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## The Battle Is The Lord's

By Zola Levitt

The prophets described an upside-down world when the End Times would come, and we seem to be living in it. Today (10/14/94) an international terrorist was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. When an ordinary criminal disavows his crimes, he may be forgiven and let out of jail. He is not normally given a coveted international honor.

It should be noted that Yasser Arafat is not an elected official nor necessarily respected by the people of whom he is presently dictator. Neither is he a statesman of any experience or skill. He is a terrorist and has never been anything else for 30 years. Presumably by his instructions, or those of very close cohorts, we saw the massacre of the Munich athletes, the gunning down of school children in Ma'alot in Israel, the machine-gunning of indiscriminate crowds in the airports of Rome and Vienna and, more recently, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 and the World Trade Center in New York City. In reality, an entire list of Palestinian atrocities against Israel, America and unknown innocents of most every nation would fill this newsletter.

One member of the Nobel Prize Committee resigned his post at the idea of giving the coveted international award to an ordinary street killer. The other members will live on in the shame of what they have done.

The most recent Palestinian atrocities in Israel followed even after the prize was awarded. The 19-year-old soldier whose

mother the whole world prayed and wept with, and the ordinary civilians blown up on the Tel Aviv city bus on October 18 promise continued massacres by those who commit mass murder freely with praise by many and punishment from none. Now that Arafat has been magically transformed into the president of a "country," that country can give murderers a comfortable hiding place within Israel conveniently close to their targets.

The insanity of the peace process goes on with the Rabin government and the American government still taking the laughable position that it is possible to deal with the PLO and that the bombers merely represent some fringe group out of Arafat's control. It is certainly time to change the Israeli government and to deal with Israel's enemies in the manner they have chosen; war is war, so let's continue the war and call it a war.

That Arafat has some interest in a permanent peace with Israel is proven a lie by his own words. He spoke in a Johannesburg mosque about his real plan — to conquer Jerusalem — and he didn't realize he was being taped. We quote from the Yesha Report, a publication of the Israeli organization which represents the Jewish West Bank and Gaza settlers.

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#### Battle is the Lord's

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## The Jihad Will Continue by Yasser Arafat

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has personally directed the murders of hundreds of innocents around the world, from slaughters of schoolchildren to explosions of passenger planes. The below is excerpted from a speech Arafat gave on May 10, 1994 in a Johannesburg mosque.

The Jihad [Islamic holy war] will continue, and Jerusalem is not [only] for the Palestinian people, it is for all the Muslim nation.

You are responsible for Palestine and for Jerusalem before me [applause], the land which had been blessed for the whole world.

Now after this agreement you have to understand our main battle.

Our main battle is Jerusalem. The first shrine of the Moslems.

This has to be understood for everybody, and for this I was insisting before signing to have a letter from them, the Israelis, that Jerusalem is one of the items which has to be under discussion and not the state, the permanent State of Israel! No! It is the permanent State of Palestine [applause]. Yes, it is the permanent State of Palestine.

And in this letter it is very important for everybody to know I insist to mention and they have written it, and I have this letter, I didn't declare and publish it until now. In this letter we are responsible for all the Christian and the Moslem and Islamic holy sacred places.

I have to speak frankly, I can't do it alone without the support of the Islamic nation. I can't do it alone. No, you have to come and to fight and to start the Jihad to liberate Jerusalem, your first shrine.

In the agreement I insist with my colleagues, with my brothers, to mention that not exceeding the beginning of the third year, and after — directly after — the signing of their agreement, to start discussing the future of Jerusalem. The future of Jerusalem.

What they are saying is that [Jerusalem] is their capital. No, it is not their capital. It is our capital. It is your capital. It is the first shrine of the Islam and the Moslems.

This agreement, I am not considering it more than the agreement which had been signed between our prophet Mohammed and Koraish, and you remember the Caliph Omar had refused this agreement and [considered] it a despicable truce.

[Ed. note: The agreement with Koraish allowed Mohammed to pray in Mecca, which was under Koraish control, for 10 years. When Mohammed grew stronger two years later, he abrogated the agreement, slaughtered the tribe of Koraish and conquered Mecca.]

But Mohammed had accepted it, and we are accepting now this peace effort. But to continue our way to Jerusalem, to the first shrine together and not alone.

We are in need of you as Moslems, as warriors of Jihad.

Of course the ultimate jihad (holy war) of all time will be Armageddon, that battle that ends the Tribulation and brings the second coming Uniquely, Arafat's behavior of our Lord. predicts the Antichrist in an almost eerie parallel. Both men initially enter as peacemakers and sign an agreement with Israel. They then both double-cross the Holy Land, especially concerning the Temple Mount. Arafat claims it for his own and the Antichrist blasphemes in the Temple, proclaiming that he is the God of Israel (II Thes. 2:3-4). Finally, both Arafat and the Antichrist rally their loyal forces into a "holy" invasion of Israel to subjugate the Jews and take over the land once and for all.

Many teachers have likened Hitler and the Holocaust to the Antichrist and the Tribulation. Are we watching another, even more compelling forerunner of that ultimate End Times event?

Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh!

Zola

# ISRAEL THE CENTER OF DIVINE HISTORY

Part VI

By Thomas S. McCall, Th.D.



## THE BALFOUR DECLARATION & THE DECREE OF CYRUS

Over 75 years have passed since the Balfour Declaration was announced by the British Government in 1917, and its significance is fading into dim history. However, it was a turning point in the development of Zionism. There is no question in this author's mind that God used the Balfour Declaration in the modern restoration of Israel, much the same way as He used the Declaration by the Persian

# Both governments were favorably inclined to see the Jewish people return to their homeland.

King Cyrus in the restoration of Israel after the Babylonian Captivity. Compare the two documents:

**Cyrus.** Now in the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, so that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Thus saith Cyrus, king of Persia: The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Who is there among you of all his people? His God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (he is the God), which is in Jerusalem.

And whoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4).

Balfour. His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the right and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country. November 2, 1917.

In both cases, the governments involved held political control over Jerusalem and the Promised Land, and were favorably inclined to see the Jewish people return to their homeland. In both cases also, there was considerable opposition from local governments in the Promised Land and in the countries surrounding it to the return of the Jews. In Cyrus' time, the opposition was led by the Samaritans, in our time the opposition has been led by the Arab Palestinians.

## IMPORTANCE OF THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

Jews in Israel and the Dispersion are routinely taught about the Balfour Declaration, much the same as Americans are taught about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Most American Gentiles (including evangelical Christians), though, know little about this remarkable document that was set forth in the waning months of World War I.

(Continued on Page 10)



## ♥ ZOLA'S BULLETIN BOARD ♥



#### FOLLOW THE NORTH STAR

They may not have a white Christmas in Bethlehem, but where would you rather be this December than the birthplace of our Lord? We will visit Eilat, where the new peace treaty with Jordan has been signed and we will apparently have free access to Aqaba, the Jordanian resort which, like Eilat, lies on the gorgeous coast of the Red Sea. Departing from New York on Monday, December 12, you can return on either the 21st or the 27th. Not only will we enjoy cooler weather than on our larger peak season tours, but you'll appreciate the significant savings (Basic Tour \$1,999!). Please call 1-800-WONDERS or write to our P.O. box for your free color brochure.



We've added a low-power station in Colorado Springs. TV 38 is now broadcasting Zola Levitt Presents on Fridays at 1:00 PM and 8:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. WTKK-66 in Washington, DC,

has cancelled our air time.

#### MINISTRY AMPLIFIER

Plug yourself into our outreach and broadcast our good news to your friends. Make yourself an agent of God by simply forwarding our newsletters when you're done with them and by telling people when and where to tune in our broadcasts (send for our TV airing schedule). Thanks!

#### A MALE MAIL CLERK

Having dedicated years to caring for the sick, Vince White has joined our small team of mail processors. He's served as a church youth director and participated in his church's music group. Planning to com-



plete a degree in Evangelism at Criswell Bible College, Vince says the highlight of his Christian faith has been discovering its Jewish roots.

Just exactly what is the Palestinian Liberation Organization and what is its plan for Israel? Why is it ridiculous that Israel has signed a pact with Arafat? On our P.L.O. audiocassette, Zola responds to such questions from a varied group of callers on live radio. Please send \$7 with this announcement, and with the first 40 orders, we'll include a free copy of Zola's touching sermon on loving Israel, given at Dallas Theological Seminary.

#### **HOLIDAY ORDERS**

If you need your order by a certain time, please write, "Holiday Order" on your envelope to help us speed it up. If you have MasterCard, Visa or Discover, calling our office at (214) 690-1874 during business hours Central Time assures the fastest service. For \$5 we have our Rush Service, and you can also request 2nd Day or Next Day UPS delivery, etc. Best bet? Order now!

# NOTE FROM KELLY



Kelly? Well, let me explain. Some of

you old-time ZLM supporters might remember that I used to be Zola's faithful assistant. As a tour leader on Zola's famous pilgrimages to Israel, I was blessed to be able to meet many of you in person and to have unforgettable spiritual communion with my brothers and sisters in the homeland of our Lord.

This week, as I watched news reports about the recent tragic events in Tel Aviv, my heart was stirred, and I was reminded of another time when Israel was in the news. that time because of the Persian Gulf War and Saddam Hussein's scud missiles. Those missiles that outraged the world had an effect on us at ZLM, too. When the trouble started, Zola and I were in the process of arranging our spring tour to Israel, and we were wondering what to do about that. We had meetings to discuss things like cancellations of hotel rooms, refund policies, and how to break the news to the people who had signed up to travel with us that for the first time in our history we were canceling a tour.

That's what we expected, but the Lord truly does work in mysterious ways, and after several conversations with our potential tourists, I found myself asking Zola to meet with me about a new issue: a group of pilgrims whose love for the Holy Land was so great, and whose trust in the Messiah of Israel was so strong, that they wanted to go ahead with the tour, despite the scuds, the rumors of poison gas, and the media explosion of negative press. These lovely believers wanted to show their support for the natural branches of God's olive tree, the Jews, by standing with them in Israel during that difficult time.

Now, in truth, the danger to people traveling in Israel, even during the war, was quite minimal. As I told my mother many

times, I always feel much safer on any street corner in Israel than I do anywhere in Dallas. Israeli police protection is far superior to anything we Americans can imagine.

So Zola and I made some odd travel arrangements. We spoke with our land agents about hotels that had special sealed rooms (remember the sealed room each Israeli home had during the war in case Saddam launched a poison gas missile?) that we could retreat to if the warning alarm went off, and we, like all citizens of Israel at that time, were to each have a gas mask to carry around as we toured Jerusalem and Bethlehem and the other holy places on our tour. We even planned a special television program featuring Zola shaving off his beard, in case he actually had to use his gas mask!

As it turned out, a cease-fire between Iraq and Kuwait was initiated a couple of weeks before our departure, so fortunately we had no need for the gas masks and the sealed And although our group was the smallest we had while I was a tour leader, that tour was far and away my favorite. Because we were small in number, we all got to know each other very well and we formed a bond with each other and with the people of Israel that is difficult to describe. Israel is dependent on tourism for its survival, and we were the only tourists in the entire country (at least we were told that by many Israelis) at The outpouring of love and that time. gratitude that we received from both Jews and Arabs while we were there was beautiful.

You would have thought our tour bus was the first float in a magnificent parade to see the people on the streets waving and cheering as we bounced by. Everywhere red carpets were rolled out for us, and people thanked us for being there and for supporting Israel. Later, the leader of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism in New York told Zola and me, "Israel will not soon forget what you and your tour group did."

So, as strange as it may sound, when I hear of the trials facing the brave pioneers of the Jewish homeland, my heart longs to be there with them, to stand beside them and to proclaim shalom, and as Zola always says, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

## Letters to Zola

Dear Zola,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord. I am not a person who normally writes to people that I see on TV, but after watching your program early (4:30 a.m.) this morning, I felt compelled to write. You had interviewed a very nice Jewish lady who lives in the so-called "West Bank," and commented on letters that you had apparently received from a number of viewers expressing an opinion that too many of your programs focus on what is happening in Israel. I took it that you found these letters to be somewhat discouraging.

I for one believe that you are doing EXACTLY what God has called you to do. That is, to try to awake Christians to the unfolding plan of God in these last days of the Last Days, particularly as that plan relates to God's Covenant People, the Jews.

I am absolutely astounded by the fact that most of our "churches" are not proclaiming the soon return of the Lord as evidenced most of all by events relating to Israel (God's fig tree?) and the turmoil in the Middle East. I am certain that the perversion of "replacement theology" is responsible for much of this apathy in the professing church.

Paul talked about a "blindness in part" affecting Israel. I think that if he were on earth today, he would describe the Church as having "a blindness in whole." Not that there are no ministers of the Gospel able to discern the signs of the times, but they sure seem to be few and far between.

**PLEASE** continue to tell us what is happening in Israel and give us your opinion regarding the possible prophetic significance of those events. The Lord told us to "watch," and to not let That Day come on us unexpectedly. Among other things, I rely on programs such as yours to keep up with events in Israel and to help me "watch" with vigilance!

His Servant

C.B.

Dear Zola,

Here is a "Letter to Zola" I bet will never be printed in the Levitt Letter.

Shame on you! How can you call yourself a Jew?! The moment you accepted Jesus as the Moshiach, you became a Christian and you ceased being a Jew.

Despite all the warnings in the Bible about false prophets, you still pray to Jesus. Shame on you!

Why did God warn us so many times not to pray to anyone but him? You might as well pray to David Koresh! There is no difference between that crazy man claiming to be God and Jesus claiming to be God.

You insult the entire Jewish community of the world by falsely claiming to be a Jew. You are not a Jew! You are a Christian!

God was unhappy and punished His people many times for straying from Him like you have done. I am sorry about your recent illness, but surely that is God's response to your failure to respect His word. Worse yet, you try to get other Jews to follow you to Hell! Shame on you!

If you wish to forsake God, it is your business, but your missionary work is a sin against Jews and against God.

SHAME ON YOU!

Your friend, a Real and Concerned Jew

Please know that Jews or anyone else can believe in Christ. All of the disciples, all of the apostles and all of the writers of the New Testament were Jews. Throughout the first century it was common for Jewish people to come to belief in the Messiah of Israel, and they were the first Christians. A remnant of Jewish people has believed this way in all generations and, surprisingly enough, according to a favorite rabbi of mine, "all Israel will be saved" when the Messiah returns (Paul, Rom. 11:26).

(Continued on Page 8)

- Zola

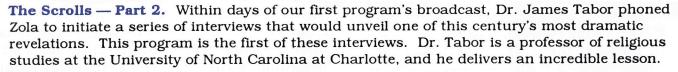


## The Dead Sea Scrolls TV Series

In 1947 a Bedouin boy, in search of a lost goat, threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2,000-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls.

These seven Secrets of the Scrolls half-hour TV programs give an historical account of these treasured manuscripts and present some remarkable new revelations. The Scrolls' authors were intensely Messianic and documented, it appears, the actual fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Such terms as "son of God," "branch of David," "stripes or piercings," "being put to death" and "raising the dead" all ring a familiar cord. Quite possibly these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-Biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.

**The Scrolls — A New Revelation.** We quickly produced this program after the initial Associated Press news release. Zola quotes from it extensively and emphasizes its significance.



The Scrolls — Part 3. During this interview, Dr. Tabor refers to several books about the Dead Sea Scrolls, including *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* by Vermish (Penguin Press), *The Dead Sea Scriptures* by Gaster (Doubleday Press) and *The Dead Sea Scrolls* published by the Biblical Archaeology Society. The last book is in Hebrew only.

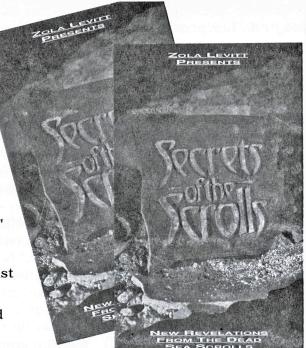
**The Scrolls Special.** Offered individually above, this program consolidates the first three programs and delivers a powerful message in only 30 minutes. New discoveries in the Scrolls research inspired the three following programs.

**The Wilderness Group.** Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.

In Search of Answers. Dr. Eisenman discusses his quest to gain access to the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes his archaeological team and how they map the caves in Qumran.

**Prof. Michael Wise.** An in-depth interview with a professor of Aramaic, the language of Jesus. Mr. Wise, from the University of Chicago, helped translate the fragments when first released. The New Jerusalem test, telling how the future will be, is discussed enthusiastically.

If you're enjoying our House of David TV programs, then this series should fascinate you. Please refer to our order form on page 11.



#### LETTERS TO ZOLA

(Continued from Page 6)

We received the following letter from a young viewer who has just celebrated a very special occasion. She shared with us her Bat Mitzvah program, her personal testimony and pictures.

Dearest Zola,

Hello! My name is Elizabeth and I am 12 years old. My family and I have been enjoying your ministry for a long time now. Even though we are not Jewish, we appreciate our Jewish roots as Gentile Believers and thank G-d that he has shown us the importance of returning to the "old paths."

I recently had my Confirmation/Bat Mitzvah, and, boy, was that a happy time!!! Not only did I read the Torah Portion in Hebrew, but had an opportunity to give my personal testimony of faith in the Messiah, which was followed by a lot of dancing and rejoicing!!! It was a joyful time for all of us, especially my mom and dad.

My dad said that he hopes now he will be spared grief in my teen years!!!

As you know, receiving gifts is a traditional practice at Bar/Bat Mitzvah, besides getting pelted with tons of candy, of which I received a little of both. The L-rd reminded me of

your ministry, and how many neat things that we have learned from you. So, here is a portion of what I was given. Please use it wherever the need is the greatest.

You are a true blessing from G-d. Thank you for speaking the Truth, even when some people may rise up against you. Please take care of yourself, Zola, and remember your vitamins each day!!!

With love in Yeshua, Your Sister in the L-rd,

E.W.

## My Personal Testimony of Faith by E.W.

I am blessed to have been born to devoted Christian parents who were not afraid to raise me according to the Word of G-d. From as far back as I can remember, the stories of the Bible and songs about G-d were always heard in my home. At the age of 6, I gave my heart to Yeshua Jesus while sitting on the front porch with my mother.

When I turned 9, I made a public statement of faith by having my mikvah (water baptism) before the Congregation Roeh Israel in Denver. That moment made me feel I was truly a part of the Body of Messiah! It was such a happy time of rejoicing for my family and me.

Now at 12 years old, I realize that I am at the age of accountability and my parents are no longer responsible for my sins. My relationship with the L-rd has matured, and my life as a Believer lies before me. At this point in my life I know that a choice must be made, and that one cannot sit on a fence forever. A person either chooses to live for Yeshua, or to go with the flow and follow the ways of the world.

I have chosen to live for Yeshua the Messiah, the King of the Jews, the L-rd of Lords, the Light to the Gentiles, and to do whatever He tells me to do in my life. Sure, I have my own plans, but I want to tailor them according to His will. The L-rd knows what is best for all of us, and He certainly knows what is best for me.

As I seek after G-d, I hope to be an example of His love to my family, friends, and especially to those who are less fortunate than I, those who have not yet met Yeshua the Messiah and claimed Him as their Savior. I am excited about

my future because I know I will not have to face life's challenges alone.

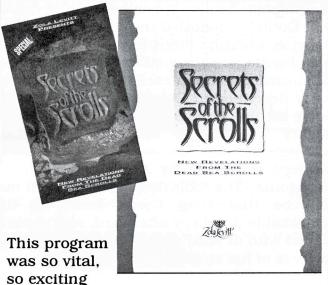
I would like to thank my parents for being by my side and raising me to know G-d. I would like to thank D.D. for helping me with my Hebrew in the Torah portion. I would like to



thank my friends who over the years have faithfully prayed for me. And, I would like to thank all of you who found time in your busy schedules to witness this important event in my life. But most of all, I give my thanks and praise to Abba Father, the Eternal G-d and His Yeshua, the Hope of Salvation, for giving me their undying love and Life Everlasting. They alone have made my life meaningful and worth living. Toda rabba, Adonai!

Thank you very much, and L-rd bless.

## THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS TV SPECIAL & TRANSCRIPT



that we aired it on The Family Channel and other major networks at prime time Included as the fourth program in the Scrolls Series, it shares film footage taken in Israel during an actual archaeological dig at the very site of the finding of the scrolls! Both Dr. James Tabor and Prof. Michael Wise, a translator of the fragments, contribute to the edifying commentary. Please see page 11 to order either the videocassette or the transcript.

## Half-Shekel Key Chains

These tear-drop key chains each contain an authentic half-shekel coin from Israel and cite the very important verses, Exodus 30:13-16 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Reminiscent of the days when each

child of Israel, rich or poor, gave a half-

shekel coin to

make an atonement for his soul. Put your half-shekel in your pocket (or someone's stocking) — salvation is now free!

Please order from page 11.

#### To Zola Levitt:

I have just finished reading the July Levitt Letter, and I simply cannot understand how you have been able to deceive so many Christians. Truly, the Antichrist has many faces. You are trying desperately to convert Christians to Judaism. Read Colossians and see what Paul thought about your Sabbaths and Holy days! What you Jews will never understand is that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, and as Paul says, There is neither Jew or Greek, we are all one in Christ Jesus.

The Jews have always been the world's troublemakers, today more than ever. When the state of Israel is finished, they will control all of Lebanon and Iraq, eretz Israel. And their dupes and slaves in Washington always ready to reward swinishness with more money. I saw your program once on TV, and was dismayed. You are really an insult to the Name of Jesus.



Where is tennis mentioned in the Bible? When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.



## ISRAEL THE CENTER OF DIVINE HISTORY

(Continued from Page 3)

## THE FRIENDSHIP OF BALFOUR & WEIZMANN

At the core of the Declaration was the unusual relationship between the British Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour and an active Zionist scientist named Chaim Weizmann, who later became the president of the World Zionist Organization and the first president of the revived state of Israel. Both of these men were powerful and effective in their own right, and together they forged a working relationship that changed the course of history, and resulted in the rebirth of Israel.

Balfour was a committed evangelical Christian, and he wrote several books, including Foundations of Belief, in which he set forth the cardinal teachings of the Scriptures. He was a dispensationalist, and believed in the future restoration of the Jewish people to Israel in connection with the Second Coming of Christ. He became British Prime Minister from 1902 to 1905, and was later the Foreign Minister under David Lloyd George during World War I. There were two reasons why Balfour was so attracted to Weizmann: One was secular and official, the other was religious and unofficial.

#### ACETONE & WORLD WAR I

The official reason for the friendship that developed between the two men was the critical development of an improved method of making acetone. This proved to be a quantum leap in producing powerful explosives, and played almost as important a role in concluding WW I as the atomic bomb did later in WW II. The German and Allied Forces were locked in mortal stalemate in trench warfare on the Continent for many months. Neither side could dislodge the other, and thousands were dying with artillery shelling and mustard gas rolling between the armed trenches.

It was the Jewish chemist Weizmann who labored in the laboratories and developed the new process for acetone production. With this new process for explosive production, the Allied Forces were able to tunnel under the German trenches and blow them apart. This was the capability that ended the stalemate, and enabled the Allies to force Germany to sign the armistice agreement. The British Government in general and Foreign Minister Balfour in particular were very grateful to Weizmann for the part he played in the victory.

#### **WEIZMANN & DANIEL**

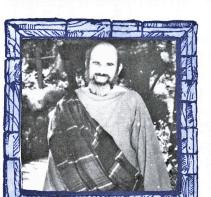
While we are comparing Balfour to King Cyrus, we might also compare Weizmann to the prophet Daniel. It is clear from Scripture that Daniel prophesied the sudden capture of Babylon when he interpreted the mysterious "handwriting on the wall" to the shaken King Belshazzar and his guests at the blasphemous party described in Daniel 5. That night the army of the Persian King Cyrus captured mighty Babylon in an almost bloodless takeover through the famous under-the-wall strategy described by the Greek historian Herodotus. The Bible does not say, but it may well be that King Cyrus heard of this remarkable prophecy afterward, and credited Daniel with at least part of the reason for the success of his strategy.

Furthermore, Jewish history informs us that the Jewish leaders in Babylon approached King Cyrus after his victory and showed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, which mentioned Cyrus by name (Isaiah 44:28-45:1). Isaiah had written the prophecy over 150 years before, so the Jewish leaders and King Cyrus were amazed that the venerable prophecy had been fulfilled so literally. All of this would explain why King Cyrus was so indeed eager, to issue proclamation urging the restoration of Israel and funding the rebuilding of the Temple. His appreciation to the prophets Daniel and Isaiah for his victory may well have played a major role in his favorable attitude toward Israel.

(To be continued)

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