



LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

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**Israel in Bible Prophecy:
The Revival of the Language**



Observations by the Editor

Urgent Times

Once again this month our focus is on Israel in Bible prophecy. That is a very appropriate focus because Israel is the central theme of end time prophecy.

The Church Age is about to come to a screeching halt with the Rapture of the Church. When that happens, God will focus on bringing a large remnant of the Jewish people to salvation through faith in Yeshua as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10).

The Church Age began with an overlap period of time when God was working through both the Church and the Jewish people. The Church was established around 32 AD, and it was not until 38 years later, in 70 AD, that God poured out His wrath on the Jewish nation and proceeded to disperse them to the four corners of the earth. Now we are at the end of the Church Age, and once again we are experiencing an overlap period of time when God is working through both the Church and Israel.

He is calling the Church to prepare for the Rapture at any moment, while He is regathering the Jewish people back to their homeland where all the nations of the world will come against them and hammer them like no nation has ever been afflicted, resulting in a great remnant coming to the end of themselves and turning to God in faith. What a glorious day that will be! What a shame it is that it will require such extreme discipline to accomplish God's purpose.

It's exciting to be living in a time when we can personally witness the fulfillment of ancient prophecies before our very eyes. It is the most amazing time in all of human history, except for the time of the Lord's First Coming when He arrived as a baby born in a stable in the tiny village of Bethlehem.

It is tragic that the vast majority of professing Christians have no idea what a momentous age we are living in, either because they know nothing about God's Prophetic Word, or because they have been taught the erroneous theory of Amillennialism, which asserts that Jesus will never return to this earth to reign. The result is that most Christians are completely oblivious to the signs of the times,



Dr. David R. Reagan

just as they are ignorant of any future role of Israel in history because they have been taught the lie that the Church has replaced Israel and God has washed His hands of the Jewish people.

I feel a great sense of urgency like I have never felt before, not only because, at age 75, my personal days here on this earth are growing short, but because I am absolutely convinced by the signs of Israel that the Lord Jesus is at the very gates of Heaven waiting for His Father's command to step out and return for His Church.

That's why it is so important for us to literally proclaim from the heavens through satellite and antenna transmissions that:

“JESUS IS COMING SOON!”

I believe that the only reason God has spared my life to this day is to join with other voices in proclaiming this message. I believe it is the only reason Lamb & Lion Ministries exists. We are not here to proclaim a particular end time viewpoint or to spend time debating and defending a viewpoint. Our purpose is to proclaim that the Signs of the Times are clearly signaling the Lord's imminent return for His Church. We are calling the unsaved to repent and embrace Jesus as their Lord and Savior before it is too late. And we are calling believers to commit their lives to holiness and evangelism.

To accomplish our God-given purpose, we need your prayers and your financial support, and we need you to prayerfully consider becoming a Prophecy Partner (see page 19). ❖

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THE REVIVAL OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE



The plaza of the Dead Sea Scrolls museum in Jerusalem is pictured above. To the right is the white dome of the museum. It is shaped like the lid of one of the clay jars that the scrolls were found in. The black wall to the left symbolizes the message of one of the key scrolls that tells about the battle between the children of light and the children of darkness. The Isaiah scroll is located on the floor directly beneath the white dome.

Dr. David R. Reagan

For many years I have been taking pilgrimage groups to the Holy Land. One of the places we always visit is the Dead Sea Scrolls Museum in Jerusalem. The centerpiece of the museum is the Isaiah scroll that is displayed in a circular glass case.

I usually gather my group around the scroll, explain its importance and then turn the group loose to explore the rest of the museum. One year, after releasing the group, as I was walking away from the Isaiah scroll, I heard someone behind me suddenly start speaking loudly in Hebrew. When I turned around to see who it was, I discovered a young boy about 13 years old with his parents. The boy was reading the scroll, using a pointer. I supposed he was practicing for his Bar Mitzvah, for reading a section from the Scriptures is always a part of that ceremony.

As I listened to the young man, I realized I was witnessing a miracle. It occurred to me that a Greek boy of his age could not read the Greek writings of Homer (ca 8th Century BC) nor could an American or British boy read the English of Chaucer (14th Century AD). Yet this boy could read Hebrew written 2,000 years ago.

How was that possible? Because biblical Hebrew has been revived from the dead and is spoken as the national language of Israel today.

The Death of the Hebrew Language

But I am getting ahead of my story. Let's return for a moment to the days of the Bible.

The worldwide dispersion of the Jewish people began in 70 AD when the Romans ruthlessly ended their revolt against Roman rule by destroying the city of Jerusalem, including their marvelous Temple. This dispersion from their homeland was accelerated after their second revolt was put down in 136 AD.

As the Jews were scattered, they gradually stopped speaking their native language during the centuries that followed. Those in Europe took German and mixed it with Hebrew, producing a hybrid tongue called Yiddish. The Jews who settled in the Mediterranean basin mixed Hebrew with Spanish and developed a language called Ladino.

Hebrew became confined to the synagogues where it was used for Torah readings. By the beginning of the 20th Century, most Jews could not understand the Torah readings. For them, it was like a Gentile experiencing a Catholic mass conducted in Latin.

But all this was to change miraculously, and in the process, the fulfillment of a very important end time Bible prophecy began.

The Key Prophecy

The prophecy I have in mind is one about the revival of the Hebrew language. It is found in Zephaniah 3:9 —

For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord. (NASB)

The *New International Version* states that the Lord will “purify the lips of the people.” The *New Living Translation* says God will “purify the speech.” The *English Standard Version* puts it this way: “I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech.” *The Living Bible* paraphrases the verse to read: “At that time I will change the speech of my returning people to pure Hebrew so that all can worship the Lord together.”

The more literal translations of this verse leave the clear implication that the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy will occur when all the peoples of the world are once again unified in their language, likely speaking biblical Hebrew. Whether this will occur during the Millennium or the Eternal State is not made precisely clear in the Scriptures.

For example, Isaiah 19:18 says that during the Lord’s millennial reign, there will be cities in Egypt where people will be speaking Hebrew. And our key verse, Zephaniah 3:9, is set in the context of being fulfilled after God has poured out His “indignation” on the nations (Zephaniah 3:8). That’s speaking of the Tribulation, so the implication is that the establishment of a universal language will occur at the beginning of the Millennium.

On the other hand, Zechariah 8:23 tells us that during the Millennium, “ten people from all languages and nations will take hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you’” (NIV). So, it sounds like national languages will continue during the Millennium, and thus the unity of language will not occur until we reach the Eternal State.

But, as you will see, the revival of biblical Hebrew as the spoken language of the Jewish people today must be considered a miracle of God and at least a partial fulfillment of Zephaniah 3:9. In that regard, it should be noted that there is no other example in world history of an ancient language being revived as the spoken language of a modern nation. The restoration of biblical Hebrew to a modern day spoken language is a unique historical phenomenon.

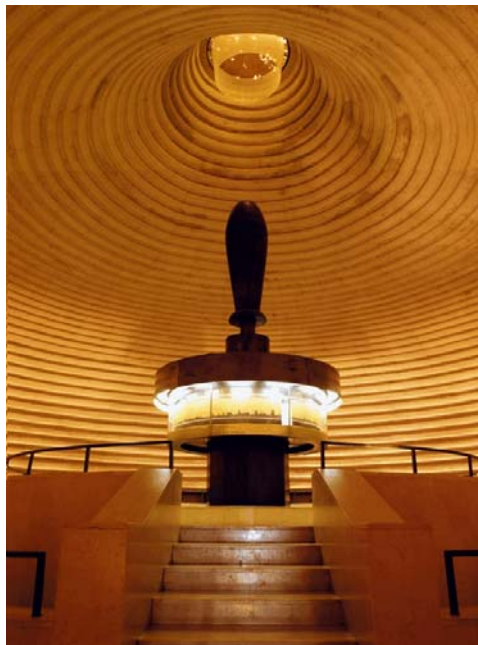
The Key Person

God orchestrated the revival of spoken Hebrew through a baby born to an Orthodox Jewish family in 1858 in Lithuania, which at that time was part of Russia. He was given the name of Eliezer Yitzhak Perlman.

When Eliezer was 5 years old, his father died of tuberculosis. A few years later, the boy was sent to live with his mother’s wealthy uncle, who was a stern taskmaster. As soon as Eliezer turned 13 and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, he was sent to a yeshiva (Rabbinical training school) in Belarus. There he fell under the influence of a young progressive rabbi who was caught up in the Jewish Enlightenment Movement.

The Key Teacher

One day the rabbi asked Eliezer to stay after class. When all the other students had left, the rabbi handed Eliezer a book and



The Isaiah scroll displayed under the dome of the Dead Sea Scrolls Museum in Jerusalem.

ask him to read it aloud. It was a Hebrew translation of *Robinson Crusoe*, and Eliezer was amazed by it.¹ This was in 1872.

Eliezer’s amazement was rooted in the fact that Orthodox Jews considered the Hebrew language to be a holy language that was appropriate only for use in the synagogue and for Rabbinical writing.² To use it for secular purposes was considered ungodly and blasphemous.³ In fact it was taken to be an attack on the Jewish religion.⁴

From the moment Eliezer saw that Hebrew could be used for other than liturgical purposes, he was hooked on it and its revival as a spoken language. Near the end of his life, while thinking back on that moment, he wrote: “Since the first glance at a Hebrew *Robinson Crusoe*, I fell in love with the Hebrew tongue as a living language. This love was a great and all-consuming fire that the torrent of life could not extinguish.”⁵

The Key Situation

Eliezer had grown up with Yiddish as his natural spoken language. He was a prodigy, so at the age of 3 he was reading Hebrew in the Scriptures and prayer books. But it was not used for everyday conversation, and not only because it was considered holy. Another problem was the fact that it did not contain sufficient words to carry on a modern day conversation.

It is estimated that in the 1880s only about 50 percent of all male Jews could understand the Hebrew readings in the synagogue, and as few as 20 percent could read a book written in Hebrew.⁶ In that same decade, the Jewish poet, Yehuda Leib Gordon (1830-1892), wrote: “Perhaps I am the last of Zion’s poets, and you are the last readers.”⁷ Although Gordon was a part of the Jewish Enlightenment, he saw little hope for Hebrew becoming a daily spoken language or even a language of literature.

Hebrew, because of its lack of use, was just too clumsy. One of Eliezer’s biographers summed it up this way:⁸

Young writers preferred to write in Yiddish or in a European language, full of feeling and color. By contrast, Hebrew was bare and stiff, the dry language of the scholar. No one used Hebrew for everyday expressions. Orthodox Jews had a different reason for not speaking Hebrew. They believed it was wrong to use a holy language to say something like, “Take out the garbage.”

Moshe Lilienblum (1843-1910), who was considered the “dean” of Hebrew authors at the time Eliezer was introduced to *Robinson Crusoe* in Hebrew, was also disillusioned with the future of the language. In a newspaper article, he announced that “Hebrew’s time has passed, and it no longer has a purpose or task in Jewish life.”⁹

The Key Family

When Eliezer’s great-uncle discovered that the boy had fallen under the influence of a teacher mixed-up in the Jewish

Enlightenment, he pulled him out of the yeshiva and disowned him. Eliezer wandered about on his own and ended up at a synagogue in Russia. There he met a remarkable man named Solomon Jonas who asked the boy to come live with his family. Jonas was a wealthy whiskey maker with six children of his own, the oldest of which was a daughter named Deborah who was 18 years old.¹⁰

Eliezer lived with this family for the next two years and was tutored by Deborah in French, German and Russian. During that time, his heart grew fond of Deborah.¹¹

At the age of 16, Eliezer's adopted father decided he needed to pursue his education at a state school in Latvia. But this, as we will see, was not the end of Eliezer's relationship with the Jonas family.

It is significant to note that during his stay with the Jonas family, Eliezer developed a constant cough.¹²



A drawing of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda by an unknown artist.

The Key Event

Eliezer's time at the state school was to prove to be a pivotal period in his life. During that time he was introduced to the concept of nationalism, and he became a zealot in behalf of it.¹³

In 1877 Russia went to war against the Ottoman Empire in behalf of the liberation of the Balkans. And the concept of nationalism — “one state for each nation” — became the battle cry that swept Europe and which ultimately led to the outbreak of World War I.

The war in the Balkans captured Eliezer's imagination and awakened within him the idea that the Jewish nation, like all other nations, deserved its own state. Here's how he explained it.¹³

After a number of hours of reading the papers and reflecting on the fate of the Bulgarians and their future freedom, suddenly, as if lightning struck, an incandescent light radiated before my eyes . . . and I heard a strange inner voice calling to me: “The revival of Israel and its language in the land of the forefathers!” . . . The lot was cast. My life and strength were given from that time onto the labor of reviving Israel and its tongue in the land of the fathers.

The Key Diagnosis

In 1878, at the age of 20, Eliezer arrived in Paris where he intended to study medicine. But his heart was in Palestine, as his homeland was called at that time. And his zeal was for the revival of the Hebrew language as a spoken tongue.

But all his dreams and hopes were suddenly derailed by his nagging cough. He finally went to a doctor for a diagnosis, and the news he received was devastating. He had developed tuberculosis.

He immediately wrote to Deborah to inform her. “I have the feeling of a person condemned to death,” he wrote. He contin-

ued, “For this reason I work now without sleep to put onto paper the reasons why it is so important for the Jewish world to become inflamed with the idea of returning to the land of our forefathers . . .”¹⁴ He then focused in on his greatest concern:¹⁵

I have decided that in order to have our own land and political life, it is also necessary that we have a language to hold us together. That language is Hebrew, but not the Hebrew of the rabbis and scholars. We must have a Hebrew language in which we can conduct the business of life. It will not be easy to revive a language dead for so long a time.

Eliezer closed this letter with a statement that would become his lifelong motto: “The day is short; the work to be done is so great!”

In his next letter to Deborah, he signed it Ben-Yehuda, and he added this postscript: “Do not be surprised that I sign a new name to my letter. This is the name which will appear over my articles. Someday I shall find the way to make it my own.”¹⁶

His new name had a double meaning. His father's given name had been Leib, which was Yiddish for Yehuda. Thus, Ben-Yehuda meant Son of Yehuda. But Yehuda is the Hebrew word for Judea, and so the new name also meant that he considered himself to be a Son of Judea — a son of the land of his forefathers.¹⁷

The Key Articles

In 1879, when Ben-Yehuda was only 21, a prestigious Vienna newspaper published an article of his titled, “A Burning Question.” The editor changed the name to “A Weighty Question.” It was to be one of the first ever Zionist manifestos, calling on the Jewish people to return to their homeland.

In the article, Ben-Yehuda became the first person to call for the revival of Hebrew as an everyday language.¹⁸ In the process of writing the essay, Ben-Yehuda had to invent a new Hebrew word for nationalism: *leumiut*.¹⁹ He signed the article with his new name — Eliezer Ben-Yehuda.

Predictably, the Orthodox Jews reacted furiously, denouncing Ben-Yehuda as a pagan because he had the audacity to suggest that their holy language be defiled by using it for everyday conversation.²⁰ But Ben-Yehuda was not deterred. He immediately responded to his critics with a second article which he titled, “And We Have Still Not Learned Our Lesson.”²¹

In it he decried the political and philosophical divisions among the Jewish people and called for unity. He wrote, “Why do we not see, all of us whose eyes are so keen, that if we do not hurry to unite, the end is near, the horrible end of the hope of our people for an eventual redemption?” He then proceeded to ask a rhetorical question: “What is this one point on which all of us can unite?” His obvious answer: “The resettlement of the Land of Israel.”²²

A Key Discovery

In 1880 Ben-Yehuda decided to take the advice of his doctor and go to Algiers in North Africa where he was assured the climate would be much better for his health. The advice proved true.

But what turned out to be more significant was a linguistic discovery Ben-Yehuda made there. For the first time, he encountered Hebrew as spoken by Sephardic Jews — the Jews who had settled around the rim of the Mediterranean Sea. He discovered that their pronunciation of Hebrew was so different from his Ashkenazic pronunciation that he could not understand them, nor could they understand him.²³

As he studied their system of pronunciation, he fell in love with it. He found it to be more flowing and melodic, more natural to the lips and easier on the ears.²⁴ Deciding rather arbitrarily, Ben-Yehuda concluded that the Sephardic pronunciation had to be closer to the original in biblical times, and he demanded it and taught it from that day forward.²⁵

The Key Land

Although the climate of North Africa was very beneficial to Ben-Yehuda's health, he decided that if he was destined to die from TB, he would die in his homeland. So he decided to move to Palestine and reside in Jerusalem.

This was an incredible decision for anyone in that day and time, especially for a sick person. Palestine was a barren wasteland full of great hardships, and Jerusalem was an incubator of diseases — a backwater town where the sewage ran down the middle of the streets.

Before departing, Ben-Yehuda felt compelled to write Solomon Jonas and let him know he had decided not to marry Deborah because any wife of his would face terrible hardships and diseases and the possibility that he might die at any moment.²⁶ But despite this letter and the fact they had not seen each other in seven years, Deborah would have none of it. She wrote back and insisted they get married. She stated that she was as bound to his fate as Ruth of biblical times had been bound to the fate of her mother-in-law, Naomi.²⁷

They were married in Cairo in 1881. She was 27; he was 23. They agreed that Deborah's name would be changed to the Hebrew equivalent of D'vorah.²⁸ They also agreed that they would never again speak to each other in any language except Hebrew — despite the fact that D'vorah spoke little Hebrew and the language lacked words for many everyday things.²⁹ This led to communication through a lot of hand signals and finger pointing over the next few years.³⁰

The couple proceeded immediately to Palestine and arrived at the port of Jaffa in the fall of 1881. From there they traveled by carriage to Jerusalem where they resided for the next 41 years. Many years later, Ben-Yehuda wrote that he had only two regrets in life: "There are two things for which I am sorry, and

for which I can find no consolation: I was not born in Jerusalem, or even in the Land of Israel, and the first words I spoke were not spoken in Hebrew."³¹

The Key City

For 2,000 years, ever since their expulsion from the land by the Romans, the Jews in the Diaspora had been ending their prayers with the phrase, "Next year in Jerusalem." At long last that prayer had been answered for Eliezer and D'vorah. But the Jerusalem they found was not the Jerusalem of Scripture which is referred to in Isaiah as "a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord" (62:3) and "a praise in the earth" (62:7).

Instead, the city proved to be what they had been warned it would be. They found a small town of only 25,000 residents who were living in filth.³² The Jews constituted about half the population, but they were divided up into close-knit communities that had little to do with each other. And to Ben-Yehuda's despair, he discovered them speaking Ladino, Yiddish, Arabic, Spanish and Russian — but no Hebrew.³³

At first, they tried to court the Orthodox community by dressing like Sephardic Jews, observing the kosher laws and attending the synagogue services on the Sabbath.³⁴ But this effort proved to be of no avail. Ben-Yehuda's reputation as a Zionist with the aim of reviving Hebrew as a spoken language had preceded him. The result was that the Orthodox community, especially the Ashkenazis (European Jews), ostracized them.

Ultimately, this treatment convinced Ben-Yehuda and his wife that they should return to European ways and dress. Accordingly, Ben-Yehuda cut off his side curls, shaved his long beard into a close-cut goatee and started wearing suits instead of robes.³⁵ This change convinced the Orthodox that they had been right all along in viewing the couple as pagans.

Ben-Yehuda's zeal became focused. He made a large sign of his motto ("The day is short; the work to be done is so great!"), and he hung it on the wall above his stand-up desk (he argued that he could think better standing up).³⁶ He proceeded to work 15 to 19 hours each day, most of it standing!

The Key Plan

Ben-Yehuda had a very specific plan in mind when he arrived in Jerusalem, and he pursued it fanatically and methodically. It consisted of several elements:³⁷

- Encourage the speaking of Hebrew in each home.
- Establish a newspaper and work through it to report the news in Hebrew, creating new words as needed.
- Do everything possible to introduce the teaching and speaking of Hebrew into the schools.
- Produce a dictionary of the Hebrew language to aid in its daily utilization.



A painting of Ben-Yehuda by an unknown artist.



Ben-Yehuda began the implementation of his plan by starting with his own home. He laid down the rule that no language could be spoken within his house except Hebrew. He wanted his family to be a model for others. And thus, when D'vorah became pregnant, he announced that the baby she was carrying would become the first true Hebrew child in 2,000 years because it would be allowed to hear only biblical Hebrew.³⁸ That meant no playmates, and it meant almost total isolation at home.

Their friends were aghast over such fanaticism. They pleaded with Ben-Yehuda to change his mind, arguing that the child would grow up either as a mute or an idiot.³⁹ But Ben-Yehuda would not budge.

In 1882 D'vorah gave birth to this first child, a boy who was named Ben-Zion Ben-Yehuda, meaning Son of Zion and Son of Judea.⁴⁰ And just as Ben-Yehuda had promised, the son was kept isolated from the world so that he would not become “contaminated” by hearing any foreign language.

Friends and neighbors continued to protest the boy's isolation. And their harassment became even more passionate when four years passed without Ben-Zion speaking a word. All he did was babble. But shortly after his fourth birthday, he spoke his first word — *Abba*, meaning “Father.”⁴¹ From that point on he spewed forth a torrent of words and, like his father, he began to make up new words for items around the house!⁴²

The Hebrew Newspaper

Ben-Yehuda launched the publication of a newspaper shortly after his arrival in Jerusalem, not only because it was part of his master plan, but also because he needed the income to survive. The general population in Jerusalem liked the paper. They had never seen anything like it in the Hebrew language. The settlers in the agricultural villages scattered across Palestine loved it. But the Orthodox were determined to destroy it and tried to do so on several occasions.

To publish the paper, Ben-Yehuda had to constantly create new words. His first challenge was to come up with a word for “newspaper.” The word used in Jerusalem was *michtav-et*, which literally meant, “a letter of the time.” Ben-Yehuda considered this term to be clumsy, so he took the Hebrew word for “time” and, improvising a bit, he came up with the new word, *itton*, which received public acceptance.⁴³

Other words for which he had to manufacture new Hebrew words were soldier, airplane, sport, doll, ice-cream, jelly, omelette, handkerchief, towel, bicycle — and hundreds more.⁴⁴

Sometimes his new words were rejected. One such word was the one he introduced for “tomato.” The commonly used

word already in circulation was *agbanit*, taken from a root word that meant “to love sensuously.” Ben-Yehuda thought that was inappropriate, so he coined the word, *badurah*. The Hebrew speakers stuck with *agbanit*.⁴⁵

Ben-Yehuda was a purist. He would never just transfer a word like “telegraph” into the Hebrew language via a transliteration. No, the new word had to be based on a root Hebrew word.⁴⁶

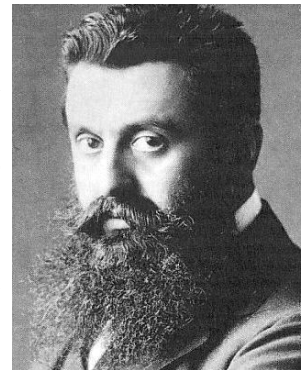
The Opposition

Opposition to Ben-Yehuda's efforts never let up during his lifetime. The Orthodox were unrelenting in their efforts to prevent their holy language from becoming a secular tongue.⁴⁷

At one point, the Ashkenazic leadership went to the Ottoman rulers and accused Ben-Yehuda of treason, based upon a passage in his newspaper which they had purposefully mistranslated. This resulted in his arrest, trial and conviction. And although he was released on bail, pending an appeal, he was prohibited from publishing his newspaper. He was delivered from this ordeal by Baron Edmond de Rothschild (1845-1934), a French philanthropist and supporter of Zionism, who paid bribes to the prosecutors and judges.⁴⁸ During this legal crisis, Ben-Yehuda and his family were formally excommunicated by the Ashkenazic leaders.⁴⁹

Opposition from secular Jews was not so passionate, but it was also persistent. It came mainly in the form of a lack of interest. After all, most of the Jews who formed the nucleus of the Zionist Movement in the 1890s and early 20th Century were Humanists, Socialists, or Communists, and most were Atheists or Agnostics. They had no interest in speaking a biblical language.

Theodor Herzl (1860-1904), considered to be the father of Zionism, is a good example. He was a thoroughly secular person. He considered Hebrew to be “unfeasible,” and preferred German instead.⁵⁰ Other Zionists advocated Yiddish.



Theodor Herzl

Ben Yehuda was a great admirer of Herzl and traveled to meet him personally several times, but he could never seem to catch up with him. He finally was able to meet Herzl in 1898 when he came to Palestine to confer with Kaiser Wilhelm II during the German leader's visit to the Holy Land. Herzl showed a complete lack of interest in Ben-Yehuda's ideas. That evening, Herzl wrote in his diary:⁵¹

I also met a young fanatic who tried to convince me that what our movement needs is to adopt Hebrew as our national language. It is, of course, ridiculous!

The Two Faithful Wives

Throughout all the stress and strain of living in a harsh environment while battling a deadly disease and fighting constant battles to achieve what seemed to be an impossible task, Ben-Yehuda was supported and constantly encouraged by two remarkable wives.



Ben-Yehuda and his wife, D'vorah, in 1882, a year after their marriage.

The first was D'vorah who bore him five children while helping him edit his newspaper. She suffered quietly as she was scorned by neighbors and rarely had enough money to put food on the table. Ben-Yehuda always referred to her as "the first Hebrew mother in two thousand years" because she was the first to give birth to children who grew up speaking Hebrew as their native language.⁵²

D'vorah contracted her husband's tuberculosis and died rather suddenly in 1891 at the age of 37. Ben-Yehuda's words of honor for her, which he published a week later in his newspaper, consisted simply of a quote from Jeremiah 2:2 — "I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your espousals, when you went after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown."⁵³

Ben-Yehuda's grief was compounded two months later when his three youngest children died during a flu epidemic.⁵⁴ He was 33 years old, and he desperately needed consolation and help.

Once again, the help came from the Jonas family. Shortly before her death, D'vorah had written to her younger sister, Paula, asking her to take her place as Ben-Yehuda's wife.⁵⁵ Solomon Jonas and his wife were appalled by the request since they considered it to be a death warrant for another daughter. But like her older sister, Paula could not be deterred. She had always loved Ben-Yehuda, and she considered it her destiny to take her sister's place and assist him in the accomplishment of his monumental task. She was only 19 years old, so her entire family decided to go with her and make Aliya!⁵⁶

Paula wrote to Ben-Yehuda with the news and requested that he send her a list of possible Hebrew names for herself. Like her sister, she desired to change her name. Ben-Yehuda sent the list and she picked the name of Hemda, not because she liked the way it sounded, but because of its meaning: "beloved or cherished."⁵⁷

Hemda proved to be every bit as faithful, resourceful, supportive and helpful as D'vorah had been. During her 30 years with Ben-Yehuda (1892-1922). She bore him 6 children. She toured all of Europe several times raising financial support for his research and writings. And she was the one who found a prestigious German publisher for his dictionary.

The Hebrew Dictionary

One of Ben-Yehuda's greatest achievements was his creation of a dictionary of the Hebrew language. He began the project by creating a new word for "dictionary." The expression people had been using was *sefer millim*, which meant "book of words." He shortened this to one word, *millon*.⁵⁸

Ben-Yehuda spent most of his life searching for ancient

Hebrew words that had been lost. He also sought to find the origin of words and examples of their usage, as well as their changes in meaning throughout the centuries. He scoured libraries all over Europe and the Middle East. And when he moved to the United States during World War I to escape Turkish persecution, he spent 4 years searching the great libraries of this nation which were located in the Northeast.⁵⁹

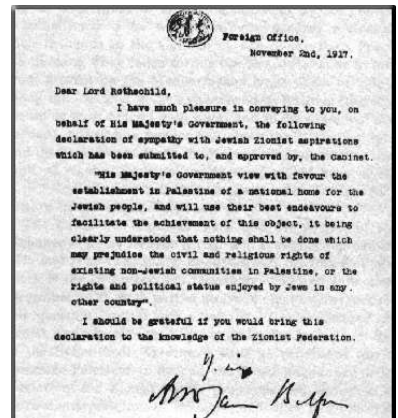
When he fled Palestine in 1914, he had already accumulated about 450,000 notes. He packed them up and turned them over to the American consulate in Jerusalem for safe-keeping.⁶⁰ Those notes were taken from over 40,000 books he had consulted that had been written over a period of more than two thousand years.⁶¹

What he sought to produce was much more than what we think of as a dictionary. His goal was no less than an encyclopedia of the Hebrew language. He provided definitions of each word in Hebrew, French, German and English. He identified the origin of each word and provided its sister words in other Semitic languages. He provided synonyms and antonyms. He traced the changes in the meaning of the word through the centuries. And he provided overwhelming examples of the use of the word in sentences to help the reader see how to use the word in conversations.⁶² For example, the dictionary provided 335 expressions for the word *lo*, which means "no," and 210 for *ken*, which means "yes."⁶³ The first volume, published in 1908, covered only the letters *aleph* and *beth*.⁶⁴ There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, of which five have different forms when used at the end of a word.

Ben-Yehuda's Triumph

By 1917, Ben-Yehuda had made such progress on his dictionary and with his effort to resurrect spoken Hebrew from the dead, that he changed the motto on his wall to read: "My day is long; my work is blessed."⁶⁵

Later that year, a dream of his came true. The British issued the Balfour Declaration in November, proclaiming their intention after the war to make Palestine a home for the Jewish people. The next month the city of Jerusalem fell to the Allied Forces, liberating the city from 400 years of Turkish rule.



Balfour Declaration

Ben-Yehuda responded to these momentous events with a paraphrase of Psalm 126: "T" was like a dream when the Lord restored Zion from its bondage."⁶⁶

His greatest victory came in 1921 when the British government recognized three official languages for Palestine: English, Arabic and Hebrew. Postage stamps were issued in Hebrew for the first time ever, anywhere in the world.

By 1922 five volumes of his dictionary had been published, and he had finished writing volumes 6 and 7. His work had received worldwide acclaim.

On December 14, 1922 he finished working on the word *nefesh*,” meaning “soul” or “spirit.” The next day was Friday, Sabbath eve and the second day of Hanukkah. He told his wife that the next word he would be working on meant “take a breath,” and he took that as a word from the Lord that he should take the day off and rest over the Sabbath.⁶⁷

He spent the day walking around his beloved city of Jerusalem. When he returned home, he turned pale and his breathing became labored. He laid down on a sofa to rest, and his wife sent word for doctors. Before long the word had spread all over Jerusalem that he was seriously ill, and the house quickly filled with doctors, city officials and friends.

Ben-Yehuda seemed to have drifted into a coma, but he suddenly raised up on an elbow, looked around the room and said, “Speak Hebrew!” Later, he called for his wife. She asked him if he felt better. His reply was, “Hebrew makes me rest.”⁶⁸ Those were his last words. He was 64 years old.

Hebrew Today

Ben-Yehuda’s wife, Hemda, and her son, Ehud, worked together with linguistic experts to complete the dictionary. It ran a total of 17 volumes and was not completed until 1958, seven years after her death in 1951 at the age of 78.⁶⁹

In the process of compiling his dictionary, Ben-Yehuda had realized there was a need for a group of linguistic experts to help him form new words and to serve as a monitor for the usage of the language. Also, there would be a need to keep his dictionary updated. He therefore formed a group in 1890 which he called The Hebrew Language Committee.⁷⁰ It continues to operate to this day as the Academy of the Hebrew Language of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It averages the creation of 2,000 new Hebrew words each year.⁷¹

Also during his lifetime, Ben-Yehuda had developed an intensive method of teaching Hebrew in which only Hebrew was used. It was so effective that his second wife became proficient in the language in only six months.⁷² That method is still used today in what are called “ulpan schools.” There are approximately 220 of these schools in Israel today teaching over 25,000 students, most of them new immigrants.⁷³

There are nearly 200 book publishers in Israel today, and each of them is releasing between 5 and 150 new Hebrew language books per year.⁷⁴ An Israeli writer, S. Y. Agnon (1887-1970) was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1966 for his Hebrew language novels.⁷⁵ As of 2013, there were about 9 million Hebrew speakers worldwide, of whom 7 million spoke it fluently.⁷⁶

Conclusion

Ben-Yehuda’s grave is situated on the lower slope of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The words on his tombstone read:⁷⁷



Ben-Yehuda’s grave site in Jerusalem.

Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, reviver of the Hebrew tongue and composer of the great dictionary. Dead in Jerusalem on the 26th day of Kislev in the sixth year of the Balfour Declaration.

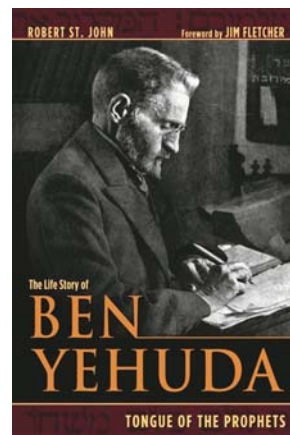
Looking back on his life, the greatest miracle may not have been his revival of Hebrew as a spoken language. Rather, it may well have been God’s preservation of his life for 41 years after he was told he had only six months to live.

What is without doubt is that his accomplishment is proof positive that the Bible is the Word of God, that God is in control of history, and that we are living in the season of the Messiah’s return. ☆

Note: Detailed references can be found with the copy of this article that is posted on the Ministry’s website at lamblion.com.

In addition to numerous articles on the Internet, this article is based primarily on three books:

- 1) Ben-Yehuda, Eliezer, *Fulfillment of Prophecy: The Life of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda 1858-1922* (Privately printed, 2008), 377 pages. The author of this book is Ben-Yehuda’s grandson who has the same name as his grandfather. Based on letters, family remembrances and unpublished autobiographical segments written by Ben-Yehuda about his early life.
- 2) Drucker, Malka, *Eliezer Ben-Yehuda: The Father of Modern Hebrew* (New York: Lodestar Books, 1987), 81 pages. A brief but very insightful biography. Particularly valuable with regard to insights about the Hebrew language.
- 3) St. John, Robert, *The Life Story of Ben-Yehuda: Tongue of the Prophets* (Noble, OK: Balfour Books, 2013), 393 pages. This book was originally published in 1952. Based on conversations with Ben-Yehuda’s second wife, Hemda, and a biography she wrote about her husband in Hebrew. Also, based on interviews with friends and scholars who knew him personally.



Since the beginning of this ministry in 1980, we have stocked and sold copies of Robert St. John’s outstanding biography. It has recently been re-published by Balfour Books in a beautiful new edition, with a foreword by Israel expert Jim Fletcher.

Copies of the book can be purchased from us for \$20 plus the cost of shipping. It is a fascinating and inspiring book. To order, call 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday thru Friday.

Death of a Warrior

Jim Fletcher



(Editor's note: Jim Fletcher is the founder and director of a ministry called "Prophecy Matters," located in Arkansas. He writes extensively about Israel and the Middle East, and his articles are published in a great variety of publications such as the Jerusalem Post, WorldNetDaily, OneNewsNow, and BeliefNet. We have recently interviewed him on two TV programs, one about the importance of Israel and the other about the evil of Replacement Theology. You can find his website at www.prophecymatters.com.)

The Warrior has gone home to his fathers. The 85-year-old Israeli legend, Ariel Sharon, known as "Arik," slipped from life on January 11 after being in a coma for over 7 years. He was a titanic personality.

A *sabra*, a native Israeli, Sharon was born 20 years before the state was established, and his first love was probably always the land. The earth. A farmer/soldier, he retired to his ranch in the Negev in 1973, but was called back to active duty during the nearly apocalyptic Yom Kippur War, launched October 6, 1973, by the Syrians and Egyptians. The surprise attack was devastating to Israel, and it was Sharon's daring plan to cross the Suez Canal that saved the day. Encircling Egypt's vaunted Third Army, he was prepared to destroy it when international diplomacy hammered-out a cease-fire. Sharon's tanks were an hour from Cairo.



Ariel Sharon (with head bandaged) stands with tank soldiers in the Sinai during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Moshe Dyan stands next to him (with patch on his eye).

Sharon held most of the top military and political positions in Israel, and his 2006 stroke ended his premiership. He was always controversial — hated by the left, which saw him as a butcher. Late in his life, the right hated him for withdrawing from Gaza.

An Israeli diplomat friend of mine, long retired, had an interesting perspective a few years ago when I asked him about Sharon's later, controversial decisions.



Ariel Sharon

(Photo from Smithsonian Institution)



Sharon in 1948

"Listen," he began quietly, "in 1973, he [Sharon] gave us our nation and our life." In other words, criticize him if you wish, but the old lion had fulfilled his God-given duty on a momentous stage in history.

I met Sharon once, at his office in Tel Aviv. He wasn't tall, and not as fearsome as I thought he'd be — although his handshake was crushing. Frankly, though, he was still intimidating. A nice interview, he talked easily of politics, culture, farming, his own career. But it was a jolting digression midway through the discussion that I carry with me.

Coming off a lengthy discussion of peace prospects with the Palestinians, Sharon abruptly shifted gears. "Do you know what our problem is in this country?" He looked at me, a lifetime of wisdom in his eyes. "It is that we do not teach enough Bible to our children."

Well. Here was the old man, an almost mythical fighter and commander, a wily politician . . . and he was signaling that he knew where Israel's strength came from. It was similar to a statement he made in his autobiography, *Warrior*, in which he acknowledged, "Something keeps this nation."

During his last days there were reports that Sharon's doctors detected brain activity. There was even speculation that he could hear. If so, I must wonder: as he neared the end, what occupied his thoughts? Was it his boyhood days, wandering the land? Or might it have been the sounds and sights of the Battle of Latrun, during the War of Independence? The Suez Crossing? His two wives, both of whom preceded him in death? His son, Gur, whose tragic death at a young age diminished the Six Day War victory for his father?

No one knows, of course. But I hope he knew and felt that many of us remembered him fondly. Forever. ✧

The Blood Moons: Some Further Thoughts

Dr. David R. Reagan



(Chart designed by John Hagee Ministries)

In the January-February issue of this magazine I published an article titled “The Blood Moon Mania” in which I stated that I felt that the importance of this phenomenon had been overstated. Those who are pushing this theory are arguing that the upcoming appearance of four blood moons in a row over a two year period of time (called a tetrad) is like an omen of a major event.

Since the time of Christ there have been a total of 87 tetrads, including the last one that occurred in 2003-2004. In this century we are scheduled to experience 8 tetrads, the most that can occur in a century’s time (some centuries have had none at all).

The first red moon of the upcoming tetrad will appear on April 15, the second on October 8, the third on April 4, 2015, and the fourth on September 28, 2015. Two things have created a frenzy about this tetrad. The first is that the four red moons all fall on the Jewish feast days of Passover and Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles). Second, this is the last time in this century that a tetrad will fall on Jewish feast days.

Feast Tetrads

Since the time of Christ, there have been a total of 87 tetrads, and only seven have fallen on Jewish feasts days. Those who are claiming that the upcoming tetrad is an omen of some major development point to the last three and argue that they served in that capacity:

Event	Date of the Feast Tetrad
Expulsion of the Jews from from Spain in 1492.	1493-1494
Creation of the State of Israel in 1948.	1949-1950
The Six Day War in 1967	1967-1968

I pointed out in my last article that I think the idea of Jewish Feast Tetrads being an omen is greatly overblown. Of the seven that have occurred thus far, the first four (162-163, 795-796, 842-843 & 860-861) had no prophetic significance whatsoever. The fifth, in 1493-1494 occurred **after** the major event, as did the tetrad of 1949-1950. The only Feast Tetrad in history that started before a major event in Israel was the one of 1967-1968 when

the first red moon in the series occurred shortly before the beginning of the Six Day War.

When the Blood Moon theory was first proposed early in 2008, its proponents were using it to indicate that the Second Coming of Jesus would likely occur at the end of the fourth red moon in the 2014-2015 tetrad — that is, in September of 2015. When it was pointed out to them that Jesus cannot return until the end of a seven year period of Tribulation, they responded by pointing out that the Tribulation could start in the fall of 2008, and it would be exactly 7 years from then to the fall of 2015.

Well, the Tribulation did not begin in the fall of 2008, so the proponents of the theory began to argue that the tetrad of 2014-2015 would simply serve as a sign that something very significant will happen to Israel during that time. And that, of course, is a very safe prediction when you consider the fact that a major war could break out in the Middle East at any moment.

Signs in the Heavens

Now, having downplayed the significance of the Feast Tetrads, I need to point out that the Bible makes it clear that God speaks through signs of nature, including signs in the heavens. The very first chapter of the Bible affirms this fact: “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years . . .’” (Genesis 1:14).

As for blood moons, the Bible refers to them several times. Some of the references only imply a blood moon when they speak of the moon being “darkened” (Isaiah 13:10, Joel 2:10, Joel 3:15, and Matthew 24:29). Others specifically mention a moon “turned to blood” (Joel 2:31 and Revelation 6:12).

Perhaps the best known passage regarding a heavenly phenomenon related to the end times is the one in the book of Joel that says, “The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes” (Joel 2:31). In similar language Matthew 24 says, “... the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light ...” (verse 29).

I ended my last article by stating my opinion that the signs in the heavens spoken of in these passages may not be natural astronomical occurrences at all. Instead, they may prove to be supernatural in nature, provided by God to herald His Son’s return.

An Insightful Response

One of our readers, Michael Pfeil of Denton, Texas, responded to that last paragraph with some fascinating insights that I want to share with you. Michael is the founder and director of a Bible prophecy ministry called Sharp Focus Ministries. Below is a summary of Michael’s thoughts.



Michael Pfeil

Because the Matthew passage is vague compared to the one in Joel, some have concluded that all that will occur is a darkening of the sun and moon from cloud cover. But this would be nothing spectacu-

lar, and both passages indicate the event will be a spectacular one that clearly identifies the day of the Lord.

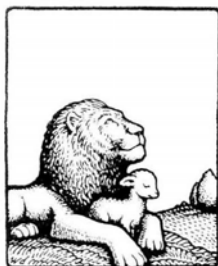
The Joel passage makes it pretty clear that there will be simultaneous darkening of both the sun and the moon, indicating a total eclipse of the sun (which would make the sun appear black) and a total eclipse of the moon (which would make the moon the color of blood).

However, there are many far more concrete reasons why the eclipse of the sun and moon is not a reasonable explanation for the darkening of the sun and moon.

- The sun and moon cannot be eclipsed at the same time, since it is the moon that eclipses the sun.
- It cannot be a sequence of events, since even if it is possible for the sun, earth, and moon to be so perfectly aligned that the moon eclipses the sun and then, at the very next opportunity, the earth fully eclipses the moon, the darkening of the moon would be separated from the darkening of the sun by about two weeks. Matthew 24:29 explains that “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky.” *Immediately* has absolutely no meaning if there is a two-week gap between the sun and moon darkening. This is truly a miraculous one-time event that is impossible with a sequence of solar and lunar eclipses.
- It is possible, with the right atmospheric circumstances during a total eclipse of the sun, for the moon to appear reddish-brown (from sunlight reflected from the earth). However, Joel 2:10 says, “The sun and moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness.” In a total solar eclipse, the stars become more visible, since they no longer have to compete with the much stronger light of the sun. Clearly, the sun and stars turning to black and the moon turning to red (all at the same time) is naturally impossible.
- Finally, as already stated, the darkening of the sun and moon must be such a unique event that it has never happened before; otherwise it cannot be a sign of the end of the age (Matthew 24:3, 29). That uniqueness is not the case for an eclipse of the sun and eclipse of the moon, or for volcanic activity. All naturally explained events are rejected because they have happened before. This event can only be one which is miraculously and concurrently applied to the sun, moon, and stars by God. ✚

I want to thank Michael Pfeil for sharing these thoughts with us. You can find his website at www.SharpFocusMinistries.com. (This is a ministry that places the timing of the Rapture near the end of the Tribulation, a concept I do not agree with.)

Hopefully



An Invaluable Website

Dr. David R. Reagan

Being a media ministry that gets lots of public exposure, we receive many questions daily about the Bible. My associate, Nathan Jones, who serves as our Web Minister, tries to answer those pertaining to Bible prophecy either directly or by referring the person to one of the articles we have posted on our website.

But when it comes to other types of Bible questions that are directed to me, I usually refer people to a ministry in Colorado Springs, Colorado that specializes in answering Bible Questions. The name of the ministry is “Got Questions?” You can find their website at GotQuestions.org. Make a note of that address and put it on your Internet browser’s favorites list. You will soon find yourself consulting it constantly. The answers it provides are always short, to the point, and completely biblical.

The site currently contains 3,700 answers to Bible questions! Since the website was established in 2002 by S. Michael Houdmann, its staff has answered 375,704 questions.

Dr. Woodrow Kroll, President of Back to the Bible International, highly recommends the site:

God is pleased when you have questions. He is even more pleased when you discover the right answers. God has not been silent but has graciously provided answers for your most difficult questions in His Word. I recommend you find God's answers at GotQuestions.org. It's quick. It's easy. And it's accurate.

Some of the most frequently asked questions are as follows:

1. Women pastors and preachers — what does the Bible say about women in ministry?
2. What does the Bible say about homosexuality? Is it a sin?
3. What does the Bible say about tattoos and body piercings?
4. Once saved always saved? Is eternal security biblical? Can a Christian lose salvation?
5. Masturbation — is it a sin according to the Bible?
6. What does the Bible say about interracial marriage?
7. What is the Christian view of suicide? What does the Bible say about suicide? What about a believer who commits suicide?
8. Do pets and animals go to Heaven? Do they have souls?

Try this website. You will like it! ✚

Battle of the Billboards —

In recent years Atheists in this country have become increasingly vocal and in-your-face with their attacks on God and those who believe in God. And now the Hedonists have joined their ugly chorus of voices.

Both are now resorting to blaring their blasphemous and immoral messages over billboards scattered around the nation.

Last year a person affiliated with the Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF), paid to put an anti-God sign on a billboard in Wisconsin, near the town of Janesville. The sign appears below:



Two churches in the area — Bethel Baptist and New Life Assembly of God — decided they were not going to allow this assault on God to go unanswered, so they arranged with the sign company to have a response put on the billboard the day after the Atheist sign came down. Their response is below:



A man named Philip Klevmoen decided he was also going to fight back against the attacks. So, he founded a ministry in 2005 dedicated to the display of the Ten Commandments. He has recently teamed up with Joseph Farah, the founder of WorldNet Daily to put up Ten Commandments billboards. They kicked off the campaign by plastering the city of Las Vegas with 11 of the billboards like the one below:



TIMES and Seasons

Klevmoen says his billboards are designed to awaken both believers and non-believers to the “wickedness and evil that abound in our country.” Joseph Farah added, “The problem in America is not limited to atheists, agnostics, cults and non-believers. In fact, the biggest problem America has is with those

who call themselves believers but who act no differently than the worldliest individuals on the planet. You can call these people backslidden. You can call them false converts. Or you can call them undisciplined, nominal believers. What they have in common is they are not in obedience to God. They are not even trying to follow the most basic moral law, as Jesus and the prophets all instructed.”

Klevmoen recently put up a different kind of sign in Las Vegas in response to the TV ads for the city that end with the words, “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.” His response:



The Hedonists have now joined the battle with billboards that encourage infidelity in marriage. The sponsor is an organization based in Canada called Ashley Madison. It was established in 2001 and claims to have 21 million members from 30 different nations. Here is one of their typical billboards:



Ken Ham, the founder and president of the Creation ministry called Answers in Genesis has responded to the Atheist billboards with one that he has erected in San Francisco and Times Square:



Brief Comments —

“In the 1600's the Protestant Movement was biblically based in its challenge to a corrupt Catholic Church. But we have reached the stage in Christian history when the Protestant Movement has become more heretical than the Catholic Church. For example, it would be hard to find a Catholic author denying the virgin birth, the resurrection or the deity of Jesus. Yet we have Protestant leaders denying all these things, and even professing to be Evangelicals.” — Jacob Prasch, Director of Moriel Ministries in England.

“The Emergent Church Movement is nothing but Post-Modernism masquerading as Christian.” — Jacob Prasch.

“The Emergent Church Movement says the Church wrote the Bible, so it can rewrite it.” — Jacob Prasch.

“We convince our children that they are nothing but animals who have evolved from slime, and then we are astonished when they behave like animals.” — Ed Hindson, Dean of Liberty University's School of Religion.



Ed Hindson

“People must have a god because it is in their nature. They must deify something, and often it is the Creation.” — Ed Hindson

“The book of Judges is a story of failures. The first generation of Jews born in the land began to drift into idolatry. That never happened in Egypt when they were slaves. It occurred only when they had been blessed with freedom.” — Ed Hindson.

“Islam is the world's largest cult. It was founded by a false prophet claiming to have special truth from God. Further, it uses force to get converts and uses force to keep them.” — Ed Hindson.

“There is no such thing as simple life. If it is simple, it is not life.” — John Morris, President of the Institute for Creation Research.

“In Wall Street terms, Christ is bearish when it comes to investing on earth. His financial forecast for the world is ultimately bleak. But He's unreservedly bullish about investing in Heaven where every market indicator is eternally positive.” — Randy Alcorn, Director of Eternal Perspective Ministries.

“Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension too.” — J. C. Ryle (1816-1900), Anglican Bishop in Liverpool, England.

“When the Rapture occurs, we are going to get an air lift accompanied with a face lift. That's one of the reasons I'm looking for the uppertaker, not the undertaker. — Mark Hitchcock, Author and Pastor of Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Oklahoma.



Food for Thought

The 21st Century Church —

“As the Church advances into the 21st Century, the stress to produce booming ministries has never been greater. Influenced by corporate mergers, towering skyscrapers and expanding economies, bigger is perceived as better, and nowhere is this ‘Wall Street mentality’ more evident than in the Church. Sad to say, pressure to produce bottomline results has led many ministries to sacrifice the centrality of biblical preaching on the altar of man-centered programs.

“A new way of ‘doing church’ is emerging. In this radical paradigm shift, exposition of the Bible is being replaced with entertainment, preaching with performances, doctrine with drama, and theology with theatrics. The pulpit, once the focal point of the Church, is now being overshadowed by a variety of church-growth techniques, everything from trendy worship styles to glitzy presentations to vaudeville-like pageantries. In seeking to capture the upper hand in church growth, a new wave of pastors is reinventing the Church and repackaging the Gospel into a product to be sold to ‘customers.’

“Whatever reportedly works in one church is being franchised out to various ‘markets’ abroad. As when gold was discovered in the foothills of California, so ministers are beating a path to the doorsteps of exploding churches and super-hyped conferences where the latest ‘strike’ has been reported. Unfortunately, the newly panned gold often turns out to be ‘fool's gold.’ Not all that glitters is actually gold.

“Admittedly, pastors can learn from growing churches and successful ministries. Yet, God's work must be done God's way if it is to know God's blessing. He provides the power and He alone receives the glory only as His divinely prescribed plan for ministry is followed. When man-centered schemes are followed, often imitating the world's schemes, the flesh provides the energy and man receives the glory. In a strange twist, the preaching of the Cross is now foolishness, not only to the world, but also to the contemporary Church.” — Steven J. Lawson, Pastor of Christ Fellowship Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama.



Steven Lawson

“In the 20th Century, Billy Graham would proclaim, ‘The Bible says . . .’ In the 21st Century, the cry is ‘Who cares what the Bible says?’ — Don Ott, President of Christian Psychological Resources.

The Decay of Society —

“In America, wanton secularism has supplanted primal Christianity and has thus muted God's voice.” — Don McGee, Founder of Crown & Sickel Ministries.

“Obama is the exclamation point at the end of a long sentence describing the moral decay of this nation.” — Carl Gallups, Author and Pastor of Hickory Hammond Church in Florida. ✚

Announcing a New Lamb & Lion Evangelist



All of us here at Lamb & Lion Ministries are rejoicing over the addition to our staff of a new part-time evangelist. His name is Tim Moore. He and his wife, Amy, and their family reside in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Tim was born in Paducah, Kentucky. His family moved to Lexington when he was 13, and he graduated from high school there. At age 17, he entered the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Mechanics and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. Three weeks later, he married Amy, a Bedford, Indiana native whom he had met at a church in Kentucky.

Tim attended the Air Force Pilot Training School at Columbus, Mississippi. Upon graduation, he was immediately assigned to remain as a “First Assignment Instructor Pilot” in the T-37. He was briefly assigned to Grissom AFB, Indiana. His last active duty assignment was at Little Rock AFB in Arkansas, where he became an instructor pilot on the C-130 and completed his Master of Science degree in Operations Management with the University of Arkansas.

In 1998, Tim left active duty and came home to Kentucky, where he continued to serve with the Kentucky Air National Guard as a C-130 instructor pilot. He deployed overseas on numerous occasions throughout North and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. In 2003, he was activated for a year when his unit deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Afghani Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In both countries he flew numerous combat support missions. In 2007, he deployed to Afghanistan to serve as the Chief of Tactics, overseeing all combat airlift operations. He earned multiple Air Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, and Commendation Medals — as well as command recognition — for his role as an Air Force pilot.

Today, Tim continues to serve in the Air Force Reserve as an “Admissions Liaison Officer.” In that capacity, he visits local high schools all across Kentucky to help students pursue Air Force college scholarship opportunities — at both the Air Force Academy and in the ROTC. In early 2013, his leadership as Director of the Kentucky ALO force was recognized by the Air Force Academy, and he was named as a United States ALO Regional Director.

In his civilian job, since 2000, Tim has worked for UPS in Louisville as a pilot and instructor. He flies the Airbus A-300 and has been regularly called on to instruct new pilots in that aircraft. He is also a co-owner of his family’s paint and floor covering business in Nicholasville, Kentucky.

In 2006 Tim was elected to serve in the Kentucky State House of Representatives. Since then, he has distinguished



The Moore Family

himself as one of the legislature’s most conservative leaders — on both fiscal and social issues. He is a tireless advocate at the state Capitol in defense of innocent life, smaller and less intrusive government, and Christian principles in general.

Tim and his wife Amy have four children: Julienne (21), Caleb (19), Eliza Kate (16) and Miriam (11). Julienne is a senior at Asbury University. Their son, Caleb, is a sophomore at the Air Force Academy.

Tim has always been active at church — teaching Sunday School, working in children’s ministry, and serving as a deacon and discipleship leader. He has taught local students — in public, private, and home school settings. Tim and Amy are also active in a number of local charities and organizations — including both local crisis pregnancy centers and Habitat for Humanity. He serves on the local Habitat board and on the Foundation Board for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Tim says that in his “spare time” (when??), he enjoys reading, woodworking, construction and traveling.



Tim and Amy with Dave in 2002

Tim and all his family members have been faithful supporters of this ministry since the mid-1980s. Tim has been an ardent student and teacher of Bible prophecy for years, and he has completed graduate courses in Bible at Liberty University. He recently decided he is compelled of the Lord to pursue what he calls his “real passion in life.” That’s when he contacted us and volunteered to serve as a speaker for our ministry. Beginning in March, he will be available for weekend speaking engagements concerning Bible prophecy. To arrange a meeting with him, you can contact him at tmoore@lamblion.com. ❖

Adding Networks

Dr. David R. Reagan

We began broadcasting on TBN in September of last year and received a phenomenal response from the viewers. But despite that fact, we received a notice in late December that January 19th would be our last broadcast on their network at our current time on Sunday afternoons. We were told that the new management (following the death of Paul Crouch) had decided that they wanted only preaching programs from churches on Sunday. We were left with the impression that we would be given a new time slot on a different day of the week. At the time of this writing (late January) we had not yet received a new time slot. Hopefully we will receive one soon.

Meanwhile, we are in the process of adding new networks. In February we started broadcasting on the following new networks:

- HisChannel.com — An Internet network that streams programs according to a schedule and also archives programs for playing on demand.
- Victory Network (VTN) — A regional network that covers the state of Arkansas. Saturday at 6pm Central.
- World Harvest Network (WHT) — A national network that can be accessed on DirecTV, channel 367. The program airs on Sunday at 7pm Eastern.
- Cornerstone Network (CTVN) — A national network carried on the Galaxy, Glorystar & SkyAngel satellites. Also live streaming on the Internet. Saturday at 9pm Eastern.

In March our program will start broadcasting over the new LightSource.com Internet network that the Salem Broadcasting Company has established. We will supply the details about this outreach in the next issue of this magazine.

The Daystar network continues to expand all over the United States and the world. They recently began broadcasting in Canada, and they are already the largest network of full time Christian programming in that nation! This provides us with 7.5 million additional homes. With respect to the rest of the world, Daystar is broadcasting our program over 18 satellites that reach every nation.

We recently interviewed Tommy Ice, the Director of the PreTrib Research Center. The focus of our first interview was the Rapture. In the second interview we asked Tommy to give a critical analysis of Bill Salus' theory about Psalm 83. Later, at the annual Pre-Trib conference, we asked Bill Salus to respond to Tommy's criticisms. These programs will be broadcast in March. ❖



Tommy Ice

“Christ in Prophecy” Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

Daystar Network				
DirecTV Channel 369		DISH Channel 263		
On cable networks throughout the nation.				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

The Church Channel Network				
DirecTV Channel 371		DISH Channel 258		
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sat. 6:30pm	Sat. 7:30pm	Sat. 8:30pm	Sat. 9:30pm

National Religious Broadcasters Network				
DirecTV Channel 378				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun. 2:00pm	Sun. 3:00pm	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm

Golden Eagle Broadcasting Network				
DirecTV Channel 363				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Tues. 4:00pm	Tues. 5:00pm	Tues. 6:00pm	Tues. 7:00pm

The TCT Network				
DirecTV Channel 377				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm	Sun. 6:00pm	Sun. 7:00pm

Regional Networks



“Christ in Prophecy” is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network** at various times. See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



KSCE Life! is located in El Paso, Texas and broadcasts our program

on Sundays at 10:30am Mountain time. Also carried on DirecTV Channel 38.

1) Television and Video

Broadcast 52 weeks of *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs over six national networks and two regional networks with access to over 100 million homes inside the United States.

Broadcast via Daystar and Church Channel satellites to almost every nation in the world.

Produced 31 new *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs and revised 10 others.

Broadcast our 590th television program at the end of December.

Produced 8 new video albums.

Reproduced and distributed over 10,639 DVD video programs.

2) Internet and Website

Sent out 30 e-newsletters to 26,000 subscribers, sharing biblical messages and the electronic *Lamplighter* magazine.

Experienced an average of 250,000 unique visitors to our website monthly.

Experienced growth of “The Christ in Prophecy” Facebook group to over 6,000 members.

Exceeded 13,500 downloads of the Lamb & Lion App and added Windows feature.

Experienced growth of our Twitter outreach to 2,600 subscribers.

Posted 250 new Bible prophecy related articles on “The Christ in Prophecy Journal” blog.

Answered hundreds of spiritual questions submitted by email and discussion forums.

Launched “Bible Prophecy Resources,” our new online store.

Streamed over 203 different “Christ in Prophecy” TV shows.

Produced 3 new “Bible Prophecy Insights” videos.

Podcast over 80,000 mp3s per month.

Live streamed our annual conference for the first time.

3) Preaching and Teaching

Completed a total of 27 speaking engagements:

17 Weekend conferences at churches.

10 Bible prophecy conferences.

Participated in 13 media interviews.

4) Publications

Published a Holy Land calendar for 2014.

Produced 6 issues of our magazine, *The Lamplighter*.

Continued publishing a version of our magazine in India.

Published a new book, *Living on Borrowed Time*.

Published reprints of *A Prophetic Manifesto*.

Published *Wrath and Glory* in Polish, Spanish & Persian.

Started publishing our books as e-books.



5) Missions

Supplied more than \$51,000 for relief aid to Nigerian Christian refugees.

Provided regular monthly financial support to 20 missions — 8 domestic and 12 foreign.

Donated a total of more than \$298,000 in cash and services to missions.

6) Israel

Conducted one Holy Land pilgrimage.

Provided financial assistance to several ministries in Israel.

7) Conferences

Conducted our annual Bible conference with 950 attendees.

Participated in 9 Bible prophecy conferences sponsored by other ministries.

8) Finances

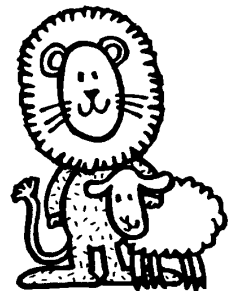
Received 21,712 gifts from 4,340 donors.

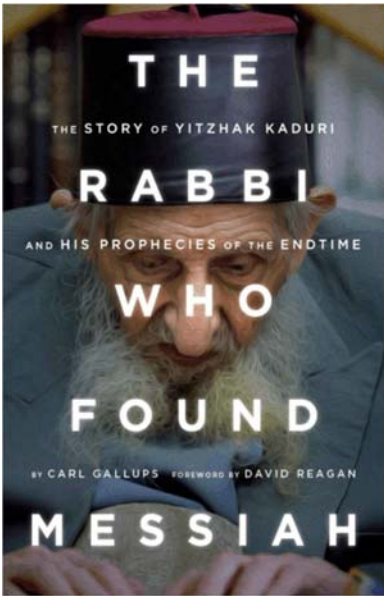
Experienced growth in Prophecy Partners to a total of 2,555.

Received re-certification as a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Received a four star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator.

Ended the calendar year with all bills paid in full for the 33rd year in a row.

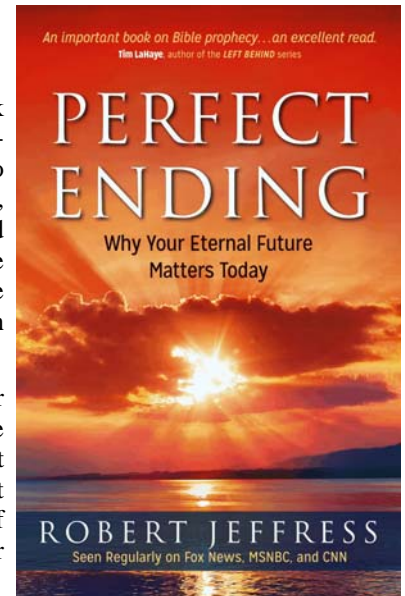




Great New Books

The Rabbi Who Found Messiah is Carl Gallups' newest book (author of *The Magic Man in the Sky*). It presents the fascinating story of one of the world's most renowned rabbis who claimed in 2005 that the Messiah had visited him in a vision, that he had written the Messiah's name on a piece of paper and sealed it in an envelope, and that the envelope was not to be opened until one year after his death. He died in 2006, the envelope was opened in 2007, and its contents shocked both the Jewish and Christian worlds! (Hardback, 245 pages).

Perfect Ending is the latest book by Robert Jeffress, the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas. It is a great primer on the fundamentals of Bible prophecy, and it is so well written that Dr. Reagan recommends it for Bible prophecy experts. (Soft cover, 236 pages). Each book sells for \$20 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 or place your order through our website at www.lamblion.com.



Annual Conference Update

Our annual Bible conference is scheduled to be held this year at the beautiful Eisemann Performing Arts Center in Richardson, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. We normally hold our conference the last weekend in June, but this year we had to move it to mid-July in order to get a facility that would be large enough to hold our expected audience of 1,500. The actual dates are July 11-12 (Friday evening through Saturday afternoon).

Directly across the street from the Center (to the left in the picture across the page) is the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel. This is an outstanding businessman's hotel that normally charges \$174 or more for a room. We have negotiated a special deal with them to provide the rooms for this conference for only \$89 per night! To reserve a room, call 972-367-2000 and ask for the Lamb & Lion special convention rate.



The Eisemann Performing Arts Center in Richardson, Texas.

articulate and passionate speaker who will explain what the New Age Movement is all about and will demonstrate how it has infiltrated our churches.

The second speaker on Saturday morning will be Eric Barger, the founder and director of Take A Stand! Ministries. Eric is a former record producer, rock musician, drug addict, and New Ager. He is now a leading expert in the field of Christian apologetics and discernment, focusing on the cults, world religions, the occult and spiritual warfare.

We will be telling you about our other three speakers in future issues of this magazine. They are Jan Markell, Mike Gendron and Carl Gallups. Suffice it to say at the moment that these three are all outstanding Christian leaders who are experts in their fields and who are anointed speakers.

Following the ending of the conference on Saturday afternoon, there will be a banquet at the Renaissance Hotel where Dr. Reagan will speak and Jack Hollingsworth will present a musical concert. The banquet is limited to 200 and costs \$45 per person (non-refundable).

The conference itself is free of charge, but registration is required. You can register through our website at lamblion.com, or you can call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, from 8am to 5pm. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to be with us. ❖



Janet Paschal

The conference will begin on Friday evening with a concert by Janet Paschal. Janet has produced 16 solo albums and has received multiple Grammy and Dove award nominations. She won the Dove award in 2011 for Female Vocalist of the Year. She has had numerous radio hit singles, and she has performed at places like the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Grand Old Opry. She is a very gifted and inspirational singer, and we are honored to have her as our special guest this year.

The theme of the conference is "America's Spiritual Crisis." Dr. Reagan will kick off the conference on Friday evening, following Janet Paschal's concert. Our first speaker on Saturday morning will be Warren Smith from California. Warren is a renowned expert on the New Age Movement, which he was deeply involved in before he became a Christian. He is a highly

Ministry News

Schedule of Engagements —

In **March**, Dr. Reagan will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land (14-25). In **April**, Dr. Reagan will be speaking at the Mid-America Prophecy Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma (10-12). Later in the month he will be one of the speakers at a conference hosted by Calvary Chapel in San Jacinto, California (26-27). In **May**, Dr. Reagan will begin the month speaking at Union Valley Baptist church in Beebe, Arkansas (4). His next appointment will be at Charlestown Independent Church in Charlestown, Indiana (10-11). The next weekend (16-18), he and Nathan Jones will join Al Gist and Don McGee as speakers at a conference to be hosted by The Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Longview, Texas.

Israel Pilgrimages —

Our next Holy Land pilgrimage is scheduled for June 9-20. It will be co-hosted by one of our Trustees, Sam McCullough, and our new Assistant Evangelist, Tim Moore. Both have been to Israel many times, and both are outstanding Bible teachers. The tour group will spend the first two nights in Tel Aviv, the next two in Tiberias (on the Sea of Galilee), and the final five nights in Jerusalem. For detailed information, call the ministry for a brochure (972-736-3567).

Visitors —



The Philip Friesen family from La Crete, Alberta, Canada visited the ministry in December while they were in Dallas attending the Pre-Trib Conference. Pictured above, from left: Dave Reagan, Rory, Philip, Mimi, Brooklyn, and Torelle.



White House correspondent, Bill Koenig, and his wife, Claudia, paid us a surprise visit recently.



Prophecy Partners —

We need your support as a Prophecy Partner! Our Prophecy Partners provide the prayer base and the financial foundation of our ministry. We currently have in excess of 2,500 Prophecy Partners, and we need to expand that number to over 3,000 by the end of this year if we are to continue expanding our outreach with the urgent message of the Lord's soon return. To become a Prophecy Partner, you must make a commitment to give \$25 per month or more for one year and pray for the ministry regularly. In return, you will receive a Prophecy Partner Report each month written by Dr. Reagan. With the report will come a gift. Every other month the gift will be a printed copy of our magazine. In the other months you will receive a video program on a DVD. In December of each year, the gift is a copy of our annual Holy Land calendar. Prophecy Partners also receive special discounts on resources produced by our ministry. To sign up as a Prophecy Partner, just give us a call at 972-736-3567.



Roger & Sharon Duarte — Prophecy Partners from Plano, Texas.

Missions —

As you will see in the statistical summary on page 17, we support 20 missions (8 domestic and 12 foreign), and last year we provided them with almost \$300,000 in donations. We send budgeted gifts to each of the 20 missions each month. Additionally, we make special monthly appeals for specified missions, and our supporters always respond very generously. Every penny given is passed on to the ministry for which the appeal is made.

Our special focus this month is on the nation of Nigeria in Africa where Christians are being wantonly slaughtered on a daily basis by Muslim extremists. We have supported a great man of God there ever since the early 1980's. His name is Standfast Oyinna, and true to his name, he is standing fast, refusing to flee from the murderous attacks of the Muslims. His tribal group, which is made up of Black Messianic Jews, has been severely attacked, and they, and other Christian groups, desperately need help in the form of food, shelter and clothing.

We have thus far sent over \$50,000 to supply relief aid to the Christian refugees. We need to send more. They are literally starving to death. Search your heart, and if you feel led to assist with this effort, please send a check or call in a credit card gift. Designate it for Nigerian Christians. Thanks! ✚



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"SCARIEST CHRISTIAN MOVIE OF THE DECADE" - CHRISTIAN POST



Meet **Colin Nelson**
All-Pro Cornerback
\$3.6 million a year
Quote:

"I'll believe in the Rapture when I see it..."

FINAL
THE RAPTURE

Great New Film About The Rapture

An exciting, realistic, Bible-based film about the Rapture is currently being shown in select theaters across America. The film is scheduled to be released to video in August. Prior to that time our ministry has been given the right to distribute an "advanced media screener," which means it does not contain all the final edits that will be made.

The film was shot in Los Angeles, Hawaii, Argentina and Japan. It follows the lives of four individuals who are left behind after the Rapture occurs. One is a professional football player in Los Angeles, a second is an obnoxious Atheist professor at a California university, the third is a journalist in Tokyo, and the fourth is a young woman in Argentina.

The film is bold in scope and will captivate you from the very first minute to the stunning, emotional ending.

Our television interview of the film's director, Tim

Chey, produced the greatest viewer response in the history of our program.

The video, containing both a DVD and a Blu-Ray is available for \$20 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, Central time. ✚



Tim Chey, director, his wife, Susan, and Mary Grace, one of the actors in the film.