

Prophet Predicts Death of Hussein

This generation, as generations before, does not see the wrath of God as relevant to daily life. But now, thanks to the "miracle of modern technology," we are going to see it in our own homes, on our own television sets.

The world will soon witness the incredibly violent fulfillment of an ancient divine curse. An Israelite Prophet of God pronounced this curse against a present-day dictator and his soon-to-be depopulated country over 2700 years ago.

One unique passage of Scripture refers specifically to Saddam Hussein. In Isaiah 14, the Prophet Isaiah proclaims the judgment of God on the arrogant Iraqi President, including the destruction of his country for good measure.

Both Isaiah and Jeremiah use the *parabolic image* of ancient Babylon in their prophetic descriptions of the coming destruction of Iraq in other passages. (See articles in this issue, "Saddam Hussein: Heir to the Throne of Nebuchadnezzar?" and "Iraq At-

tacks Israel!") But Isaiah alone focuses directly on the Iraqi leader. He wastes no words in his brief but scathing condemnation of Hussein as the one God holds responsible for the coming eruption of violence in the Middle East.

Isaiah makes five specific references to events related to the current conflict in the Persian Gulf:

1. Saddam Hussein's actions create worldwide political and economic turbulence.
2. The Iraqi President has done the unthinkable by not allowing innocent civilians out of Iraq and Kuwait.
3. The corpse of Saddam Hussein will be treated with contempt and denied burial with honors after his death during the conflict.

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Iraq Attacks Israel! Millions Flee Devastation in Iraq

Some 2700 years ago, two Prophets of Israel walked the dusty trails of Palestine proclaiming to one and all the destruction to come on the world superpower that was Babylon. The devastating events they predicted have never come to pass. Yet their prophecies vividly describe the outcome of the current situation in the Persian Gulf in which the political, economic, and military infrastructure of Iraq will be left in ruins.

The Prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah used the *parabolic image* of ancient Babylon to refer to the modern state of Iraq for two simple reasons: 1) because the site of that ancient city-state is located within Iraq, and 2) because the Iraqi government has been actively pursuing a course intended to militarily reestablish the kingdom of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar II, and to reassert the dominance of that ancient superpower over the civilized world. (See article, "Saddam Hussein: Heir to the Throne of Nebuchadnezzar?")

The prophecies of these two Prophets concerning Babylon will be fulfilled *parabolically* sometime in the near future, just as the prophecies concerning the

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Prophet Predicts

4. Hussein alone bears responsibility for initiating the coming destruction of Iraq, since it could have been avoided.

5. All the Iraqis share in Saddam Hussein's guilt, therefore, Iraq will be destroyed.

Listen to what the Prophet says:

"Those who see you will gaze on you! They'll pay close attention to you!

'Is this the man who threw the Earth into turmoil? Who caused kingdoms to quake? Who made productive earth like a wilderness, and tore down its cities? Who didn't allow his captives to go home?'

All the kings of the nations, all of them, have laid down in glory (been buried with honors), each one in his house. But you! You've been cast out of your grave like a rejected branch, clothed with the slain, those pierced with the sword! those going down to the stones of the pit like a trampled corpse.



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You won't be joined with them in burial, because you destroyed your land! You destroyed your people!

The seed of those who do evil won't be named forever! Prepare for his sons a slaughtering place according to the iniquity of their fathers! They won't arise to inherit the Earth, or to fill the surface of the Earth with cities.

But I'll rise up against them," declares the Lord of Hosts, "I'll cut off from Babylon name, remnant, posterity, and progeny!

I'll make it an inheritance for a porcupine, and watery marshland. I'll mop it with a mop of annihilation!" (Isaiah 14:16-23a) —my translation

Worldwide Turbulence

In Isaiah's indictment of Saddam Hussein, one can clearly see the vitriolic disdain God feels for men like him. Remarking on Hussein's death, Isaiah simply quotes the belittling comments of those who view his corpse:

"Hussein alone bears responsibility for initiating the coming destruction of Iraq."

"Is this the man who threw the earth into turmoil? Who caused kingdoms to quake? Who made productive earth like a wilderness, and tore down its cities?" (Isaiah 14:16b-17a) —my translation

These onlookers, on this auspicious occasion, are openly contemptuous of the deceased dictator. They refer to the economic and political upheaval he has caused with phrases you might read in today's newspaper—"world in turmoil" and "shaky governments."

Notice also that the devastation of Iraq has apparently already occurred prior to Hussein's death, since the onlookers refer to it by saying Hussein "made productive earth like a wilderness and tore down its cities."

Hostages Held

With amazing detail, Isaiah indicts Saddam Hussein for violating the basic norms of civilized society by taking civilians from foreign countries as hostages:

"who wouldn't allow his prisoners to go home?" (Isaiah 14:17b)

The term translated "prisoner" in this passage could just as well be translated with the English word *captive*, or *hostage*.

Hussein Denied Burial

Immediately after these disparaging remarks, however, Isaiah describes the repugnance accorded the body of the slain Saddam Hussein:

"All the kings of the nations, all of them, have laid down in glory (been buried with honor)! Each in his own house. But you! You've been cast out of your grave like a rejected branch, clothed with the slain, those pierced

by a sword! Those going down to the stones of the pit. Like a trampled corpse. You won't be joined with them in burial, because you destroyed your land! You killed your people!" (Isaiah 14:18-20a) —my translation

From the text it appears Hussein's corpse is not only denied burial with honors but is also the object of open disdain and perhaps even put on public display.

Hussein Responsible

The Prophet's contention is that Hussein's intransigence and refusal to do what is necessary to gain a peaceful solution to the crisis is the sole reason why Iraq has been destroyed.

"You won't be joined with them in burial, because you destroyed your land!

You destroyed your people!
(Isaiah 14:20a) —my translation

This awesome tragedy could have been avoided but for this one man's failure to acknowledge a fatal miscalculation and back away from his arrogance when confronted by the rest of the world. Herein lies a key to understanding the reason for his destruction: His stubbornness has brought down the wrath of Almighty God.

All Iraq Guilty

The collaboration of the Iraqi government officials and the acquiescence of the Iraqi people in their leader's misguided attempt to resurrect the ancient Babylonian Empire (see article, "Saddam Hussein: Heir to the Throne of Nebuchadnezzar?"), as well as their implicit or explicit approval of his brutal invasion of Kuwait, has evoked the response from God that the Prophet recorded some 2700 years ago:

***“His stubbornness
has brought down
the wrath of
Almighty God.”***

“The seed of those who do evil won't be named forever! Prepare for his sons a slaughtering place (according to the iniquity of their fathers); they won't arise to inherit the Earth or to fill the surface of the Earth with cities. But I'll rise up against them,” declares the LORD of Hosts. “I'll cut off from Babylon name, remnant, posterity, and progeny! I'll make it an inheritance for a porcupine and a watery marshland. I'll mop it with a mop of annihilation!”

(Isaiah 14:20b–23a) —my translation ■

Saddam Hussein: Heir to the Throne of Nebuchadnezzar?

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is, as his Arabic name “Saddam” indicates, “one who confronts.” He is also accustomed to getting his way even if it means hundreds of thousands must die. Shortly after he became President of Iraq in 1979, he invaded Iran, his neighbor to the east, to gain complete control of the Shatt al-Arab shipping channel extending from Iraq's southern port of Bosra to the Persian Gulf.

The Iran-Iraq war lasted eight years with nearly a million Iraqi casualties. Yet barely two years after that war ended in a stalemate, he suddenly invaded Kuwait, his tiny, but incredibly wealthy neighbor to the south. Currently, analysts believe he had planned his invasion for two years prior to its execution, and that Jordan and Yemen were possible partners in a plan to divide up the entire Arabian Peninsula among themselves. If that be so, Saddam Hussein obviously has a myopic military mentality the likes of which the world has not seen since Adolf Hitler. But what actually motivates this megalomaniacal commander of the world's sixth largest military establishment?

Butcher of Baghdad

Saddam Hussein was born in 1937 during the British occupation of Iraq. Orphaned at nine months, he was raised by an uncle, Khairallah Talfah, who despised the British because of their control over the reigning Iraqi monarch. From Talfah, Hussein gained a deep-rooted and abiding hatred for the Western “colonial” powers. Talfah was imprisoned in 1941 for an unsuccessful anti-British coup attempt.

Saddam did not begin school until the age of nine and was later rejected by the elite Baghdad Military Academy because of poor grades, a rejection that may have resulted in his obsession with the use of military force. Only after he came to power in 1979 could he have himself made a full general; in actual fact, the nearest he has ever been to combat was the result of his involvement in the Baath Party. This organization was, at the time, a militant underground pan-Arab political organization. He was supposedly wounded during an unsuccessful Baath Party assassination attempt on Iraq's military ruler, Abdul Karim Kasseem in 1959, but escaped to Syria and, ultimately, to Egypt.

During his stay in Egypt he began studying law, but his heart was oriented otherwise. While others sat around the local cafes arguing fine points of law, Hussein would say simply, “Why argue? Why don't you just take out a gun and shoot him?” By 1963 he was back in Baghdad organizing a militia for the Baath Party. The Baath Party finally seized power in 1968. The ostensible leader of the new Iraqi government was General Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr; but the man who actually controlled the government is believed to have been Saddam Hussein.

Al-Bakr retired in 1979, passing the leadership position to Hussein, who immediately ordered twenty-one of the Cabinet members executed on questionable charges of treason. Some of them were his closest “comrades.”

Saddam Hussein has always been able to attain what he wants through murder and intimidation. The laws of God and man are immaterial to him. Within Iraq his word is law, yet he assumes he alone stands above such bounds, as he has continu-

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Millions Flee

restoration of the True Israel have seen a *parabolic* fulfillment in the years since the establishment of the modern state of Israel in May 1948.

There is but one key to comprehending the *significance* of both the restoration of “historical Israel”—as opposed to the True Israel, Jesus Christ—and the current events in the Persian Gulf region. (See article, “Touch Not the Lord’s Anointed.”) It lies in a recognition of the role the parable plays in Scripture. (See future articles on the use of parables in prophecy.)

Jesus spoke in parables so often that Matthew says He said nothing without speaking in a parable (Matt. 13:34). But a long-forgotten Truth is the fact that all the Prophets spoke in parables (Hos. 12:10). That is why the Old Testament is so little understood.

Every parable in Scripture is built on two basic elements, its image(s) and its idiom(s). Taken together, these two basic building blocks provide the insight necessary to unlock the parable’s *meaning*. In the case before us, the parable is as old as the kingdom of Babylon itself, dating all the way back to the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11).

The destruction of Iraq is necessary to the plan of God inasmuch as it brings about a historical event to which the Redeemed of the Lord can look as a harbinger of things to come and learn the Truth necessary to endure to the End. (See “Is Iraq Mystery Babylon?” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 1991.)

The two primary passages of Scripture concerned with the devastation of Iraq are Jeremiah 50–51 and Isaiah 13–14. The Prophet Jeremiah prophesied concerning Babylon sometime shortly after 600 B.C. Isaiah’s ministry was a century or so earlier.

As is normal with the Prophets of God, the earlier of the two, Isaiah, is rather cursory in his coverage of the subject. Jeremiah, on the other hand, elaborates more fully.

The differences in the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah are accounted for not only by this, but also by the fact that Isaiah is much more concerned with the reality behind the *parabolic image* of Babylon than he is with the image itself. That ultimate reality is the kingdom of the Antichrist.

In Jeremiah’s prophecy it is possible to isolate at least four distinctive facts related to the current standoff in the Persian Gulf and the coming convulsion.

1. An assembly of nations is going to come against Babylon. The location of these nations is to the “North” of Babylon.

2. The invasion launched by this assembly of nations will produce an incredibly large number of refugees. Both foreigners and native residents will flee Iraq to avoid the conflagration. The Prophet describes the country as being utterly devoid of people.

“Iraq will be made to relinquish control of Kuwait.”

3. The Iraqi military establishment will be reduced to nothing more than confused, isolated groups of individuals too afraid to come out of their bunkers.

4. The destruction of Iraq will be unimaginable even by modern standards, with entire areas destroyed by fire.

In addition, his prophecies contain two other interesting facts:

1. God’s vengeance requires the destruction of Iraq because of its attack on the modern nation of Israel.

2. Iraq will be made to relinquish control of Kuwait.

Northern Nation(s)

The first of Jeremiah’s statements relates to the makeup of the multinational force arrayed against Iraq. He mentions it several times, sometimes referring to it as a single nation, at other times indicating it is a force of several nations.

As we know, current world opinion is divided on whether the operation is that of the United States, that of the major western powers, or that of the entire world under the auspices of yet another specific United Nations’ resolution authorizing military force against Iraq. Jeremiah also reflects this ambivalence.



Refugees will flee Iraq into neighboring countries—Turkey, Syria, Iran, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia—creating instability that will last for years to come.

***“The burden
created on neigh-
boring countries
may well destabilize
the entire region.”***

He is definite on one issue, however,—that the nation(s) come “from the north.” Indeed they do.

In one passage, Jeremiah mentions “the spirit of the kings of the Medes” to indicate the nations arrayed against Iraq have the same intention as the Medes, the ancient kingdom that conquered the city of Babylon around 540 B.C. In a parallel passage, he simply states, “the spirit of one who destroys.” Read for yourself the words of the Prophet:

*“For a nation from the north has come up against her. He will make her land a wasteland.”
(Jeremiah 50:3a) —my translation*

*“I am arousing and bringing up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from a northern land. They will align themselves against her.”
(Jeremiah 50:9b) —my translation*

*“Behold, a people is coming from the north, even a great nation. But many kings will be aroused from the far reaches of the Earth. They will grasp bow and javelin; They are cruel and they will have no mercy. Their voice will roar like the sea and they will ride on horses aligned as man for battle against you, O Daughter of Babylon.”
(Jeremiah 50:41–42) —my translation*

*“I am going to arouse the spirit of one who destroys against Babylon
... I will send winnowers to Babylon. They will winnow her and they will empty her land.”
(Jeremiah 51:1b–2a) —my translation*

*The Lord has aroused the spirit of the kings of the Medes, because His purpose is against Babylon to destroy her.
(Jeremiah 51:11b) —my translation*

*“those who destroy will come to her from the north.”
(Jeremiah 51:48b) —my translation*

Taking into account the fact that Jeremiah speaks in terms of his own day—that is, he uses words like *horses*, *bows*, and *javelins*, instead of *tanks*, *rifles*, and *rocket launchers*—the passages aptly describe the coalition of nations now arrayed against Iraq in the Gulf region. When that coalition finally engages in full-scale assault against Iraq, the majority of its strength will be supplied by those nations located to the “north” of Iraq (latitudinally)—the United States, Great Britain, and France.

A Multitude of Refugees

Jeremiah’s vision describes yet a second circumstance resulting from the events now occurring in the Middle East.

The flood of foreign refugees already fleeing Iraq and Kuwait as a result of Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait will become a virtual torrent when the multinational forces begin their invasion of Iraq. The number of refugees who have fled will pale in comparison to the number yet to flee. The burden created on neighboring countries may well destabilize the entire region and create problems for years to come. Jeremiah not only says they will flee, he calls on them to do so. His point will not be lost on those seeking safety: it may be an uncertain fate to which they flee, but to remain *means* certain death.

The Prophet graphically describes a nation abandoned:

*“there won’t be an inhabitant in it. From man even unto beast they have fled. They have gone!”
(Jeremiah 50:3b) —my translation*

Touch Not The Lord’s Anointed

Just after midnight, August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein marshalled his troops and invaded Kuwait. George Bush, by turn, marshalled world opinion against him and began a massive military buildup in Saudi Arabia. Within a month the situation had reached a stalemate. The question continually in the news: Will Saddam Hussein back down or will there be war?

There will be war. Moreover, the entire political, economic, military, and technological infrastructure of Iraq are going to be completely devastated by a massive military bombardment (possibly including limited nuclear weaponry) on the part of the multinational force in the Persian Gulf. Millions will flee Iraq seeking to escape the sheer terror of the unrelenting attack.

Old Testament prophecy graphically describes the devastation. (See article, “Iraq Attacks Israel!”) It is going to happen, the only uncertainty is when. When it does occur, Saddam Hussein will not escape; to the contrary, his corpse will become a public spectacle (see article, “Prophet Predicts Death of Hussein”). He has already evoked the wrath of the Almighty God by seeking to reestablish the hegemony of the ancient Babylonian Empire and by making threats against the modern nation of Israel (for whom God has other plans). (See article, “Saddam Hussein: Heir to the Throne of Nebuchadnezzar?”)

Why would God suddenly focus such an intense burning rage against Saddam Hussein that He would destroy not only the man but also his country’s entire infrastructure? Several factors have contributed to the current situation; but no one factor is, in and of itself, adequate to explain God’s hatred. Taken together the best

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“Flee from the midst of Babylon! Go out from the land of the Chaldeans.”
(Jeremiah 50:8a) —my translation

“each will turn to his people and each will flee to his own land.”
(Jeremiah 50:16b) —my translation

Woe is on them, because their day has come, the time of their visitation. The sound of those fleeing and those escaping from the land of Babylon.
(Jeremiah 50:27b–28a) —my translation

“Short of a nuclear conflict, which certainly cannot be ruled out, such devastation is unimaginable.”

Flee from the midst of Babylon, each one escape for his life. Don’t be silenced by her iniquity, because the time of vengeance belongs to His Majesty. He is going to repay her with reprisal.
(Jeremiah 51:6) —my translation

We tried healing Babylon, but she was not healed. Abandon her so we can each return to his own country.
(Jeremiah 51:9a) —my translation

You who have escaped from the sword leave! Don’t stay.
(Jeremiah 51:50a) —my translation

Iraq Military Decimated

Jeremiah indicates the Iraqi military will be virtually annihilated by the invading forces. The casualties on the Iraqi side most likely will run well into the hundreds of thousands. Jeremiah’s central theme remains that it must be so because the vengeance of God seeks satisfaction.

The Prophet does not refer to women and children in this regard because his perspective is strictly military, including the Iraqi reserves called up to counter the coming invasion. Therefore he focuses on the male, using terms like *sower, one who wields a sickle, men of war, entire army, young bulls, and valiant warriors.*

Jeremiah also refers to the annihilation of the military as an imposition of the ancient ritual of *herem* (the “ban”) in which every male member of a society was killed in order to extinguish their lineage. They would then have no “remnant,” i.e., male members to perpetuate “the name” of the deceased forefathers. The Prophet’s word is harsh:

“that is the vengeance of His Majesty. Avenge yourself against her! Do to her just as she has done. Cut off from

Babylon sower and one who wields a sickle at harvest time.”
(Jeremiah 50:15b–16a) —my translation

“Go up against her, even against the one visited. Slay and declare the ban upon them.”
(Jeremiah 50:21a) —my translation

Mound her up like heaps and put her under the ban. Let her not have a remnant. Slash all her young bulls with the sword. Let them go down to slaughter.
(Jeremiah 50:26b–27a) —my translation

“Do to her according to all she has done because she has been insolent toward the LORD, toward the Holy One of Israel. Therefore, her chosen ones will fall in her streets, and all her men of war will be silent in that day.”
(Jeremiah 50:29b–30a) —my translation

“He will bring agitation to the inhabitants of Babylon. A sword is against Chaldeans.”
(Jeremiah 50:34b–35a) —my translation

“Put her entire army under the ban. They will fall wounded in the land of Chaldeans, riddled in her streets.”
(Jeremiah 51:3a–4) —my translation

The valiant warriors of Babylon have stopped fighting. They stay in their fortified positions. Their valor has been parched; they have become women.
(Jeremiah 51:30a) —my translation

Days are coming when I will attend to the hewn idols of Babylon. All her land will be ashamed; all her slain will fall in her midst.
(Jeremiah 51:47b) —my translation

Massive Destruction

Jeremiah describes the devastation of Iraq as total, so much so that no one is left alive and the land is uninhabitable. Short of a nuclear conflict, which certainly cannot be ruled out, such devastation is unimaginable. The reader should keep in mind, however, that the prophecy speaks both of Iraq, the historical image, and of the harlot Mystery Babylon (Rev. 17), the ultimate reality. (See “Is Iraq Mystery Babylon?” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 1991.) Whatever the devastation proves to be, it will be tremendous. Jeremiah puts it this way:

“Look! You are the least of nations, a wilderness, a dry land, a desert, because of the wrath of the LORD. She will not be inhabited; she will be completely devastated. Everyone who passes by Babylon will be astonished; he will whistle concerning all her wounds.”
(Jeremiah 50:12b–13) —my translation

“The sound of war is in the land—a great destruction. How can it be? The hammer of the whole Earth has been hewn off and splintered. How can it be? Babylon has become a desolation among the nations.”
(Jeremiah 50:22–23) —my translation

“your day has come, a time when I will visit you. An insolent one will stumble and fall and have no one to raise him up. I will kindle his cities with fire and it will eat all his surrounding territory.”
(Jeremiah 50:31b–32) —my translation

“desert animals will live with jackals and ostriches will live in her. But she won’t be dwelled in again for perpetuity. And she won’t be inhabited for generation after generation—like when God overthrew Sodom, Gomorrah and her residents,” declares the LORD. “No man will dwell there; and the son of man will not reside in her.”
(Jeremiah 50:39–40) —my translation

Because the thoughts of the LORD are standing against Babylon to make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant.

(Jeremiah 51:29b) —my translation

“I will bring out what he has swallowed from his mouth.”

Runner runs to meet runner; messenger to meet messenger, to deliver a message to the king of Babylon, that his city has been captured at the end. The fords have been taken and the marshland has been burned with fire. The men of war are terrified. Because this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel has said: “The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor—time for treading her. Yet a little while and the time of harvest will come for her.” (Jeremiah 51:31–33) —my translation

“Those who destroy violently will come to her from Me,” declares the LORD. The sound of an outcry from Babylon, a great destruction from the land of Chaldeans, because the LORD is devastating Babylon. (Jeremiah 51:53b–55a) —my translation

Divine Retribution

The divinely ordained destruction of Iraq will result from an Iraqi first strike launched against the nation of Israel, as Saddam Hussein has often threatened. The Prophet clearly tells us that Babylon has done something to Israel (“Zion”) for which God Himself will make retribution:

“I will repay Babylon and the inhabitants of Chaldea for all their evil they have done in Zion before your eyes,” declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 51:24) —my translation

Under the circumstances, we can assume a preemptive missile attack or something similar on the part of Iraq is the focus of God’s rage. Furthermore,

the Prophet states plainly that the nation of Israel will not tolerate the Iraqi first strike, but will deliver a savage onslaught of its own.

Speaking to Israel, the Prophet says:

“You are a war-club to Me—a weapon of war.
I will shatter nations with you.
I will destroy kingdoms with you.
I will shatter horse and his rider with you.
I will shatter chariot and his rider with you.
I will shatter man and woman with you.
I will shatter elder and youth with you.
I will shatter chosen one and virgin with you.
I will shatter shepherd and his flock with you.
I will shatter farmer and his team with you.

I will shatter governors and petty rulers with you.

And I will repay Babylon and the inhabitants of Chaldea for all their evil they have done in Zion before your eyes,” declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 51:20–24) —my translation

All For Nothing

The final tally will find that Iraq gained nothing at all. It lost everything. Having endured the most massive airstrikes the world has known since the blitzkriegs of World War II, the Iraqi people will be forced to watch while their reparations help rebuild Kuwait and their own country lies in rubble. The Prophet, *parabolically* referring to Iraq’s hold on Kuwait, says simply:

“I will bring out what he has swallowed from his mouth.”

(Jeremiah 51:44b) —my translation ■

Who is Israel?

According to Scripture, Israel is the descendants of Jacob, heir to God’s *promise* to the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But did you know that Scripture also says an individual could be “cut off” from Israel?

Today, the nation of Israel—the Jews living in the land occupied by biblical Israel—claim to be Israel, heirs to *the promises* God gave to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But are they really?



What if all Israel was “cut off?”

**John the Baptist warned it could happen. (Matt. 3:10)
The Apostle Paul said it did happen. (Rom. 11:11–24)**

Here for the first time ever, in simple, easy to read English, one book finally explains this intricate message of Scripture hidden for so long in the Hebrew idiom. Read and discover for yourself how *Not All Israel Is Israel* (Due 1st Quarter, 1991).

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Hussein: Heir?

ally proven by arrogantly proceeding with a course of action roundly condemned by the entire world. Legend has it a senior general once protested an order Saddam gave during a military meeting. Saddam invited the general into the next room to discuss the matter and, once alone with the man, executed him on the spot.

He is said to routinely have his Cabinet ministers and aides accompany him to the central prison in Baghdad where they serve as a firing squad for political prisoners.

Saddam Hussein's face-off with the multinational military force in the Persian Gulf is a source of confusion to him simply because his arrogance and disregard for legal bounds tell him he can do whatever he desires to do. It has been that way for him the past twenty years within Iraq and he has trouble seeing why it should not be so outside those borders also.

More than that, however, Saddam Hussein seems to believe he has a divine mandate from God to unify the Arabs.

Sword of the Arabs

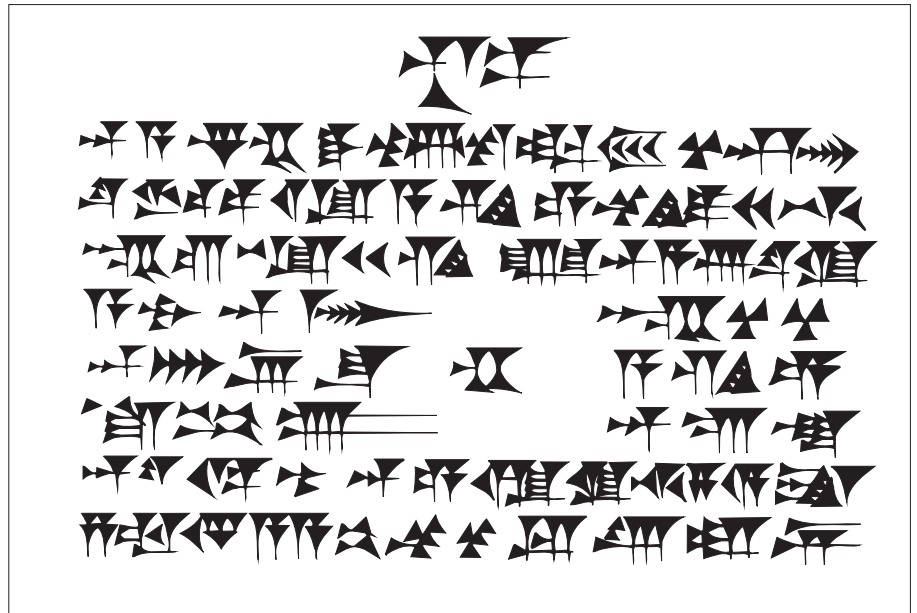
Saddam Hussein had, for several months prior to his invasion of Kuwait, verbally engaged in what was at the time reported as "saber-rattling." Since the focus of his threats was the

"If Israel commits aggression and attacks, we will strike back with great force."

nation of Israel, his true motives were not clear.

In an interview published in *The Wall Street Journal* (July 2, 1990), he stated his view that Iraq's capability to wage chemical warfare was a sufficient deterrent to Israel's use of nuclear weapons to further what he sees as its "expansionist policies."

In early June, while speaking to the Arab leaders at a three-day summit in



Ancient cuneiform inscriptions—like the one above by Tiglath Pileser I—heralded the "Great King" who had rebuilt the "magnificent" edifice to which they were attached. Saddam Hussein has continued in the tradition.

Baghdad, he said, "We should state clearly that if Israel commits aggression and attacks, we will strike back with great force. If Israel uses weapons of total destruction against our nation, we will use whatever weapons of total destruction we have against it."

Clearly, the ultimate objective of Iraq's massive military buildup was the total destruction of the nation of Israel. Recent statements by Iraqi Air Force commanders reinforce this view. They have said that in the event war breaks out with the U.S., they will strike Israel.

King of Babylonia

Many Iraqis see Saddam Hussein as rightful heir to the throne of the legendary Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar II. He has openly declared his intentions to recreate the grandeur of this ancient monarch who, as reported in the Bible, invaded the southern kingdom of Judah in 587 B.C., burned Jerusalem, and deported most of the Israelite population to Babylon.

In keeping with this belief, Hussein has initiated a project intended to restore the ancient city of Babylon, complete with the "hanging gardens" which, in their time, were considered to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Alongside the inscriptions proclaiming Nebuchadnezzar II "King of Babylon from far sea to far sea," Saddam Hussein now has new ones declaring, "Rebuilt in the era of Saddam Hussein." Even in this he is emulating the customary practice of ancient Babylonian kings who, after rebuilding on the ruins of a predecessor's edifice, installed their own inscription next to that of their predecessor.

This will, he believes, rally all Arabs to his side in a "holy war" against the nation of Israel and the U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf. (See article, "Touch Not the Lord's Anointed.") His rationale is that the long-standing Arab-Israeli conflict has generated greater Arab animosity toward the nation of Israel than anything he has done recently to garner hostility against himself by invading Kuwait.

Near the restoration project, a billboard displays Hussein's profile alongside that of King Nebuchadnezzar II. On other giant murals he has had himself depicted as the modern Nebuchadnezzar II. In these murals he is dressed in ancient garb, standing in a chariot. Gigantic murals like these are to be found throughout Iraq and remind one of the huge image Nebuchadnezzar also had erected as tribute to his overweening ego (Dan. 3:1).

But Saddam Hussein has, in his visionary recreation of the ancient Babylonian Empire, gone far beyond a mere restoration of the city of Babylon. Other, more ominous indications reveal Iraqi government officials have been for some time operating according to a secret "Babylonian" agenda.

Earlier this year, British Customs officials intercepted parts of what the Iraqis intended to be the world's two largest guns. The Iraqi code-names for the guns convey the government's "Babylonian" mind-set.

The first gun had a 16-inch bore and was about 120 feet long. Its code-name was "Baby Babylon." The second was even more of a monster. Code-named "Big Babylon," it was to have been 512 feet long with a 39-inch bore. The smaller gun had an estimated range of 5,000 miles. The larger one could have easily launched satellites.

By firing rocket boosted (possibly even nuclear) "free falling" projectiles, however, both guns were designed to easily penetrate Israel's antimissile defenses for less cost per round than ballistic missiles.

In Hussein's vision of the re-created Babylonian Empire, he not only saw himself as successor to Nebuchadnezzar II; he also intended to rule over the same vast land area as this ancient monarch. He would then have attained what he considered his rightful position as leader of the world's newest superpower.

Kuwait was but his first step toward the eventual conquest and annexation of Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, all areas ruled by

this ancient king. The immense oil reserves of Kuwait were essential to funding further military operations and thereby eventually attaining domination of the region.

Fortunately, various intelligence agencies in Israel, Syria, Britain, and the United States were somewhat aware of the Iraqi leader's long-range plans. This intelligence, combined with obvious fears of what his control of a major

portion of the world's known oil reserves would do to the world economy, contributed to the determination of the world powers that he had to be stopped before he became unstoppable.

As it stands now, his grandiose plans are stymied. Heir to Nebuchadnezzar II? Hardly. His efforts have merely made him heir to God's curse against the nation that was Babylon. ■

Questions & Answers



The Voice of Elijah publishes articles based on the findings of *The Elijah Project*, a private research group headed by Larry D. Harper. In this column we try to answer general-interest questions concerning the findings, purpose, and philosophy of this project.

Editor: *You've staked out a rather large claim regarding Old Testament prophecy and Iraq. Why?*

Elijah: Iraq's invasion in August caught us by surprise. We weren't expecting *parabolic* fulfillment of the "Babylonian prophecies" quite so soon and in exactly that way. We're certain we understand the Prophets; too many things fit together perfectly. If we're right, people need to know about it. If we're wrong . . . , *C'est la vie*. They can ignore us. Also, the crisis in the Soviet Union and all the talk about a "new world order" indicated now was the time to start publishing the findings.

Editor: *What is "parabolic fulfillment of prophecy"?*

Elijah: It's a fulfillment of prophecy involving only the *parabolic image* as a harbinger of the real thing. Parables are the key to Old Testament prophecy. Matthew says Jesus spoke in parables all the time. The Old Testament Prophets certainly did. Ezekiel even complained to God because he had to speak in parables instead of speaking openly. The *parabolic image* is the parable's crucial element since it carries the representation of Truth. But the *parabolic idiom* is equally as important because it tells you what the parable *means*. Without it, you miss the point.

Editor: *What do you mean "representation of Truth"?*

Elijah: A parable is a comparison, which is actually what the Greek word *parabolos* means. For example, "The Kingdom of Heaven is *like* a mustard seed," "The Kingdom of Heaven is *like* leaven," and so on. The parable compares the known to the unknown. So the *parabolic image* is just a representation of Truth.

Editor: *You mentioned "parabolic idioms"; where do they fit in?*

Elijah: An idiom is an expression, usually a noun and a verb, that has a *meaning* you would not normally derive from the words themselves. "Kick the bucket," and

“buy a lemon” are English idioms. “Build a house,” “raise up a seed,” “make a name,” and “cut off from” are just a few of the Hebrew idioms we are working with right now. The first three relate to resurrection; the last one is, surprisingly enough, fairly close in *meaning* to the English idiom, “cut off without a cent.” It relates to inheritance. “Build a house” is the basis for Jesus’ parable about the wise man who *built his house* on the rock. He’s referring to the Old Testament prophetic message concerning His resurrection. “Raise up a seed” is the basis for the Parable of the Sower. The other idioms crop up—no pun intended—here and there in other parables.

Editor: I know you emphasize the O. T. “mystery,” but if idioms give new meaning to ancient prophecies, why hasn’t someone seen it before?

Elijah: I suppose a lot of your readers will think me naive. I obviously believe what I am doing is part of what God is doing in these Last Days or I wouldn’t be doing it. Daniel 12 says the words of God were to be “sealed up” until an “End Time” when, apparently, they were to be opened. Daniel also says, “none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.” I intend to share what I see in Scripture with anyone who is interested. However, Jesus also said there will be “tares”; and Paul mentioned those who want their ears “tickled.” They are interested in the Scriptures for the wrong reasons or have learned well-worn Christian clichés to fit into the church social club. What I have to say will easily “gather them out.” I do what He has called me to do—track idioms and images through four or five ancient languages at a time. It takes a lot of time but it’s rewarding to finally understand the Old Testament on its own terms. ■

Lord’s Anointed

they do is reveal the mentality of Saddam Hussein.

God is now, as He always has in the past, using historical events to create *parabolic images*—images He intends to use to reveal what is to be. (See “Is Iraq Mystery Babylon?” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 1991.)

God is no more angry with Saddam Hussein than He is with you, me, or anyone else. But, as history moves us all toward the End of the Age, it is Saddam Hussein and his ill-fated countrymen who now face the full fury of hell gone berserk, not you or I. Not yet at least.

To understand how Saddam Hussein could have so easily painted himself into the proverbial corner, you must understand the Arab world view. Prior to World War I, the Arab nations of the Middle East were part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. They spoke the same language—Arabic, had the same religion—Islam, and participated in one culture—a culture based in Islamic law.

But shortly after the First World War, Britain, France, Italy, and Russia parceled out the Ottoman Empire among themselves, making separate states where none existed before.

The years since World War I have seen the gradual termination of colonial rule and the establishment of various Arab state governments. This, combined with military aggression on the part of some Arab states as well as Israel, has established and then redrawn what some Arabs see as artificial boundaries separating the total Arab population into various nations.

Many in the Arab world would like to undo history and see all these Arab “colonial” states reunited to become one Arab nation wielding power in proportion to the total Arab population of the world. These so-called “Pan-Arabists” look to Saddam Hussein as one who could, through military aggression, erase the artificial boundaries imposed on Arabs by the colonial powers, and make the Arabic-speaking world one nation. In this regard, Iraq’s militaristic president holds no little appeal for Arab Nationalists.

Islamic Fundamentalism

An additional ingredient in the mix is Islamic fundamentalism, a distinctly Arabic religious movement that seeks to establish an integrated political-cultural society based on the laws of Islam. Iran is currently the prime ex-

ample of such a society. Religious leaders rule and Islamic law is the law of the land. But Iran is also actively exporting its radical fundamentalism throughout the Arab states.

As a result of this and other converging political, economic, and cultural phenomena around the world, Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise in most Arab countries.

Islamic Fundamentalists have had some important recent political advances. In June, they captured a majority of municipal and provincial councils in open elections in Algeria.

Additionally, Jordanian elections last November revealed strong support for fundamentalist candidates. Thirty-four of eighty parliamentarians elected were either members or supporters of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

In other countries, particularly Tunisia and Egypt, fundamentalist politicians are now showing strong gains. Even the Palestinian Intifada (“uprising”) was sparked and has been fueled by a growing Islamic Fundamentalism among all Palestinians.

Saddam Hussein has been at complete odds with the Islamic Fundamentalist movement. He initiated war with Iran in part to stem the tide of Islamic Fundamentalism flowing from that country. He sees it not only as a threat among the fun-

“The new Soviet policy of glasnost has granted Soviet citizens the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to express bigotry.”

damentalist Shi'ite majority in Iraq, but also as an obstacle to his own ambitions of becoming the “Pan-Arab” leader of the Middle East.

Jewish Zionism

The one characteristic that personifies Saddam Hussein more than all others is his obsessive hatred for the nation of Israel. It is a characteristic he shares with most other Arabs as well. To understand this hostility, one must understand the contributing factors.

Jewish settlers began immigrating to Palestine near the end of last century. They were encouraged to settle there by a movement called “Zionism,” a Jewish phenomenon which sought to establish a permanent homeland for the Jewish people. Many of the first Jewish colonies were subsidized by the wealthy French Jew, Baron Edmond de Rothschild, himself an active proponent of Jewish Zionism.

When the British gained control of the area at the end of World War I, Jewish immigration increased. This influx of “foreigners” was not welcomed by the Arab residents of the area.

Keeping pace with it was a growing hostility and mistrust on the part of the indigenous Arab population who, rightly as it turned out, feared they would eventually become a minority in the area and ultimately be displaced from their own land.

The atrocities committed against Jews by Hitler's Germany increased the clamor for a Palestinian homeland for the Jews after World War II. So, on May 14, 1948, the modern state of Israel was born in accordance with a United

Nations resolution dated November 29, 1947.

War between the newly founded state and its Arab neighbors broke out immediately, the result of which was Jewish occupation of a much larger land area than that envisioned by the United Nations resolution. This war also produced the first “Palestinian refugees,” as those Arabs occupying the areas that the Jews took by force fled to neighboring countries.

Several armed conflicts in the years since 1948 have resulted in not only Israeli occupation of even more Arab land but also, unfortunately, more Palestinian refugees.

These refugees live in many Arab countries, but the majority live in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon, where they contribute to political unrest and remind the entire Arab world of the injustice of Israeli occupation of Arab land.

The Palestinian refugees have now sided with Saddam Hussein. They see in him a strong leader who may be able to take back their land from the Israelis. They, like many other Arabs, would applaud the total annihilation of Jews living in Palestine and the restoration of Arabs to the land they see as having been taken from them by the “colonial governments.” The Arabs are, or so it would seem, the ultimate anti-Semitic movement.

Anti-Semitism

The Arabs are not alone in their anti-Semitic sentiments, however. The world outside the nation of Israel is becoming an increasingly more hostile environment for Jews.

In just the last two years there has been a flowering of anti-Semitic activity in Russia and Eastern Europe. The new Soviet policy of *glasnost* has granted Soviet citizens the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to express bigotry.

The Russian superpatriot organization *Pamyat* routinely engages in overt acts of intimidation against Jews. Calling Jews on the telephone at night to issue open threats and scrawling anti-Jewish graffiti with slogans such as, “Jews to the ovens. Jews for soap.” are commonplace activities in Russia, East Germany, Poland, Romania, and Hungary.

But the Western World is not immune to such acts either. In May, the nearly two thousand-year-old Jewish community of Carpentras, France, was horrified by the exhumation and mutilation of several recently buried Jewish cadavers. Jewish cemeteries in France are regularly defaced.

Anti-Semitic activity is also common in German communities along the border with France. Isolated incidents

“The Arabs are, or so it would seem, the ultimate anti-Semitic movement.”

are increasing throughout many other nations, including the United States.

Anti-Semitism is also entering the political forum. France's extreme-right National Front party lead by Jean-Marie Le Pen is openly anti-Semitic. Recent Hungarian elections were also marked by the use of code words to refer negatively to Jews.

In Romania, Ion Puiu, the President of the National Peasant Party, the major opposition group, was once a member of the Romanian Iron Guard, the group responsible for hanging dead Jews on hooks above signs that read, “Kosher Meat.” His party runs on anti-Semitic slogans. The result of the increasing anti-Semitism has been

a steadily increasing number of Jews immigrating to the nation of Israel from Russia and Eastern Bloc countries. This immigration only serves to fuel the fire of Arab hostility toward them.

Jewish Immigration

Much to the dismay of the Arabs, Israeli policy has always been to accept any Jew wishing to immigrate. But that policy is now being sorely tested. The Soviet Union's new openness and the rise of anti-Semitic activity in Russia have resulted in a flood of Soviet immigrants.

In 1989, only 12,923 Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel. The first half of 1990 saw 41,578 make *aliyah*, the "ascent" to Israel. Total numbers for 1990 may reach 150,000. In June the new Israeli consulate in Moscow was issuing visas at the rate of 200 an hour to Soviet Jews seeking to immigrate. Some estimates are that as many as 700,000 Soviet Jews may immigrate to Israel over the next three to five years.

This influx is creating intense concern in the Arab world. The new emigres are not ordinary citizens. Nearly seventy percent are professionals and technicians who can provide expertise in such fields as computer technology, engineering, medicine, and nuclear physics.

While the brain drain is a serious concern to the Soviet Union, it is a tremendous gain for the nation of Israel. The Arabs' major concern has to do with the boost the immigrants will provide for Israeli development as the region's dominant military power.

As Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has put it, "In five years we won't be able to recognize this country. Everything will change, everything will

be bigger, stronger." With good reason, the Arabs fear they will eventually be dominated completely.

Israel: The Lord's Anointed

Unfortunately for Palestinians and other Arabs espousing hatred for the nation of Israel, God has other plans for this tiny nation flanked by hostile neighbors. "Unfortunately," because His plans do not include their usurpation of His divine right of judgment.

"God has always used 'historical Israel' as a parabolic image"

Until the time arrives for the full vengeance of God to fall on "historical Israel," the individual or nation who presumptuously treads on that holy ground will feel the heated rage of God's wrath—not delayed, but instantaneous.

God has always used "historical Israel" as a *parabolic image* to teach the Truth concerning Jesus Christ, the True Israel, Whom it *parabolically* represents. But now, as the world moves into the final days, the *parabolic images* of Scripture have become even more complex and intertwined than they were at the apex of history—Crucifixion Day.

On that day, Jesus Christ, the True Israel, as "historical Israel" had centuries before, made His Exodus on Passover into that dark night, facing first the curse, then the blessing of God. (See forthcoming articles on the parables and prophecy of the Scriptures.)

Likewise "historical Israel" finds itself now facing these same two extremes of God—His Blessing and His

Curse. (See book, *Not All Israel Is Israel*.) But blessed or cursed, the judgment of "historical Israel" has been reserved for God alone.

Because Saddam Hussein has failed to take into account God's plan for the End of the Age, the hand of God is now outstretched against him. In his ignorance, he has provided the world a chance to observe the fury of God's wrath up close and in detail.

Never before in history has such an opportunity presented itself—all because Saddam Hussein made a fatal miscalculation. His mistake? He has threatened military action against the nation of Israel and, in the foreknowledge of God, will carry out those threats.

It would have been better for Saddam Hussein to have launched an attack against the major superpowers than to have issued and carried out threats against "historical Israel."

Just as David considered Saul—who was the messiah (the "anointed one") of Israel at that time—to be beyond the judgment of ordinary men even after the Spirit of God had been withdrawn from him (1 Sam. 26:23; 2 Sam. 1:11–16), so, too, is "historical Israel" today.

"Historical Israel" has forever lost the Blessing of God. (See *Not All Israel Is Israel*.) Yet once holy to God, always holy to God. None had best touch the nation of Israel.

The wrath of God is perched high above the people of this singular nation, who, though descended from the fathers to whom *the promise* of God was given, to this day have not found the repentance necessary to avert the clutches of this awesome bird of prey.

But it is not for men to determine the judgment of "historical Israel." It is coming and will soon arrive, just as the day of divine wrath has now befallen the hapless leaders of Iraq. ■

