

March 2003 Newsletter

Messianic Morsels

Living Stones Church

Submitted by Liz Cassutto

It's about all that's on the television news, radio news, and daily print. No war has had this much press (good and bad), this many reporters, or literal at-the-moment coverage of real-time action as the War with Iraq. According to the latest polls, 70% of Americans are backing our Commander-in-Chief, and supporting our military through words and prayers at this critical juncture in world history. Driving back and forth to work, I've been listening to Bill O'Reilly of The Fox Factor, a veteran journalist who has covered 4 international wars, and a conservative radio host, or Bob Grant, a veteran broadcaster himself. I listen because I am shocked at the many callers who call in and have no clue as to what the war is about, why America is fighting, or why such an evil must be fought. Isn't it wonderful that the Lord goes ahead of His people and reveals Himself in His Word, so we do not live in the dark? Psalm 2:1 gives us a clear understanding of the key players on the world stage right now...."Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His anointed one". (NIV) Just look at the key players on this set, and one can see the nations who are raging, the kings of the earth have met (United Nations and the Hans Blix boys, who still don't have a clue why, who or what). The peoples who plot in vain (many nations against us) are really against "the anointed one", for He, the Living Christ, is for freedom, justice and liberty. (See Jesus's bio: Isaiah 61). He wrote it "many centuries before it happened", but He wrote of Himself. He is Justice in every sense of the Word.

.This week was like a flashback for me as I recalled, that in the early 1990's, when the Lord put Damascus (Syria), Babylon (which is modern day Iraq), and other key points of geography, he pointed me to Jeremiah 50, and Jeremiah 51. I remembered that when the Lord told me to write my book years ago, "*Buried Treasure*", I really only had a glimpse of a picture of what He was saying (Chapter 1, "Tell them I AM Coming"), yet watching the news now...it is like a scroll unfolding. Such is the ways of the Lord, "*precept upon precept, little by little*". YOU MUST READ both chapter 50 and 51 of Jeremiah to see that what was penned almost 30 centuries ago by the prophet about Babylon is on the daily news. (Did you know Babylon was giving Israel much trouble during Jeremiah's time? Did you know the prophet Daniel was captured and led into Babylonian captivity). Babylon, you see, is not a stranger to God. In fact, that King Nebuchadnezzar who gave many of God's saints much psauras, that same spirit of Nebuchadnezzar is alive today. In fact, Sadaam Hussein (a practicing occultist and devout follower of Hitler ideology has said of himself he "is the spirit of Nebuchdar to rule today").

.There are hundreds of sentences in Jeremiah 50 and 51 which read like a line from MSNBC or C-Span or some Intelligence Report. The language the prophet uses in these 2 chapters are remarkable as well, for they accurately describe cruise and scud missiles (“*sharp arrows hitting the target*”). Even the nations named in Jer 27:28 “Ararat” is modern day Turkey, “Medes” is Iran. We can see that God was saying 28 centuries ago that the time would come He would stir up all these nations, and He even tells us what will happens to these nations, and ultimately to Babylon! **BIBLE PROPHECY IS SO ACCURATE AND PRECISE** (written by the finger of God, how can it be anything but), that it is more sure and more un-biased than NBC, ABC or CBS. As commentator Paul Harvey says, “And now for the rest of the story”. Read God’s Word, and you’ll know the news before it hits the daily paper! Jeremiah 50: “*Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it, keep nothing back, but say, “Babylon will be captured, Bel put to shame”....on to verse 8*

Verse 8: “*Flee out of Babylon, leave the land of the Babylonians*”. The American soldiers are trying to help the Iraqi people do just that! Verse 9, “**FOR I WILL STIR UP AN ALLIANCE OF GREAT NATIONS against her**”. There are only three places in scripture where the phrase “Alliance of Great Nations” is used, and it refers to global nations – or world powers. Look who is leading the pack, America and Great Britain! This should quell any doubt for those who wonder “should we be in this war”. The very Word of God tells us that it is God’s will for this evil empire to come down, and the despots who reign cruelly to be deposed! And by the way, it is no coincidence that both President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair ARE BOTH professing Christians. Despite the secular world and fierce political pressures they face, these two young lions stand resolute in their faith and assurance of ultimate victory against Sadaam. (*This is my personal opinion here, but I keep getting an impression that the Lord sees Tony Blair as a “Jonathon” to President Bush. “David”). God still uses Kings as agents of His purposes. *We must keep them in our prayers, as well as all the coalition forces.*

Isaiah 63 is another Chapter in the Word that hit me like a ton of bricks in the last week or so. “*Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with His garments stained crimson*”. This is the same Bozrah that is mentioned on the news every day in Iraq War coverage. Centuries ago, the Spirit of the Lord foreshadowed *this time in history*, as well as in Isaiah’s time, when Babylon’s cruel hand was merciless to the people. **THE LORD WANTS MILLIONS OF PRECIOUS SOULS,**

men women and children, made in His Image, who are bowing and serving dictators and madmen (out of fear and ignorance), to know the ONE WHO GARMENTS WAS STAINED FOR OUR REDEMPTION. Yes, soldiers garments do get stained with blood, but the imagery of this powerful scripture no doubt is referring to THE KING, whose body was stained with blood for ALL NATIONS REDEMPTION. It is interesting that for the Coalition forces to capture Baghdad, they must pierce key cities, like Bozrah. How fitting that the prophet Isaiah was inspired by the Lord to choose this city as an allegory to show, even centuries later, who would REALLY REDEEM IRAQ, and for that matter, all the nations. Isaiah 63 shows Bozrah (also spelled Bosra), as a military target, and Christ the Lord has his Army in place! Well soldiered angels stand ready to obey the Commander of Heaven's every military order, and His saints on earth are dressed for battle (Ephesians 6) to execute His judgments in the earth. We may not know it, but consider God's angels the unseen armada, the Royal Air Force if you will, and we (the saints) are called to be the ground troops in the Army, but we are winning this war together on our knees. A just war for the King and His Kingdom, is when we fight against injustice, ruthless oppression, and liberation of the spirit, fulfill the desires of the King as outlines in Isaiah 60.

According to Revelation 18: Babylon (as we know it now), will eventually be decimated. (In the final curtain of time, the Anti-Christ will call himself a King of Babylon, and we know that time hasn't happened yet). This tells me that present day Iraq (Babylon) could be leveled significantly during this war, *but it will be rebuilt*, and become an economic center again. It is only after a period of time, that span of time, *that it is finally destroyed with the Anti-Christ vs. the Armies of Heaven*. And by the language of fire, blasting scorching heat and utter destruction, it would not be a stretch to say nuclear annihilation may be the agent used to eventually destroy Babylon, at the behest of God Himself. BUT THAT TIME IS NOT NOW. The church hasn't been raptured yet, and we are not yet riding back with Christ on the white horse out of heaven to fight the evil one, *but that time will come*, and she will be utterly undone. Yes, we KNOW who wins that war too! For now, I believe God has His mighty hand on President Bush, for he has said he wants to give Iraq back to the people, and let them know peace and security and economic stability. (I sense the greatest possibility for evangelism and missionary outreach in the Middle East beginning here in the soon months to come).

Finally, there is more to say on the subject, but suffice it to know THE LORD WINS. Before all is said and done, millions of souls will be given a new-birth and made citizens of heaven, by virtue of them hearing the gospel for the first time. (How convicted I am that there are many nations, even goat nations (Mt24) who have never heard the gospel preached, and here I am living in a blessed and prosperous Sheep Nation (Mt 24) – with more bibles and tapes and tracts available than anywhere on earth. Yet, we will be judged on what we do with what we know. How sobering a thought. *If you want to listen to un-biased and honest reporting on the Middle East, I suggest

MsNBC and Bill O'Reilly Fox Factor to start (WOR out of NY). And if you want the Word, all Word, 24/7, I suggest the prophet Jeremiah as a good place to start. Some excellent websites (with tested and proven Bible prophets)are: www.GrantJeffrey.com and Jack Van Impe Ministries.

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