

Kérugma[®] Bulletin

PO Box 1367
KUILS RIVER 7579
Tel: (021) 903-1901
Fax: (021) 906-2637
E-mail: info@kerugma.org.za
Web: www.kerugma.org.za

A Newsletter to the Conquerors in Christ

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"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about ... a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it (Zech. 12:2-3).

JERUSALEM - A CUP OF TREMBLING TO ALL NATIONS

- Ignatius A. le Roux

In the previous Bulletin (Vol. 2:D) a full report was given about the planned MILLENNIUM SUMMIT OF 1000 RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS FOR WORLD PEACE AT THE UNITED NATIONS. The summit indeed did take place, as planned, on 28-31 August 2000. This was followed by the UN MILLENNIUM SUMMIT FOR HEADS OF STATES on 6-8 September 2000. The meeting was the first of its kind in the history of man. Kings, state presidents and prime ministers of almost all the countries on earth gathered in the meeting hall of the General Assembly under the leadership of the Secretary-General of the UN, Mr. Kofi Annan.

From a worldly point of view, the summit was a huge success. Yet, from a Biblical point of view it was the beginning of the fulfilment of prophecies waited upon for many centuries.

In every news report of the Summit mention was made, for instance, of a specific issue which brought the above-mentioned prophecy from Zachariah 12 clearly to mind.

Frequently it was explained that Mr. Kofi Annan had called the Summit with the following items on the agenda:

- Global poverty
- Aids
- Terrorism
- War

Although all these issues enjoyed the attention and certain undertakings were made, reports showed that the Summit had been overshadowed by the prickly issue of the Middle-East Peace Agreement.

From day *one* until the final news report when the Summit was adjourned, communications stressed that control over one city in the world was the single big issue that remained unresolved. The city is Jerusalem! For anyone following news reports on CNN it eventually sounded like a refrain. Whenever reports were made about the Summit, mention was made of Jerusalem being the major issue for the delegates.

The problem is that the two parties involved are totally irreconcilable and both demand control over Jerusalem. On the one hand there are the Jews and on the other the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Just prior to the Summit in the month of July 2000, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, brought together the leaders of the two parties at

Camp David. The Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak represented the Jews, while the notorious Yasser Arafat, executive president of the PLO, stood for the Palestinians. President Clinton has been trying for years to find a solution to this problem - but to no effect. The major stumbling block remains the control over Jerusalem and in particular the Temple Mount.

Two separate interviews with the leaders were televised live on CNN. Yasser Arafat explained that he was merely carrying out a decision which his people had made. Under no circumstances would he betray them. For that reason he will never make any concessions.

Ehud Barak again stated that he had already made more allowances during the short period he had been governing than any of his predecessors. He had done this to prevent a war. He also added that there is one thing that no Israeli Prime Minister is able to do. No Prime Minister of Israel can or will ever sign a document that hands over sovereignty of the Temple Mount to President Arafat. All the above can be seen on an insert from CNN News Broadcast on Kérugma's new video by Dave Hunt, **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE?**

We know that preparations are being made in Israel for the building of the third temple. We read in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 that the Anti-Christ will sit there and pretend to be God. From Revelation 13:8 and 12 we learn that the people will worship him. Ezekiel 40-48 also describes the future temple in Jerusalem. Thus we are not surprised that the place where Solomon's Temple was situated and later also that of Herod, is of the utmost importance to the Jews.

But of what concern is the Temple Mount to the Arab Muslims?

In his news letter, **The Berean Call** of September 2000, Dave Hunt explains a lot about the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Headed by Yasser Arafat since 1969, the PLO claims to represent the so-called Palestinian people. It is an Islamic terrorist organization which trained most terrorists around the world. Arafat himself committed his first murder at age 20. Under his leadership the PLO became the most vicious and bloodiest terrorist organization ever known. The Palestinian Prize for Culture was recently awarded to Abu Daoud for his book telling how he planned and murdered eleven Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics!

The Palestine Liberation Organization states that the fight against the Jewish enemy is not a struggle about the borders of Israel, but about her very existence.

Typical of the world media, Arafat and his PLO murderers have been pictured as victimized heroes.

Pope John Paul's recent trip to Bethlehem was in response to Arafat's invitation to join him there to celebrate "our Jesus Christ". Who is "his Jesus Christ"? Arafat says Jesus was a Palestinian freedom fighter against Israel, and the Pope smiles and blesses him! Pope John Paul II has warmly received Arafat in Rome many times. This ruthless, sadistic terrorist and murderer was given the Nobel Peace Prize and is honoured as the champion of justice for the Palestinian people.

Who and what are these aggrieved Palestinians? There never was a Palestinian people, nation, language, culture, or religion. The claim of descent from a Palestinian people who lived for thousands of years in a land called Palestine is a hoax! That land was Canaan, inhabited by Canaanites, whom God destroyed because of their wickedness. Canaan became the land of Israel given by God to His people.

Arafat and his followers call themselves Palestinians, but are Arabs by birth, language and culture, and are close relatives to Arabs in surrounding countries from where most of them came, attracted by Israel's prosperity.

The name Palestine comes from the Philistines, who were not Semites, but invaded Canaan from Crete and parts of Asia Minor. Yet Arafat, an Arab, claims that ancestry.

It all began in 1948 when Israel was given to the Jews as their homeland. Arabs began to claim they were the true Palestinians and that the land of Israel had always belonged to them. The world media gladly helped spread this lie. Yet in 1948, Arabs owned a mere 3 percent of so-called Palestine.

In contrast to this the Jews most certainly have the right to claim their land historically. Abraham purchased the cave of Machpelah as well as the surrounding land at Hebron 4000 years ago for 400 shekels of silver from Ephron to bury his wife Sarah there (Gen. 23:7-20). Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Leah were all buried there. David was crowned king in Hebron.

Jerusalem was the capital of Israel for 3000 years. Temple Mount on the summit of Mount Moriah is the heart of Jerusalem. The emotions involved where this piece of land is concerned, are so intense that it could trigger World War III at any time. For this reason both the Secretary-General of the UN, Mr. Kofi Annan, as well as the president of the USA, Mr. Bill Clinton, flew to the Middle East to arrange further peace talks between Mr. Barak and president Arafat when the recent riots erupted in

Israel.

This small piece of earth that can evoke such emotions is where Abraham built an altar to offer his son Isaac to God. That spot was purchased by King David from Ornan the Jebusite to build there an altar to God and where God answered David by igniting the fire (1 Chron. 21:15-26). There his son Solomon built the first temple. In its place now sits the Dome of the Rock, a monument to Islam's unbiblical claim that Abraham offered not Isaac, but Ishmael.

Dave Hunt, from whose newsletter the above information was taken, rightly asks: Given its 3000-year Jewish history and importance to Christians, on what basis should Muslims control this site?

The fulfilment of Jesus' extraordinary prophecy in Luke 21:24 can be clearly seen in the ongoing conflict in the area. Jerusalem "will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles (the non-Jews) until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled". Since the land had been given to the Jews in 1948 as their home, it had also been "trampled" by non-Jews.

These circumstances will prevail, as we know from Daniel 9:26-27 until the "prince who is to come" the Anti-Christ, "will make a firm covenant with the many." The Anti-Christ will come in the form of the Messiah - the Anointed - the Christ.

He will make a peace treaty with Israel. What he will do with the Palestinians remains to be seen. The peace treaty will be made for "one week", that is for seven years. In the middle of this week, in other words after three and a half years, he will break his covenant with them.

He will reveal his true self. He will demand that they worship him (or an image of him) in the temple that had been built (2 Thess. 2:4, Rev. 13:15).

This reign of terror of the Anti-Christ will be terrible, but transitory.

Three and a half years later, at the end of the second half of the seven years that the covenant with Israel would have lasted, the Lord Jesus will come again and He will cast this leader, the Anti-Christ, together with his False Prophet alive into the "lake of fire which burns with brimstone" (Rev. 14:20).

This coming of the Lord Jesus will be preceded by a worldwide attack against Jerusalem. From all the nations over the earth an army will gather at Armageddon (Rev. 16:14,16). In Hebrew it is called Har-Magedon.

This mountain is close to the city of Megiddo and the valley of Esdraelon where many battles were fought during Old Testament times. How long the war will last before the Lord Jesus comes to save Israel from total extermination we do not know. You can read about these events clearly in Zechariah 14. At the appointed time He will come and stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4). When He comes in His splendour like this, all the nations (the non-Jews) will be gathered before Him to be judged (Matt. 25:31-46).

It is significant that the criteria used to judge them is influenced by their attitude towards the Jews whilst being here on earth:

"... to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40).

Who are the "brothers" to whom the Lord Jesus refers here? They are those who are not part of the heathen nations gathered before Him. There are two groups that can be identified here. When the Lord returns, there will be those who are with Him. He

refers to them as his brothers. They are his fellow citizens - the Jews.

Then there will also be the "nations", or the so-called gentiles. This group consists of all the people out of the nations who are not Jews. These two groups can easily be distinguished from each other everywhere in the New Testament. So, for instance, is the gospel "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16) The word "Greek" can also be translated with "non-Jew". The "brothers" of the Lord Jesus are thus those out of the Jewish nation who have come to the faith in Him.

The Lord promised in Genesis 12:3 to bless those who bless Abraham and his descendants and to curse those who curse them.

Therefore he will tell those gathered on his left hand:

"Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41).

Naturally this does not mean that you have to be good to those Jews who are being persecuted in order to be saved. The fruit of the new life that one receives at one's rebirth causes one to act in favour of the Lord's people when they are being treated unjustly. This happens spontaneously according to God's Word and the zeal that burns in His heart for them. An example of this is how the family of Corrie Ten Boom housed and helped the Jewish refugees during the Second World War. This was at the expense of their own safety.

The recent change of attitude of South Africa's government towards Israel is therefore also clearly part of the fulfilment of God's Word that teaches that all the nations will unite in warring against His people. The previous regime, however corrupt it was, had one strong issue that kept God's blessing over the land, namely a positive support of the nation Israel. This changed with the shift of government in 1994. On the one hand it is troublesome to one, but on the other hand it points to the fact that the coming of the Lord Jesus is at hand. For this reason it was so significant that the media reported that the whole UN SUMMIT FOR HEADS OF STATES had constantly been overshadowed by the issue concerning the control over Jerusalem. Jerusalem has indeed become more than ever before in history "a cup of trembling unto all the people round about" (Zech. 12:2).

Nowadays it is strange to listen to a news report without the Middle-East issue being mentioned. Chances are that it will become more and more prominent as time goes on. The Lord indeed said that He will make Jerusalem:

"A burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it" (Zech.

12:3).

All of this brings us closer to the hope of every Christian, namely the wonderful event of the Lord Jesus' return. Is that also what you hope for? We have to encourage one another often with the words that the Lord Jesus can fetch us at any time (1 Thess. 4:18).

THE RELIGIOUS SUMMIT

That the day of the Lord's return is close at hand was also evident from the sight of the thousand religious and spiritual leaders from most of the religions of the world who assembled at the Head Quarters of the UN from 28-31 August 2000.

Many times during CNN's news reports it was mentioned that the head of CNN, Mr. Ted Turner, was the real donor who made the meeting possible through his Better World Fund. He indeed, as mentioned earlier (Kérugma Bulletin, vol. 2:D), presented the keynote address at the Summit.

According to a report in the Maranatha Christian News Service (30-8-00), he explained to the thousand delegates that he grew up as a Christian and that he really wanted to become a missionary. The fact that only Christians could go to heaven led him to the conclusion that heaven would be a very lonely place.

In his spiritual search, according to him, he discovered that there is only one God who reveals himself to mankind in different ways. Therefore it is of little importance what religion one chooses. This God only wants us to love one another and to live in peace, according to Ted Turner.

What a nice message to deliver at such an occasion. As was mentioned last time, this was also the sentiment expressed at the Parliament of World Religions (December 1999, Cape Town). All the religions are merely different traditions of the same phenomena. As soon as we discover this, we can live in peace with one another, as we all worship and serve the same God in different ways. All this is shown clearly on Kérugma's video by Rev. Soon Zevenster with the title DIE PARLEMENT VIR WÊRELDGODSDIENSTE - DIE WEGBEREIDING VIR DIE VALSE PROFEET (sermon in Afrikaans, footage in English. See order form).

What is clear is that the stage is set for a single religious leader to step forward - someone who will be acknowledged by all the leaders of all religions. This False Prophet will be the one to direct everyone to follow and worship the leader on the political field, the Anti-Christ, as the Christ (Rev. 13:11-18).

When one considers everything, one fact is sure. We live at a time where everything is ready for the real Jesus Christ, the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, to fetch his Bride at any moment.

Are you also looking forward to that?

TOUR TO ISRAEL TEMPORARILY PUT OFF

In Newsletter 1⁰⁰ it was mentioned that I would accompany a research tour to Israel in November, Lord willing. Various people have phoned to enquire about the progress of the arrangements. A friend of ours who really wanted to go along, generated funds for the two of us as he knew how important it was for Kérugma to photograph those areas. Unfortunately the vehicle that he uses for work every day, broke recently and the damage to that was more than the amount for the two tickets. We therefore had to decide not to accompany the tour any longer. We do trust that the Lord will in future again make it possible to photograph those areas properly. Please pray with us for that.

Naas

*"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."
(Luke 9:23)*

THE CAPABLE WIFE

- Marina le Roux

We, the modern women, live at a time where everyone is standing on his or her rights. Human rights determine what may or may not be done. Yet we all know that instead of everyone being satisfied and peace reigning, all the more discord, wars and all sorts of unrighteousness prevail.

WHAT THEN IS THE PROBLEM?

One of the pronouncements of the Lord Jesus that Christians happily ignore and non-Christians dismiss as being absurd, is the following: "if anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). The Lord Jesus stated clearly that we cannot follow Him if we do not deny ourselves. Am I also one of the Christians who ignores this command of the Lord Jesus? Can it perhaps be that I think I am following the Lord Jesus whilst He does not know me at all? Would I maybe also have to one day tell Him: "but Lord, Lord I prophesied in Your Name and cast out demons in Your Name and I did many powerful things in Your Name", only to hear His answer: "I never knew you". How does this stipulation, that Jesus put to His followers, concern us as women?

In 1 Peter 3, Peter writes that we as married women should submit ourselves to our own husbands (1 Pet. 3:1). To be submissive means to willingly put yourself under someone else's authority. Many women will immediately say: "But you do not know my husband. Nobody can ever get him to make decisions that take me as a wife into account". Let us first forget about all the excuses and hear what God has to say. This command He gave to those who were married as heathens. Many husbands of Christian wives were unsaved and lived according to heathen customs and ways in a culture where women had no rights. Yet, when He gave advice to them as Christian wives, it was firstly to be submissive. How can He do this?

We must remember that God made us. Therefore He knows best how He made us and when we would be at our happiest. When God created the human being, He firstly created man.

To him He gave the command to cultivate and guard the earth. Soon after man started executing his instruction, God saw that man was lonely and needed a helper who suited him. Thereafter He made the woman.

The first and most important role of a married wife is therefore to help her husband to fulfill his calling. When a woman gets married she has to know that her own ambitions need to be made subservient to those of her husband.

She must therefore know that in the first place she is there to help her husband live out his calling. She must organise her life in such a manner that she makes it as easy as possible for him to reach the goal that God has for him here on earth.

The ideal wife through God's eyes is described as someone who can be trusted by her husband (Prov. 31:11). While he sat in the gates among the elders of the land to judge legal matters, she saw

to the education of her children and the care of her whole household. The wife after God's heart will do what is necessary to inspire her husband to do that for which God called him in full surrender.

Whenever the Amplified Bible translates the word "submissive", it describes it as follows: "subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependant on them, and adapt yourselves to them" (1 Pet. 3:1). Then he continues to explain what it means practically: "... to respect, defer to, revere him; [revere means] to honour, esteem (appreciate, prize) and [in the human sense] adore him; [and adore means] to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love and enjoy your husband] (1 Pet. 3:2).

Additionally Ephesians 5:22 tells us to be subject to our own husbands as to the Lord. In the same way that I never question that which the Lord does, but accept His decisions and does His will without raising all kinds of objections, I have to also set my husband's interests and desires above my own, do what he wants to do and not always know better. I must admire and praise him and show by words and action that I appreciate him. He must know that I will stand by him through thick and thin.

When he makes mistakes, I must keep quiet and entrust him to the Lord. While I still show that I respect him and trust him to always make the best decisions.

There are however women who can say honestly that they cannot trust their husbands because they are unsaved and almost always make the wrong decisions. In such a case 1 Peter 3:1 says that it is exactly then that we have to be submissive because it is that which will turn our unsaved husbands to the Lord.

We have to know that we are not to be submissive to our husbands because they are blameless, but because it is God's will for us. He knows that it is the guarantee for a happy marriage, family life and community. When our children see that father and mother are in a right relationship with each other and that mom is always ready to support dad, they also learn to submit themselves. Rebellious teenagers will therefore no longer be a part of Christian homes.

Are we truly obedient to our heavenly Father when He asks us to submit ourselves to our husbands? Are we humble enough to be submissive or does rebellion time and time again rear its head in relationships in our homes?

According to the Lord Jesus Christ the most important characteristic of a Christian's life is that he denies himself. This means amongst other things that he sweeps away his own interests, desires and ideals so that God's desires can enjoy preference.

To take up my cross is as good as being dead to everything that I enjoy so that nothing will stand in my way when I have to do God's will. Then I will be able to follow Him, also when I am being persecuted and suffer because I follow Him.

If we observe everything, it is very clear why the world is plunged in such chaos. Everyone, even the one who calls himself Christian, lives primarily for his own comfort. (Are not many of the campaigns we launch to win the world for Christ, focussed upon making the world a better, safer place for ourselves?)

To us as Christians the Lord Jesus Christ put it clearly that if we do not take up our cross and follow him - in other words submit ourselves to His will - we cannot be His disciples.

How can I manage this? Rebellion is so much part of my make-up.

One thing is certain: it will not work trying to deny myself. The winning recipe is written down for us in Romans 6:11. It says there, "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus". In the first place, before we try anything we have to accept that from God's viewpoint we have been crucified with Christ and therefore is dead to sin. Yes, to everything that does not please God. Nowhere are we given the command to try and be dead. No, God assumes that the old man, who was me, had already been crucified with Christ. This is just as true as the fact that my sins have been forgiven and my name is

written in the Book of Life. My responsibility is to live out of this truth. When the Holy Spirit therefore points to the rebellion in my heart, I should not ask: "But I thought I was crucified with Christ. Where does this rebellion come from?" No, Romans 6:11 says we must consider ourselves to be dead to sin. This means that I should not make excuses for sins about which the Holy Spirit has convicted me, but that I confess it immediately and accept by faith that any desire to again commit that sin, has been crucified. Yes it has died with Christ. In this manner the Holy Spirit makes it a reality in my life and I experience that I can have victory over it.

When we as wives realise that our sensitiveness, our readiness to get the last word in and our desire to have our way is rebellion, therefore sin, we must confess it and accept that we have been crucified with Christ. Because of this we should bow and keep quiet and give our husbands their way. Then we will experience that the Holy Spirit gives us his peace in our hearts so that we do not walk around all day long worrying about all sorts of vanity. Peter says that we will not be "frightened by any fear" (1 Pet. 3:6).

Are we as Christians familiar with being so totally surrendered to the will of God? Is it part of our lives to take up our cross, deny ourselves and do the will of our heavenly Father? It should be, otherwise we cannot be His followers according to the Lord Jesus.

TWO NEW VIDEOS:

O MY SON ABSALOM! Would I had died instead of you

Jacob Prasch



From the events surrounding the death of Absalom, Jacob teaches believers the importance of the salvation of their unbelieving loved ones.

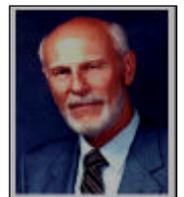
It should be one of our priorities to continuously bring our "Absaloms" before the Lord in prayer. He further shows that David's desire to die instead of Absalom was later fulfilled in Christ. He hung on a tree and was pierced on our behalf.

He also warns against "good" messengers who like Ahimaaz prefer to only bring "good tidings". Today we have them in abundance - preachers who discredit the Gospel by proclaiming cheap grace. It becomes clear that though grace may be free it is never cheap. Truth and love can never be separated. Only when we know and understand the bad news will we be able to appreciate how good the good news really is.

Finally from Matthew 12:46-50 Jacob reminds believers of the importance of their relationship with their real spiritual family - their brothers and sisters in Christ.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE? Know What you believe and Why

Dave Hunt



Where do we come from, why are we here and where are we going?

Dave Hunt deals with this puzzling question that every person must answer honestly for him or herself. He systematically sifts through all the so-called answers that mankind has come up with.

We are more than just physical beings. We have a human spirit and are able to make rational and moral choices. Furthermore we have a conscience and can reason about what is right and wrong. Dave Hunt uses solid evidence to prove that Science, Evolution and Psychiatry have no real answers in this regard. He furthermore looks at the three largest religions (Catholicism, Hinduism and Islam) who prove themselves to be equally hopeless in providing any certainty.

We are provided with evidence as to why we can believe the Bible and the God of the Bible. Watching this video will enable one to test the claim of Jesus to be God and to come to grips with who He really is.

We cannot take a chance with eternity - we must be absolutely certain. Absolutely certain? Of course, because nothing less will do. Regardless of one's religious belief or lack of it, death puts its terminating stamp upon every earthly passion, position, possession and ambition. Only a fool would step out into eternity trusting his own or another's invented hopes.

This two hour presentation by Dave Hunt is highly recommended for evangelization - an ideal gift!