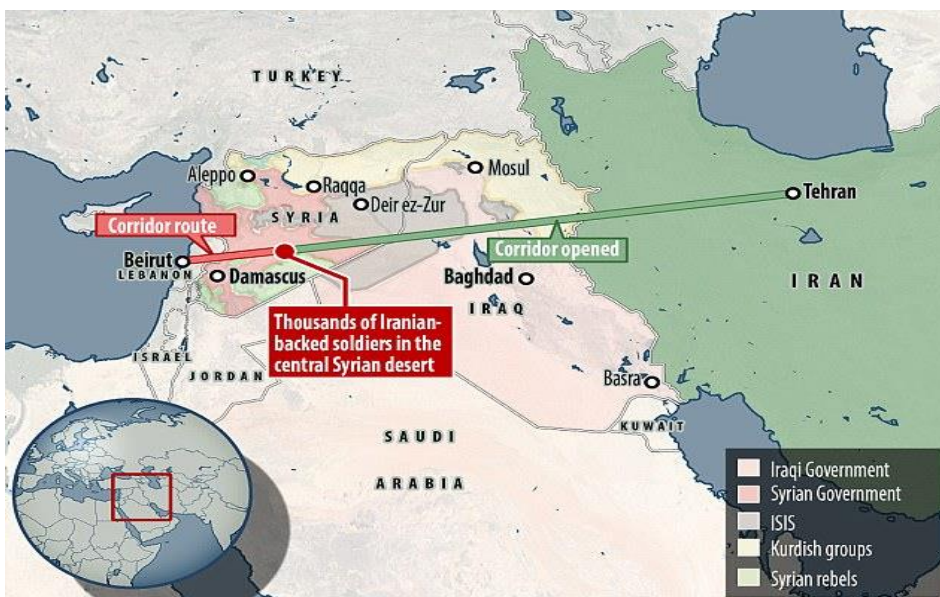


How the U.S.-Iran conflict impacts Israel

The recent killing of Iranian General Soleimani by the United States was viewed by most of its allies as a good thing, though this sentiment will not be relayed in most mainstream media outlets. Soleimani was known as the mastermind behind Iran's military forces, to include his involvement in ordering the attacks against US bases. These attacks led to the killing of hundreds of US troops. US intelligence suggested Soleimani was plotting an attack that would threaten hundreds of Americans abroad.

Soleimani had in recent years been attempting to establish control westward through the southern borders of Syria to the Mediterranean Sea. This land control is and will continue to grow into a strong pipeline for the movement of resources to include militaries and weaponry across much of the Middle East. Iran views this as a necessity for its dominance in the region.



On January 5th, Iran announced it will not follow the uranium enrichment restrictions set forth by the US, which will lead to the countries pursuit of developing nuclear weapons. Since his killing, Soleimani's replacement Qaani vowed to continue the goals set in place by Soleimani. Qaani was quoted saying he would continue with the same force and work to remove America from the Middle East. The Iraqi parliament voted to remove American military forces in the country following Soleimani's killing.

If America does leave as requested, this would lead to a significant threat to the peace and safety of Israel. America is viewed as a deterrent to Iran's occupation of Iraq and Syria. Should Iran succeed in their quest of control to the Mediterranean Sea, this would threaten the northern borders of Israel. Beyond Iran's future nuclear capabilities, this move westward would inevitably lead to war between Israel and Iran. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem!

Saith Paul,

“I HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION”

By Elder R.E. Dawkins

In I Corinthians 3:10, Paul declared, “According to the grace of God, which is given unto me as a wise mater builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.”

Did you, as a Bible student, ever stop to consider how the New Testament is laid out- from the Acts of the Apostles through Paul’s epistles on into the book of Revelations. In the twenty-eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, we find Paul arriving in Rome, and after three days, called the chief of the Jews together. When they were come together, he said unto them, “Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or the customs of our Fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem unto the hands of the Romans.” And for this cause, he had come to them that he might speak with them “because that for the hope of Israel, I am bound with this chain.”

The leaders among the Jewish people of that day declared, according to the twenty-third verse, that they appointed him a day that he might be heard concerning the Kingdom of God, persuading them according to Jesus both out of the law of Moses and out of the prophets from morning until evening. According to this scripture, Paul took advantage of the day and Jewish leaders were willing to let him speak concerning the vision which he felt he had received from God.

It would be a wonderful day if the church-going people of America and through the world, especially those that claim to be dedicated workers and followers of both the Old and New Testament concerning the end of this day in which we live, would grant unto us the opportunity to be heard before they would judge and completely ignore the message of restoration of both the church and of Israel. But, as Paul received a hearing from the Jewish people, some believed that which Paul spoke, and some believed not. But Paul said to let him have one last word and he referred to the book of Isaiah where the Holy Ghost had spoken through this Jewish prophet unto their fathers saying, go to this people and say, “hearing you

shall hear, and shall not understand, and seeing you shall see and not perceive, for the heart of this people is waxed gross, their ears are dull of hearing and their eyes have they closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and should be converted and I should heal them.”

Notice Isaiah declared that the reason God could not know them is that they had closed their eyes, their heart had waxed gross and their ears were dull of hearing. It will pay the people that claim to be God’s people in this hour, to open their hearts and unstop their deaf ears that they might hear what the Spirit is saying to the church today.

THEY WILL HEAR IT

Therefore, Paul declared in the twenty-eighth verse, “Be it known therefore unto you (the Jews of that day) that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles and **THEY WILL HEAR IT.**” So, following that statement, Paul hired his own house and opened the door to all that came to hear him; he reasoned with the m and received them, showing them how Jesus was the Christ and preaching things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

BOOK OF ACTS OF THE APOSTLES NOT CLOSED

God has permitted the first epistle that Paul is the author of, to be the **EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS.** Note that the Acts of the Apostles did not close with sending greetings to certain people like all the other writings of the books of the Bible closed. In fact, it is not closed, and the reason is, Paul declaring in the third chapter of I Corinthians that he had laid the foundation, let every man take heed how he builds thereon. He was to lay a foundation for the gospel of Jesus Christ that came to the Jewish people in his day, which was going th be transferred over to the Gentiles. Paul was going to lay the foundation for the church among the Gentiles to be built upon the doctrines and ordinances that he would lay down. Then it was to be restored back to the Jewish people once again. That is the main reason the book of the Acts of the Apostles is not closed. There is yet work to be done in the **APOSTOLIC ORDER.**

BOOK OF ROMANS

You find Paul, in the book of Romans, showing how that since the Jewish people refused to accept the truth, that God was turning them over to reprobate minds, making them believe lies and be damned.

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Saith Paul.....Continued from Page 2

Their morals had dropped so low and the debauched condition among the Jewish people was so common that God was even turning them over to a beastly spirit. As Paul declared in the first chapter of Romans in the eighteenth verse, “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness.” The Jewish people had much of the oracles of God and true sayings, but were holding it in an unrighteous spirit to hide the truth from the people, to keep them from seeing and keep them from opening their hearts and unstopping their ears to hear concerning the salvation of God until it came to them, was taken from them before being given to the Gentiles. He said in the twenty-first verse of the first chapter of Romans, “because that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” It then goes on to say, “who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator who is blessed forever. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections, for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature; and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of women, burned in their lust one toward another.”

He said, “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness.” Which includes: “Fornication, wickedness, covetousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit”, and they became professional whisperers to go around trying to whisper half-truths to kill the children of God’s influence, to keep them from accepting the message of restoration. He said they were “backbiters, haters of God, spiteful. They were proud, boasters”, and they invented evil things, and they were disobedient to their parents. They were without understanding, they broke covenants among themselves and with God. Without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: “who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death.”

Dear reader, it will pay us to consider the end of this Gentile age just as the end of that Jewish age came to a close. He goes on into the book of Romans to show how God was blessing the Gentiles, although

he declares in the third chapter that the Jewish people still are at an advantage and what profit there would be circumcision. He declared in the second verse “Much in every way; chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.” At no time did he say that God was through with the Jewish people forever. Yea, but he declared in the ninth, tenth and eleventh chapters of Romans that after the Gentile dispensation has closed, that God would return back to the Jewish people again. The Gentiles were the WILD OLIVE BRANCH and they must take heed lest God would cut them off, which is actually taking place at this very time. In the eleventh chapter of Romans, he makes it very plain in the first letter that we have, that is recorded in the New Testament, that Paul is the Apostle of the Gentiles, and that he MAGNIFIES HIS OFFICE, and that this is the work that he was going to do among the Gentiles, and the casting away of the Jewish people and then their reconciliation back into God’s favor. God receiving them in restoration would bring life from the dead.

EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS

Notice in the next epistle, which is to the Corinthian church, the Gentiles, Paul declared that he was called to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ for the will of God, unto the church of God which is in Corinth. Seemingly, in the church of Corinth, God had permitted about everything pertaining to the New Testament ordinances to be broken for the very purpose that we would know when anything was being done wrong, and then to know how to qualify as New Testament ministers to teach it as Paul did, which was right. He says in the eleventh chapter of I Corinthians, to keep the ordinances as he has delivered them unto the church. Then we might ask, what are the New Testament ordinances that Paul referred to? Let us go back and review the first ten chapters of I Corinthians. You will really find that the first one was water baptism. In the first part of the epistle to the Corinthians, Paul showed them the error of trying to make converts or followers of water baptism.

This was to be a united ministry, all workers together. One planting, one watering, and God giving the increase, and that there should not be divisions among them by one saying he was of Apollos, the other of Paul, and yet another of Christ. But he let them know that the ministers were workers together, and water baptism was not to be done for the purpose of followers.

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Saith Paul.....Continued from Page 3

That is the only reason that Paul made it very clear that he had only baptized a few people while planting the church at Corinth. Not that he was against water baptism in other places, but that he did not want anyone to say that he was baptizing in his own name. Therefore, he let others do the baptizing. Many groups today use water baptismal services for the purpose of trying to make followers, but God forbid that the body of Jesus Christ and the ministers of the body of Christ, which consists of five major gifts of the ministry, would ever work in that capacity. If so, we are not building on Paul's foundation.

The next ordinance that is referred to, not going into a lengthy study of setting the home in New Testament order and the marriage vows of the different people and those that are legal to do so and those that are not, but another outstanding ordinance is referred to in the tenth chapter of I Corinthians when he says, "I speak as unto wise men, judge ye what I say." In the fifteenth verse (everyone should study this very carefully), "that cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ, and one body, for we are all partakers of one bread". When he included himself with the other ministers of the New Testament order that was working in the one body of Christ, they were ordained to bless the cup and to bless the bread, which is the New Testament order of communion that he goes into detail concerning the 11th chapter of Corinthians.

He explained why it is to be taken and why the Lord go His disciples together the same night in which He was betrayed and instituted the Communion Service. Starting at the twenty-third verse and reading the remaining part of the eleventh chapter will make it very plain to any sincere and honest hearted minister or child of God that would like to find APOSTOLIC ORDER and build on the foundation, "let every man take heed how he builds thereon". He went on to say that no other foundation can any man lay than that which is laid. Now, if any man will build upon the foundation that Paul laid with gold, silver and precious stones, or wood, hay or stubble, his work will be made manifest, and the day would declare it because it shall be revealed by fire and the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort it is. If your works that you have built will abide, you will receive a reward, but if any man's work will

be burned, he will suffer loss. That is, his work will be destroyed but he himself could still be saved, yet though as by fire, providing he will accept the New Testament order of Restoration and come out of that Babylonious condition of building of wood, hay and stubble and build upon the foundation of gold, silver and precious stones, which is the teachings of Jesus Christ and the prophets and the precious ministers of the New Testament are to build upon the foundation that Paul laid.

BOOK OF GALATIANS

Then, if you will notice, we leave the first and second epistle to the Corinthian church, Paul takes up other churches and addresses them in order. And you, as a Bible student, know what the book of Galatians consists of. It is bringing us out from under the law, convincing the Gentile people that we are not to go the way of the Jewish people did and he lays the foundation for the FRUITS OF THE FLESH and shows the difference between the FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT and the other. In the fourth chapter, he conveys to us very plainly the two covenants and explains them in a way that actually shows the difference of what the Gentile people ought to do, which would be different than what they had been doing under the old Mosaic Law and the promises God made to Abraham. He shows them how foolish they were by letting people bewitch them, and that they would not obey the truth, but were taking them back under the law. He told them that as many that had been baptized into Christ, put on Christ, and there would be neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, but all would be one in the body of Jesus Christ.

The remainder of this article will be completed in the March, 2020 issue of the B'nai Shalom Jerusalem Digest.

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“Lord I want to go, keep showing me the way. Take me by the hand and lead me on.”

I have loved this little chorus for most of my life, however it struck me differently the last time I sang it. The word “GO” is what caused me particular concern.

As Jesus began his ministry, he looked out and saw Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the sea. Jesus simply said, “follow me”. As they continued, they came upon James and John who were mending their nets. Jesus called to them, and they too followed. There is something so sweet about the call of our Lord. Just hearing him make mention of our name is beyond comprehension. These fishermen did not have a full understanding of Jesus as their savior, but something about his voice caused them to drop what they were doing and GO.

It’s a beautiful picture to think of; the Lord knowing our name and calling us to follow him to a life eternal. Where there is no war, no hate, no death nor filth. When we hear his call, we all *want* to GO. However, when we begin to follow the path the Lord has laid for us, reality sets in...going is tough. When we gain an understanding of the one who led his life as an example, we realize before life came to our souls there had to be death. Death brought life. If it were so for Christ, then guess what that means for you and me?

The Israelites were called by God to leave a land that made them subject to slavery. They were promised a land of their own, flowing with milk and honey. Once they were witness to the power of God through the plagues, you can bet they were eager to GO. They had no clue, however the route necessary to make it to their land. They had no idea they would have to navigate deserts, cross rivers, face hunger and thirst. They did not realize they would be pursued by those desiring their death. In the middle of it all, they reasoned it may have been better to stay a slave than to die on the path.

Truth be known, few actually *want* to GO. Going takes action, and ultimately a cost. It may have been easy for those fishermen to lay down their nets and

follow initially, but at some point they realized the cost. They realized they may have to give up their livelihood, their families and their homes. The children of Israel heard of the promises. They heard of the greatness of God, how he would provide them a place of their own, how he would protect them and call them his children, yet they too would soon realize the cost.

So is the story of you and me. We hear of the salvation of Christ, how the spirit of God will cleanse us, purify us and make us whole. We hear the call of the Lord and excitedly we say, “Lord I want to GO”, when in reality we want to say, “Lord I want to BE THERE!” There is no difficulty in being with our Lord. There is complete understanding and complete rest. Going on the other hand, is tough. To choose to drop your nets, to choose to potentially find it necessary to walk away from your livelihood, family and home. To choose to leave behind what you perceive is “security” is difficult. Letting go, and letting God have control simply burns this flesh.

As we usher in a new year, it is abundantly clear the message God is trying to provide. There is a seriousness to serving the living God. He has not hidden the fact that to follow him requires a death. A death of self-will, a death of our own self-serving motivations, and a death of our pride and lusts. Many will tell you of the never-ending love, mercy and grace of our God. Many will tell you of the abundant riches and glory that comes from serving him. Few, however, will tell you of the true path that must be taken when you are called to GO.

There may be days when we feel like David, willing to face any lion, bear or giant. Other days we may kick and scream like Jonah, spending days in a pit of despair and depression. Nevertheless, I have never “seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed left begging for bread”.

Our Lord is making a solemn call for us to GO, while providing clarity on the meaning. The path may be full of stumbling blocks, holes and obstacles, but as we continue in HIS way, we find solace in knowing our Father is in control. Through it all we strive daily to sing “Lord I want to GO, keep showing me the way”, and truly understand just what that really means.
-Bro. Ryan Henson

My Personal Note...

By Sister Ruth Moore

We have just left the Holiday Season for 2019 and have been hearing the Christmas carols being played and sung throughout our world.

I so remember how well I loved them when I learned them many years ago. I suppose that some great writer had put his or her mind to the celebration mode and began to write songs like Silent Night, O Holy Night, Jingle Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town and many more. Since they were songs of cheer, I assumed they had been written to be loved and enjoyed.

Then one day, I began to read the words and being a person who loves sincerity, I noticed that those words were not Christmas Carol words, but a message in it that Jesus, our Lord had come and we should rejoice. How very true those words are to all we, who have found the Lord as our Savior.

Won't it be wonderful when we can rejoice that our Savior reigns over the world? We understand that even now He has His way with the things that happen, but what a day when this will be the everyday activity throughout the entire world!! When I read these words, my heart is filled with joy and appreciation.

We now live in a world that hardly recognizes that there is a God, but what a joy to know that He is coming back one day to set the whole world in place.

Some of the carols are cute and telling funny stories, but I will forever be thankful that this is not our world. That is why we can bear with life like it is today and work to see God's will in our lives so that we will see Him and be with Him forever.

It should make us very thankful to understand that the Lord is making changes in our lives while we are still living in this ungodly world. We are in it but we certainly are not of it. Those who live in it are happy to see some days come in which the world can find a reason for happiness, and we should pray for those who do not know him.

When I was living in Israel, I met with many people from other countries and they expressed the fact that Christmas is a beloved holiday

throughout the world. Not because everyone loves the Lord, but because there are songs of peace and joy in most communities. As soon as the holiday is over, they get right back to whatever they were doing before but thank the Lord that peace and joy is still within our hearts, because He lives there.

I began reading some of the other hymns which are used greatly during this holiday and to my amazement, many of them are not really Christmas Carols at all, but some who wrote were filled with joy and thankfulness that we can, in the midst of turmoil and struggle, lift our eyes to heaven and know for sure that Jesus lives. He lives forever. Blessed by His name!!!

Wishing everyone a peaceful and blessed Christmas and Hanukah season!

IN LOVING MEMORY

Sister Georgia C. Colflesh

Feb 11, 1942-Oct 16, 2019
Gospel Tabernacle
Belton, MO

Brother Leo D. Feltenstein

Oct 27, 1948- Nov 25, 2019
Brother of Sis. Charlotte Kester
Gospel Kingdom Place of Worship
Louisville, Kentucky

Sister Etta L. Perry

March 3, 1941- Dec 30, 2019
Conroe, Texas

James "Joe" Wilder, Jr.

Jan 29, 1964-Jan 11, 2020
Father of Sis. Alicia Turner
Gospel Tabernacle
Belton, MO

Layne R. Mays

April 8, 1997-Jan 14, 2020
Granddaughter of Sis. Donna Henderson
Gospel Tabernacle
Belton, MO

2nd Timothy 2:4 states, *“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier”*. The key to this scripture is the subject to whom it is speaking; *he who is at war*.

We generally do not look at ourselves as soldiers, but Paul evidently thought otherwise. Some have experienced the true definition of a soldier, most have not. The greatest examples of those having the characteristics and qualities of a soldier have nothing to do with actual war. They do carry a weapon, though not as one would suppose. They do carry a shield, though it is not made of metal. The soldiers being spoken of by Paul are those who battle against the darkness of this world and the sin that comes with it.

We often speak of the winter months as coming in and out as a Lion or Lamb. The beginning of 2020 has certainly come in like a Lion regarding the battles facing the children of God. They are warring against extreme darkness that has filled this World. We often describe the Kingdom of God as a tree with its roots planted in Heaven. We also know that from time to time our Lord shakes that tree in order to prune it. Though it should not surprise us when this shaking takes place, it is nonetheless a painful process. And so, we war.

Soldiers can typically be placed into three categories. The first is outwardly excited to go into battle. They are led by their emotions, they rush into the fight, they consistently look to the next battle. They are generally great warriors, but they can also be a danger to the rest of the troops. They tend to love dramatics and thrive on the thrill of fighting. This group tends to shake the tree without the direction of God. They involve themselves in the lives of others within the Kingdom of God, without having authority to do so. This causes them to be a liability in the Kingdom of God.

The second category of soldiers base their actions upon fear. They are the last to rush into battle. When the going gets tough you can bet, *they will get going*. They run when faced with adversity. When the tree is shaken, they jump from it for fear that the tree is headed toward death. This group believes- that which is being pruned from the tree is the fruit of the tree. They fail to see the Lord's hand working to perfect his kingdom, and how that can be a dirty job. They look toward self-preservation and fail to look toward the salvation of their fellow soldiers. They too can be a liability in the Kingdom of God.

Then comes the third category of soldier. The category we all strive to be. They are steady in the midst of battle. They recognize as long as the war over sin is alive, then battles are necessary. They do not look forward to the battle, but they have trained and prepared for the moment. They look to hold on to one another when the tree begins to shake, but they do not go against the will of God. They are dependable, steadfast, and have sanctified themselves from the *“affairs of this life”*. This soldier recognizes their true purpose is only to please the one who selected them to be a soldier.

The weapon the Lord has provided us is his word, which is *“quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword”* (Heb 4:12). His truth reaches the depths of our souls. His righteousness we put on to protect that which is dear to our hearts. We walk in his peace. His faithfulness is the shield that goes before us. His salvation we wear upon our heads as a helmet- daily renewing our mind in him (Eph 6).

We must recognize that *“the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him”* (John 4:23). Are you dedicated in this hour to help se the church in order and to restore Jerusalem? Our Lord is seeking a people who will work to do just that. Not for gratitude, recognition, fame or fortune; but simply *“that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier”*.



Blessed Are The Peacemakers. For They Shall Be Called The Children of God. Matthew 5:9

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Elder R. E. Dawkins 1911-1965*

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