World Events And The Bible

In recent months, the Middle East has figured prominently in the news. Many persons have therefore expressed the fear that the problems between Arabs and Jews might lead to a world conflict.

Writing in the November 30, 1974, issue of Le Monde, Andre Fontaine states: "Swift action must be taken to prevent the tragedy in which Jew and Arab have been embroiled for the last quarter of a century from touching off the apocalypse. What a weight of shame would the world's rich and 'civilized' nations have to bear if they had to stand by powerlessly until perhaps the flames engulfed them, too." — Reprinted in ATLAS WORLD PRESS REVIEW, January 1975.

Could it be that events in the Middle East are shaping up for what the Bible calls "Har-Magedon" or "Armageddon"? Rev. 16:14,16). Many people might be led to reach such a conclusion because the name "Har-Magedon," meaning "Mountain of Megiddo," can be linked to the Middle East. Some nineteen miles southeast of modern Haifa in the state of Israel lie the ruins of ancient Megiddo. Over a period spanning more than three millenniums the area around Megiddo has been the scene of many defensive battles.

The war foretold to be waged at this symbolic "Har-Magedon" is not a conflict between nations. It is designated in the Scriptures as the "war of the great day of God the Almighty." (Rev. 16:14). The apostle John symbolically described the forces that the nations will be confronting: "I saw the heaven opened, and, look! a white horse. And the one seated upon it is called Faithful and True, and he judges and carries on war in righteousness . . . Also, the armies that were in heaven were following him . . . And out of his mouth there protrudes a sharp long sword, that he may strike the nations with it, and he will shepherd them with a rod of iron. He treads too the winepress of the anger of the wrath of God the Almighty." (Rev. 19:11-15). So the nations will suffer defeat at the hands of the "King of kings and Lord of lords," Jesus Christ, and powerful angelic forces. — Rev. 19:16.

The Bible reveals that the "war of the great day of God the Almighty" is part of a "great tribulation" to come upon the entire human system of things. (Rev. 7:1-3, 14). The survivors of that "great tribulation," for example, are described as a numberless "great crowd," "out of ALL NATIONS AND TRIBES AND PEOPLES AND TONGUES." (Rev. 7:9). Accordingly, the "great tribulation" spoken of in the Bible must embrace much more than just the Middle East. It will encircle the globe.

But might an upheaval in the Middle East furnish the "spark" for the "great tribulation" to begin? The Bible does not refer to any specific location in the Middle East or elsewhere as the place for that event to start. The details of how matters will work out remain to be seen.

We should not go beyond what a particular prophecy actually says. Bible prophecies cannot be understood in FULL detail until the events to which they point take place. So we do well not to speculate as to what certain happenings in the Middle East or elsewhere may or may not mean.

Surely it is far wiser to live daily in expectation of God's great day. This is the only course that will result in survival. Jesus Christ admonished his followers to remain awake to the certain fulfillment of his prophetic words.

He urged: "Pay attention to yourselves that your hearts never become weighed down with overeating and heavy drinking and anxieties of life, and suddenly that day be instantly upon you as a snare. For it will come in upon all those dwelling upon the face of all the earth (not merely the Middle East). Keep awake, then, all the time making supplication that you may succeed in escaping all these things that are destined to occur, and in standing before the Son of man." — Luke 21:34-36.

Take time to consider what the Bible really has to say. Exercise care not to draw unwarranted conclusions from the changeable trends in world affairs, whether they relate to the Middle East or not. Concentrate on the truly important things—living in harmony with the prophetic word, applying the Bible's counsel in your life.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this week's discussion, please direct them to this newspaper.

Contributed by:
The Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
Edenton,
North Carolina

PEEK-A-BOO

Every time you open the door to the oven, the temperature drops from 25 to 50 degrees. So if you have a "peek-a-boo" window, use it, advises Wilma Scott, extension housing specialist, North Carolina State University. It'll help conserve energy.

BRAGG TOPS

The nation's farmers plant several different varieties of soybeans and the one that heads the list is Bragg, based on samplings from 14 states. In North Carolina, Bragg is second behind Ransom.

BLACKLEG

One of the health problems affecting cattle is a bacteria-caused disease known as blackleg. The organisms that cause it live in the soil and are picked up by the cattle as they eat. Once inside the body, the organisms invade heavy muscled tissue and give off a poison that can eventually kill the animal.

Boy's Home Conference

The National Association of Homes for Boys is holding its annual conference in Charlotte, N.C. the week of June 22-27. Activities are being held at the Ramada Inn on E. Independence Blvd.

Host for this year's conference is Boys Homes of North Carolina. Boys Homes has campuses at Lake Maccamaw and at Huntersville in Mecklenburg County. Boys Homes Director Les Craft, chairman of the conference, said "We are very happy to be hosting this year's conference. I am sure that the people of Charlotte and all of North Carolina will make our visitor's stay a pleasant one."

Neil Howard, Executive Director of Idaho Youth Ranch in Rupert, Idaho, is the President of the NAHB. Howard has had an extensive background in child-care work. Prior to accepting the position in Idaho he was director of one of the largest boy-care organizations in the world, the Ettie Lee Homes for Boys. He and Craft will be appearing on local television stations during the conference week to tell people about the Association.

The purpose for the week-long meeting is to exchange ideas in an effort to better serve the young people on the respective campuses. Seminars and lectures by child-care authorities from throughout the country.

Promoted

Marine Private First Class Joseph T. McChenney, son of Mrs. C.V. McChenney of 419 King St., Hertford, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with the 2d Marine Division at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. A 1973 graduate of Perquimans County High School, he joined the Marine Corps in October 1974.

VISITS HERE

Little Joey Asbell of Greenville spent a few days last week with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lawrence Winslow of Hertford and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Asbell of Tyner. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Asbell.

ANNOUNCES ENGAGEMENT — Mr. and Mrs. Willie R. Markham of Rt. 3, Durham, N.C. announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Ann to William Dan Nixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Nixon of Rt. 2, Hertford. The bride-elect is a graduate of Jordan High School in Durham and is presently employed as an inventory controller with Central Carolina Farmers of Durham. The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Perquimans High School and North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. He is employed as a manager trainee also with Central Carolina Farmers in Durham. The wedding has been planned for August 2 at 3 p.m. in Grace Baptist Church, Durham.

RATE INCREASE

In order to get our Water and Sewer Rates to comply with requirements of State & Federal Agencies we are faced with the problem of raising the Town's Sewer and Water Rates.

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PERDUE MEANS PROGRESS

In 1920 Arthur Perdue went into business with 200 white leghorns. And his wife, in early Twenties photo, helped feed the flock and gather eggs.

Perdue has made great strides in the chicken business since the above picture was taken in 1920. Perdue has grown from sales of $33,000,000 in 1968 to sales of over $143,000,000 in 1974. That is an increase of 331%.

Perdue has also grown from 43,000,000 broilers produced annually in 1968 to 69,700,000 produced in 1974. This represents a 61.7% increase in broiler production.

As you can see Perdue is continuing to make great strides in the chicken business. Perdue is moving ahead in their new North Carolina operation. Perdue will have 23 million dollars invested when all company projects are completed in North Carolina.

Perdue now has 108 houses committed to them in the Northeastern North Carolina area. But Perdue needs 400 more houses built in order to meet the company's goals.

So, wouldn't you invest in a business that carries a guarantee? That's a $48,000 guarantee over the next 6 years, and that's just the beginning. Diversify your present farming operation and take the gamble out of farming. Move with the company on the move in Northeastern North Carolina.

ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR, THEN CALL PERDUE

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Ahoskie Sales Office: 332-8111
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Ray Marlowe: 398-4038
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