dirty bomb combines radioactive materials - waste from hospitals and laboratories as well as spent nuclear fuel - with conventional explosives to spread radioactive contamination over a wide area. Al-Qaida not only is believed to be seeking such materials but is assessed to be capable of making dirty bomb devices.

Iran's President ...

promised on Sunday Iranians would soon hear more news about the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, which the West believes is a covert effort to build atomic bombs despite Tehran's denials.

"The Iranian nation will soon hear fresh news about our country's nuclear transition," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying. (Reuters)

Solana: Stage being set for 'Comprehensive Peace'

Associated Press Apr 2, 2007

Developments in the Middle East are pointing toward a comprehensive peace agreement

between Israel and the Arab world for the first time in decades, the European Union's foreign policy chief said Saturday.

"The Arab League for the first time in many years has assumed the responsibility to be more active in the peace process," Javier Solana said.

"If you put that together with the reaction of (Israeli) Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, the two things ... are beginning to construct the dynamic that could lead to the settlement of a crisis that has been with us for many years."

This could be the scenario of Daniel 9:27 with a European leader leading the process.

Europe: Majority Supports Strike on Iran

Jerusalem Post Apr 9, 2007

Over half of Europeans would support a preemptive military strike to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, a poll released last week by a London think-tank reports.

In response to the statement, "We must stop countries like Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, even if that means taking military action", 52% of Europeans agreed, 40% disagreed and 8% stated they were undecided.

Quake Lifts Solomon Island out of the Sea

By Neil Sands

Ranongga, Solomon Islands (AFP) The seismic jolt that unleashed the deadly Solomon's tsunami this week lifted an entire island metres out of the sea, destroying some of the world's most pristine coral reefs.

In an instant, the grinding of the Earth's tectonic plates in the 8.0 magnitude earthquake Monday forced the island of Ranongga up three metres (10 feet).

Matthew 24:7 "for nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there shall be famines, pestilence, and earthquakes in divers places."

Major earthquakes are on the increase

The Sin of Wasting Time

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Ephesians 5:15-16

- 1) **Your time is your life.** Every day, every hour, every minute is a portion of our life. That makes it valuable because life is valuable.
- 2) **Time cannot be saved.** You cannot stash hours away in a bank account to be later withdrawn and spent on what you want. Use it or lose it!
- 3) **Time can only be wasted or redeemed.** Although you cannot save up time, you can trade it for something valuable. You can redeem it!
- 4) **You can trade your time for knowledge.** The hours you spend in school can be traded in for an education that will benefit you the rest of your life. Or, you can sit there and daydream.
- 5) **You can trade your time for money.** When you get a job, they pay you by the what? That's right, the hour.
- 6) **You can trade your time for wisdom.** You get this from reading the Word of God. You get this by attending church and listening to the Bible being taught and preached.

Don't be guilty of wasting the precious gift of time!

By Jerry Ross

When a person gives you their time, they have given you a great gift – they have given you a portion of their life.