

THE LORD IS COMING  
1 Corinthians 16:22



# MARANATHA

A translated version of the International Christian periodical

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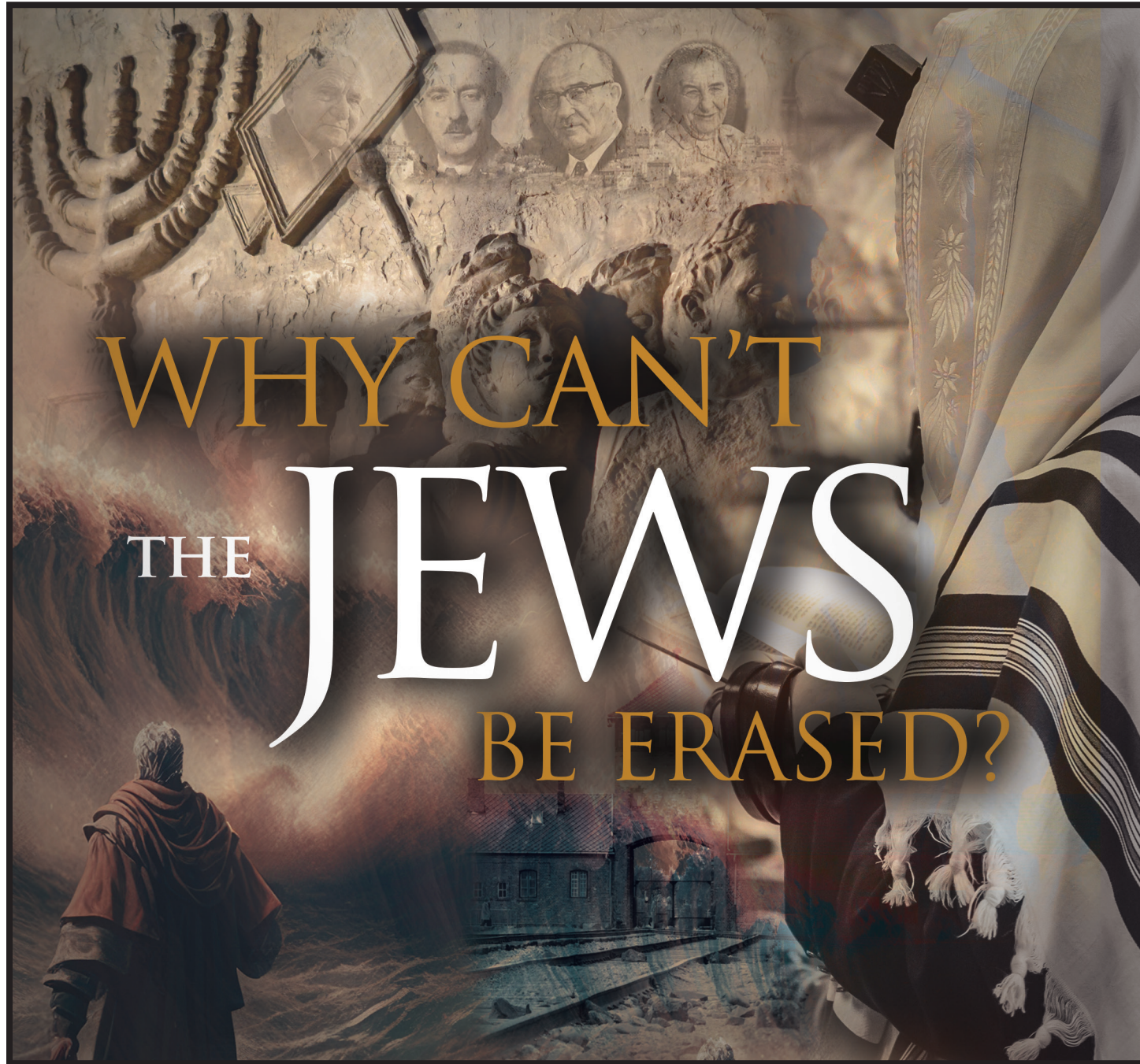
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# WHY CAN'T THE JEWS BE ERASED?

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## EDITORIAL

As this present publication reaches each one of you, my prayer is that you would be fervently striving in the Lord Jesus knowing that as the days, weeks, months and years are passing quickly, and with every moment that passes we are nearing the day in which we shall be with our *“Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”* (Tit. 2: 13). Our eyes are witnessing the fulfillment of the Word of God, which confirms to us that the Day of our LORD is near. To begin with, the greatest signs are the prophecies that have been fulfilled in regards to the Jewish people, the land of Israel and Jerusalem. In addition, all that is taking place throughout the entire world is pointing to the return of our LORD! This should move us to take action to be prepared and do His work. It is important that we be *“established in the present truth”* (2 Pet. 1:12) of this writing, not just for our benefit, but to be able to help others also be aware of this truth. On this occasion based on history, science and the Bible., I want to share with you this important truth about the land of Israel, the Jewish people, and the Arab people that have recently began to call themselves “Palestinians”

### PRESENT SITUATION IN BRIEF (THIS IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT SITUATION)

On March 20, 2023, Israel’s Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared that “there is

no such thing as a Palestinian people,” this statement ignited a global response of condemnation from world leaders; Some of them demanded that Israel’s prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, condemn Smotrich’s statement, but that which minister Smotrich did was to declare the truth. The rules of international law establish five characteristics that define a nation: history, culture, language, currency and historical leadership.” Who was the first Palestinian king? What language do the Palestinians speak? have the Palestinians ever had their own currency? Is there a Palestinian history or culture? There isn’t.

### ANCIENT HISTORY (historical facts)

The Word of God clearly articulates the war Israel fought with the Philistines during the reign of king Saul. Israel initiated its Jewish sovereignty in its Biblical homeland, beginning with the reign of David and Solomon in the 10th century B.C.

At that time in history, who were Israel’s enemies? The Philistines The Philistines were a confederation of non-Semitic peoples from Crete, the Aegean Islands, and Asia Minor, also known as the “Sea Peoples.” The original homeland of the dominant group in the Philistine federation, that is, otherwise known as the “pelesati”, was the island of Crete. When the Minoan civilization collapsed, the Minoan culture also disappeared from Crete as invaders from Greece took control of the island. These ancient Cretans who arrived in southern Canaan in the 12th century B.C. were known as

“pelishtim” by the Hebrews and Canaanites (who allied to fight against the invaders). At the end of the 11th century B.C., the Israelites managed to expel the Philistines from much of their territory. After the Assyrian conquest in the year 722 A.C., the Philistine federation lost its autonomy, and was completely destroyed by the Babylonians in the year 604 B.C.

The kingdom of Israel existed as an independent state until the year 722-721 A.C. when the last fortress in Samaria fell, thus Assyria finally conquered the kingdom of Israel. During the time under Assyrian rule, the kingdom of Judah maintained its independence until 586 B.C. During this time in history, when the land of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians there isn’t any historical evidence of a people identifying or self-identifying as “Palestinians.”. It’s not recorded in the Chronicles of the Assyrian conquest that they conquered “Palestine” or a “Palestinian people”. It is recorded in the Chronicles of the Assyrians that they conquered the Kingdom of Israel and the Israelites that were the people of this kingdom. However, there are many reports of the battles that the Assyrians fought with the Israelites in these Chronicles.

The final stage of the ten years of war between the Babylonian Empire and the kingdom of Judah in the year 586 A.C., the Babylonian attack took place in the land of Israel and the Israelites were the people of the land. After being conquered, the children of Israel and the offspring of the kings and princes (Book of Daniel

1:1-3) were exiled to Babylon. The historical archives do not mention the evidence of a Palestinian land or of a Palestinian people.

In the year 70 DC, the Romans sieged the Jewish people in the land of Israel, specifically the city of Jerusalem. The people who were captured and exiled were the Jews from the city of Jerusalem, Israel. There isn’t any historical mention or evidence of Palestine or of a Palestinian people during this time.

As a result of the Bar Kochba rebellion in the year 132-135 A.D., the Roman emperor Hadrian expelled the remaining Jews from Judea in 135 A.D. The land where these events occurred was until this time was known as the province of Judea, and there isn’t any historical evidence nor mention of any place called “Palestine” or a “Palestinians” at that time.

The Roman Emperor Hadrian was very angry with the Jewish Nation and made a decree to erase the name of Israel and Judah from the face of the Earth, so that there would be no more memory of the country that belonged to the Jewish people. So, he decided to replace the name Israel and turned to ancient history to find a name that could replace it. He discovered an extinct people who were unknown in the Roman times called “Philistines” which lived during the Iron Age 12<sup>Th</sup> century BCE. These “Philistines” were enemies of Israel, the Israelites. Therefore, according to the Latin script, he invented the new name: “Palestine”, a name that would also be hateful to the



Jews, reminding them of their former rivals the Philistines (It is worth mentioning that the term Palestine in the Bible refers to a region, not to a people or ethnic group). This is the place in history where the name “Palestine” enters the picture! But as we can see, it’s still the same land of Israel, only renamed for the purpose of completely eradicating the true name of the land, Israel.

Before the Romans renamed the province of Judea, the name Palestine is never mentioned in ancient documents of history neither is it found recorded in the original texts of Old and New Testaments of the Bible. It was never recorded in Assyrian, or Persian, Macedonian, Ptolemaic, Seleucid, or other Greek sources; no “Palestinian” people have ever been mentioned, not even by the Romans who invented the term. If the “Palestinians” were supposed to be the historical inhabitants of the Holy Land, why didn’t they fight for independence from the Roman occupation as the Jews did? How is it possible that there is no mention of a “Palestinian” leader leading a revolt against the invading Romans in any historical document? Why isn’t there any historical document referring to “Palestinian” groups, such as the Jewish Zealots? Why do all the historical documents mention the Jews as the native inhabitants, and mention the Greeks, Romans and others who lived in Judea as foreigners? The “Palestinian people” are never mentioned, not as natives nor as foreigners. The factual answer is very clear and simple, there has never been a “Palestinian people”.

It’s simply identity theft of a people that have never existed.

Caliph Salahuddin al-Ayyubi Saladin, knew who the Jews were, and politely invited them to settle in Jerusalem, which he recognized as their homeland, but he never saw any “Palestinians”... To say that “Palestinians” are the original people of Israel is not only against secular history but also against Islamic history!

Returning our conversation to the Philistines it is worth mentioning that the name Palestine or Palestinian are derived from the term Philistine, the truth is that the ancient and extinct Philistines have nothing to do with the Arabs that today call themselves “Palestinians”. The Palestinians of today are Arabs that have descended from Arabs and not from Philistines.

According to National Geographic, modern archaeologists agree that the Philistines were different from their neighbors: their arrival on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean in the early 12th century BCE. is marked by ceramics with close parallels to the world of Ancient Greece, the use of an Aegean script instead of a Semitic one, as well as the consumption of pork. Researchers also link the presence of Philistines with the so-called Sea Peoples, a confederation of tribes that, according to ancient Egyptian sources, among others, wreaked havoc on the Eastern Mediterranean civilizations at the end of the Bronze Age (end of the 13th and early 12th century BC).

Archaeologist Eric Cline writes about the evidence he found from his excavation at the Canaanite site of Tel Kabri, Israel. “For over a century, we have debated the question of where the Philistines came from. Now we have the answer: southern Europe, and probably more specifically mainland Greece, Crete or Sardinia. This fits with what seemed like the most likely answer earlier, especially judging from (the archaeological remains) what seems like a logical find.” This claim is the result of evidence from archaeological finds and the first study of DNA recovered from an ancient Philistine site that provided unique genetic insight into its origins. In reality, the ancient Philistines and modern “Palestinians” have only one thing in common: they are both invaders from other lands! That is precisely the meaning of their name, which is not an ethnic name but an adjective applied to them: peleshet, from the verb “pelesh”, “secessionists”, “intruders” or “invaders”.

Despite repeated claims, there is not a shred of evidence (historical, archaeological, or textual) connecting the “Palestinians” to the ancient Canaanites, Philistines, or Jebusites. The Peoples of the Sea (the Philistines) who invaded Egypt, were expelled to other lands of the Mediterranean and did not evolve to become any of the Arab people, but rather disappeared and were no longer existent in Roman times.

There is not a single person in the world who can prove Philistine ancestry, however, if

the “Palestinians” insist, they are descendants they must acknowledge themselves as invaders in Israel (as the Philistines always were), and they must protest to Greece to give them back the island of Crete (where the Philistines came from). The Philistines became extinct, and any allusion to a supposed genetic relationship with them is completely false, since it is historically impossible to establish.

The Philistines were not Arabs, and the only characteristic in common between both peoples is that they are considered as invaders in the land of Israel; the Philistines from the sea and the Arabs from the desert. The Arabs who call themselves “Palestinians” do not want Jerusalem because it is their city, because it is not and never has been. They simply want to take it from the Jews, to whom it has belonged for three thousand years. If the Palestinians were true Canaanites, they would speak Hebrew and demand Syria give them the occupied land in Lebanon, but they are not. And if they were Philistines, they would claim the island of Crete from Greece and acknowledge that they have nothing to do with the Land of Israel.

### MODERN HISTORY

The truth is that most (not all) of the Arabs in “Palestine” (Land of Israel, but renamed by Emperor Hadrian after the Bar Kochba rebellion in AD 132-135), emigrated to the area between 1880 and 1948, from places as diverse as Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Bosnia, Serbia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Tunisia



as economic immigrants, following the trail of money for employment in “Palestine.” The “Palestinians”, who claim to be “the native people of the region”, would be the same as the various waves of immigrants (people who arrive in a country or region different from their place of origin to settle there) to North America and from the South in the late 19th and early 20th centuries who claim to be the indigenous peoples of the Americas; Well, as such, it is all that the “Palestinians” are in the land of Israel, immigrants.

According to the outlandish or extreme concepts of the United Nations, anyone who spent TWO YEARS in so called “Palestine” before 1948, with or without proof, is a “Palestinian”, as are all their descendants. In fact, the leaders of the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) demand the “right” of all “Palestinians” to return to the land they occupied before June 1967, but they refuse to return to the land where they lived only 50 years before, that is, in 1917. Why? Because if they would have agreed to do so, they would have to settle again in Iraq, Syria, Arabia, Libya, Egypt... and only a handful of Arabs would remain in Israel for when speaking of Israel, it means all the land means between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, including the Golan region).

Haj Amin el-Husseini, a member of a prominent Arab clan, was the founder of the “Palestinian people.” It can even be argued that he was the most important leader of the Arab world of the 20th century. When Husseini incited the attack on the Jews in

1920, he was not acting out of a “Palestinian” nationalist passion, for he rejected the existence of a people or a land specifically of “Palestinians”, regarding them as part of a larger Pan-Arab or Pan-Syriac nation, or of the umma (worldwide Muslim community). Husseini forged a national sentiment for the “Palestinian” Arabs that revolves not around what they are but what they want to destroy: the Jews and Zionism. His goal was not the formation of a “Palestinian people” (in which he did not believe as something different from the Arab and the Muslim community) but the end of Zionism and the eradication of the Jewish presence in the land of Israel and, as a first step then, end the Jewish immigration in “Palestine.”

#### SOME STATEMENTS BY PROMINENT ARABS

Professor Philip Hitti, an Arab historian, said in 1946. “There is no such thing as Palestine in history, absolutely not.”

The Saudi Arabian representative to the United Nations, said in 1956. “It is common knowledge that Palestine is nothing other than southern Syria.”

Walid Shoebat said “When I lived in Palestine, everyone I knew could trace their ancestry back to the country of origin from which their great-grandparents came from. They all knew full well that their origins did not come from the Canaanites, but ironically, this was one of the subjects that our Middle Eastern education includes. But the undeniable reality is that today’s Palestinians are immigrants from neighboring nations!”

On March 8, 1974, Syrian President Hafez Assad told PLO leader Yasser Arafat: “You don’t represent Palestine as we do. Never forget this point: there is no such thing as a Palestinian people, there is no such thing as a Palestinian entity; there is only Syria. You are an integral part of the Syrian people. Palestine is an integral part of Syria. Therefore, we, the Syrian authorities, are the true representatives of the Palestinian people. Palestine is a major part of southern Syria, and we consider it our right and duty to insist that it be a liberated partner of our Arab homeland and Syria.”

PLO executive committee member Zahir Muhsein explained the strategy in more detail in a 1977 interview with the Dutch newspaper Trouw:

“The Palestinian people do not exist. The creation of a Palestinian state is only a means to continue our fight against the state of Israel for our Arab unity. Actually, today there is no difference between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese. Only for political and tactical reasons we speak today about the existence of a Palestinian people, since Arab national interests demand that we raise the existence of a distinct Palestinian people to oppose Zionism.

For tactical reasons, Jordan, which is a sovereign state with defined borders, cannot claim Haifa and Jaffa, while as a Palestinian I can certainly claim Haifa, Jaffa, Beer-Sheva, and Jerusalem. However, the moment we claim our right to all of Palestine, we will not wait a minute to unite Palestine and Jordan.”

#### WHAT THE WORD OF GOD TELLS US ABOUT THIS EARTH

Around four thousand years ago, God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham in regards to the LAND He was to give them in the following Scriptures, Genesis 12:1-3. 17:4-8. This covenant was confirmed with his son Isaac, in Genesis 26:2-5 and reconfirmed with his grandson Jacob, in Genesis 28:13-15. 35:9-12.

And we see how the Lord refers many times to the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Exodus 6:7-8, 13:5. 11, 32:13, 33:1; Numbers 14:30, Deuteronomy 1:8, 34-35; 6:10, 7:8-13; 8:18; 9:5; 10:11; 11:9, 21; 19:8; 26:3; 28:11; 30:20; 31:1-8, 23; Joshua 1:3-6; 21:43-45

The Jewish people are often, and with verifiable truth, called “the People of the Book”, the Bible. In this Book, the land of “The People of the Book” is clearly stated numerous times as Eretz Yisrael!

#### TRUTHS AND LIES

1. MYTH: “The Jews have no legal right to the land called Israel.” FACT: A common misconception is that all Jews were driven into the Diaspora by the Romans after the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in AD 70, and then 1,800 years later, stormed back to Palestine demanding their return. In reality, the Jewish people have maintained ties to their historic homeland for more than 3,700 years. The Jewish people base their right to the



land of Israel on at least four premises: 1. The Jewish people conquered and developed the land. 2. The international community granted the Jewish people political sovereignty in Israel. 3. The territory was taken in defensive wars. 4. God promised the land to the patriarch Abraham.

2. MYTH: "Palestine was always an Arab country." FACT: The term "Palestine" is believed to derive from the Philistines (or Pilistinos), an Aegean people who, in the 12th century B.C. C., was established along the Mediterranean coastal plain of what is now Israel and the Gaza Strip. In the second century AD, after crushing the last Jewish revolt, the Romans first applied the name Palestine to Judea (the southern portion of what is now incorrectly called the West Bank), in an attempt to lessen Jewish identification with the land of Israel, but not because Philistines or their descendants lived there, but only because they tried to break all connection of the Jews with their land. No independent Arab or Palestinian state ever existed in Israel. When the distinguished Arab-American historian, Princeton University professor Philip Hitti, testified against partition before the Anglo-American Committee in 1946, he said: "there is no such thing as 'Palestine' in history, absolutely not."

3. MYTH: "The Palestinians are descendants of the Canaanites and were in Israel long before the Jews." FACT: The claim of "Palestinians" to be related to the Canaanites

is a recent phenomenon and contrary to historical evidence. The Canaanites disappeared from the face of the earth three millennia ago.

4. MYTH: "Jerusalem is an Arab city." FACT: Jews have been living in Jerusalem permanently for over 2,000 years (regardless of circumstances there has always been a Jewish presence). And since the 1940s, they have constituted the largest population community in the city. In Jerusalem is the Western Wall (or Wailing Wall) and the Temple Mount on Zion, the holiest site in Judaism. Jerusalem was never the capital of any Arab entity; instead, it was the capital of Israel in the past and remains so to this day.

The undeniable reality is that the "Palestinians" are the most recent of all the peoples on the face of the earth, and they began to exist in a single day because of a kind of "supernatural phenomenon" unique in the history of humanity, as testified by Walid Shoebat, a former PLO terrorist who managed to recognize the lie he was fighting for and the truth he was fighting: "Why is it that on June 4, 1967 I was a Jordanian and suddenly the next day I became a 'Palestinian'? We didn't care that there was a Jordanian government. The teaching we were to achieve about the destruction of Israel was a defined part of our curriculum, but we considered ourselves Jordanians until the Jews returned to Jerusalem. Then suddenly, we were all 'Palestinians'; they removed the star from the Jordanian flag and at that moment we had the 'Palestinian' flag. When

I finally realized the lies and myths I was taught, it became my duty as an honest person to expose them."

This statement of a true "Palestinian" must have some meaning to a sincerely neutral observer. We reiterate that there is no such thing as a "Palestinian people", or a Palestinian culture, or a Palestinian language, or a Palestinian history. There never was a "Palestinian" state, nor have any Palestinian archaeological remains or currency ever been found. Today's "Palestinians" are an Arab people, with Arab culture, Arabic language and Arab history.

### WHAT CAN WE DO?

*"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good."* (Ps. 122:6-9).

We must pray for the Peace of the people of the Great King that are in the City of the Great King, Jerusalem. We pray out of love for the Jewish people, the firstborn of God who are our brothers and companions (because together we are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks: Israel and the Church, announcing that God is One, not two or much less three (Rev. 11:4; Duet. 6:4; Mr. 12:29). We must speak words that bring peace and goodwill to the hearts of those who do not know or have ill will towards the Jewish people and teach them to bless the people of God out of love and gratitude for the blessing of God's Word and salvation that has come through them. We must seek the

good of the Jewish people. Pray for the Jewish people, speak well of them (to be able to speak this way we must educate ourselves with the truth) and seek their good by . In this time, more than ever the enemy has tried to erase the evidence of the Word of God, land of Israel, Jewish people, Jerusalem the City of God and the identity of Temple Mount, Zion. We must arm ourselves with the truth of the Word of God and ancient and modern history that confirms the true identity of the land and its heirs and owners, the Jewish people.

God bless you.

Pastor Efraim Valverde III.

Sources: JNS Jerold S. Auerbach. Joseph Farah, "Myths of the Middle East." David Collier (American political scientist specializing in comparative politics). Sir Herbert Samuel and the Government of Palestine, in The Chatham House Version and other Middle-Eastern Studies. Douglas Harper etymological dictionary "Palestine". El País, Uruguay Archived 2013-01-07 at the Wayback Machine Palestine name. Fr: Adrien Jaulmes (November 30, 2012). "Ramallah, capitale d'un proto-État". Le Figaro. Marcos Aguinis, columnist for La Nación (Argentina). Knight of Letters and Arts (France) and doctor honoris causa from the universities of Tel Aviv (Israel) and San Luis (Argentina). Kristin Romey, Article published in National Geographic. Archaeologist Eric Cline. Mitos y Realidades, una guía para el conflicto árabe-israelí by Mitchell G. Bard, traducted by Vicente Echerri. ■



# GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

## *“Seventy weeks are determined over your people (Jewish People) and over your holy city (Old City of Jerusalem)” (Dan. 9:24)*

News” reports that Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said during his visit to the Temple Mount: “Our government will not give in to threats from Hamas. The Temple Mount is the most important site for the people of Israel and we maintain freedom of movement for Muslims and Christians, but

*“Seventy weeks are determined over your people (Jewish People) and over your holy city (Old City of Jerusalem)” (Dan. 9:24).*

Shalom to my brothers who are *“waiting and hastening for the coming of the day of God” (2 Pet. 3:12)*. Be encouraged, our hope is at the gates! The Clock of God is confirming it. Israel is feeling the pressure internationally from all sides, but mostly from the United States and European countries because of the allowed settlements, Jerusalem, the Temple Mount on Zion, and judicial reforms (which has been halted, but not canceled). There is also pressure in the region from Arab and Muslim nations, as some are breaking away from economic alliances with Israel and instead forming new alliances even among their own enemies. Internally, there is division in Israel due to judicial reforms. With all this, God is allowing Israel to become more and more isolated from the nations in order to fulfill **Zechariah 12:1-3** and **14:1-3**.

The following is the most recent news about what has been happening in Israel and the Jewish people over the last three months of January through end of March.

**January 1, 2023.** Reported by “i24 News”: At the end of his first day in office, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem accompanied by his wife, Sara Netanyahu.

**January 3, 2023.** “Israel National

Jews will also visit the site. Those who make threats must be dealt with, with an iron fist.”

**January 3, 2023.** “Israel National News” published that the Democratic representative of the state of Massachusetts, Jamie Zahlaway Belsito, accuses Israel of apartheid and genocide, and calls the Israeli government a “terrorist regime”.

**January 4, 2023.** Israel National News reported the following: Israel is condemned by the UN more than all other countries combined.

**January 6, 2023.** “Israel National News” reports that the Israeli government has prepared a set of sanctions targeting the Palestinian Authority, after the Palestinian Authority successfully lobbied the United Nations General Assembly to endorse a case of the International Court of Justice against Israel.

**January 16, 2023.** “Israel National News” announced the following: Netanyahu predicts a massive increase in immigration from the United States. “Israel’s economy will surpass that of the United States,” the prime minister tells the cabinet, predicting that Israel’s addition to the US visa waiver program will lead to an increase in aliyah (immigration to Israel).

**January 18, 2023.** “The Jerusalem Post” reported that more than 90 nations demand that Israel lift sanctions against “Palestinians”. Among those who signed the text were 23 of the 27 nations of the European Union.

**January 19, 2023.** “Israel National News” published the following: A new report from the Community Security Trust (CST) found that anti-Semitism on London university campuses has increased by 250% in the past two years.

**January 20, 2023.** “Israel National News” reports: Anti-Semitic incidents on American college campuses have increased by 50% since the start of the academic school year, according to data released by the Jewish Agency.

**January 23, 2023.** “Claimscon.org” reported that the first-ever 50-state survey of America’s Millennials and Generation Z Holocaust Awareness Reveals Impressive Results. Disturbing findings reveal that significant numbers of Millennials and Generation Z cannot name a single concentration camp or ghetto, believe two million or fewer Jews were murdered, and a worrying percentage believe Jews caused the Holocaust.

**January 27, 2023.** “AP News” Announces: In the worst murderous rampage Israel has known in years, seven people were killed in a shooting attack outside a synagogue in the Neve Yaakov neighborhood of Jerusalem on Friday night.



**January 28, 2023.** The Times of Israel reports that two men were shot in a terror attack outside the Old City of Jerusalem. Police said the attacker was a 13-year-old Palestinian from East Jerusalem.

**February 13, 2023.** “La Jornada” reported: The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, announces a pause in the plan to reform the judicial system; He says that he will seek agreements with the opponents. The judicial reform provoked massive protests in the country.

**February 14, 2023.** “Israel National News” reported the following: The foreign ministers of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States issued a joint statement condemning the decision of Israel’s political security cabinet to authorize the construction of 9,000 new homes in Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria.

**February 19, 2023.** Bloomberg News announced that the International Atomic Energy Agency is trying to clarify how Iran stockpiled uranium enriched to 84% purity, the highest level found by inspectors in the country to date. It’s just 6% levels below nuclear weapons grade.

**February 20, 2023** The Middle East Eye news reported the following: The UN Security Council issued a formal statement on Monday condemning Israel’s plan to expand settlements in the “occupied Palestinian territory”

after that the United States made the rare decision to support the motion.

**March 1, 2023.** “The Jerusalem Post” reported that Iran could produce enough fissile material for a nuclear bomb in “about 12 days,” a senior US Defense Department official said Tuesday.

**March 10, 2023.** The news “Israel Hayom” published: “We promise more painful attacks”, Hamas says as the terror continues. Hours after three wounded in central Israel, a Palestinian armed with explosives and knives attempts to carry out an attack in Samaria.

**March 18, 2023.** “The Times of Israel” reported: The Foreign Ministry said it was concerned about the worsening Russian tone about Israel’s actions in Syria. Anonymous Official Says Jerusalem Worries Moscow Could Push Formal UN Security Council Resolution; the report comes days after Israel said it would authorize anti-drone technology in kyiv.

**March 20, 2023.** The “Fox 7” news reported the following: Bezalel Smotrich, Israel’s finance minister, stated that “there is no such thing” as a Palestinian people.

**March 23, 2023.** “The Washington Post” announced the following: There were 3,697 anti-Semitic incidents in the United States last year, the most since the Anti-Defamation League began keeping records in 1979. Anti-Semitic incidents

increased 36%. in 2022 compared to the previous year, according to data from the ADL.

**April 5, 2023.** “The Times of Israel” reported that there are dozens of lawsuits with officials in the mosque in the court of the Temple Site in Jerusalem for the second night in a row; shells land in open territory near Gaza; Riots break out near the border and in the northern Israeli city. The police action drew condemnation from countries including Jordan and Turkey, and worrying statements from the United States and the UN.

**April 5, 2023.** “AFP” reported that Iran has appointed an ambassador to the United Arab Emirates after almost eight years since relations were broken. Now Iran has revived relations with the Gulf Arab states in an accelerated fashion.

**April 5, 2023.** “The Times of Israel” published that the UN Security Council will meet on the occasion of the violence in Jerusalem in the fourth emergency session in months. The Arab League was scheduled to meet for an emergency session on Wednesday, and the UN Security Council has called an emergency meeting for Thursday.

**April 6, 2023.** The Times of Israel reported that 34 rockets have been fired from Lebanon into Israel in the worst attack since 2006. The attack is a warning about the Site of the Temple, Jerusalem.

**April 6, 2023.** “AFP” announced

that top diplomats from Middle Eastern rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia met in Beijing, China, on Thursday, pledging to work together to bring “security and stability” to their turbulent region (Middle East), after a surprise Chinese-brokered deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The closed-door meeting will take place on Thursday at the request of the United Arab Emirates, the Arab League’s representative on the UN’s top panel; The United States expresses its “extreme concern” over the Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

*“For I will gather all the nations in battle against Jerusalem; and the city will be taken... and half the city will go into captivity... Then the Lord will go out and fight with those people, as he fought on the day of battle” (Zec. 14:2-3).* My brother, this is about to be fulfilled soon, and you have to *“Watch out for yourselves, that your hearts are not loaded with gluttony and drunkenness, and with the cares of this life, and that day suddenly come upon you. For like a snare it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, praying at all times, that you may be counted worthy to avoid (be prepared and have strength to overcome) all these things that are to come, and to stand before the Son of man” (Lk. 21:34- 36).*

God’s Clock allows to see that the time of Grace is coming to an end. What are we waiting for? The Lord is coming and we have to be prepared! Be encouraged!

Pastor Efraim Valverde III. ■



*“My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.” (Jer. 4:19).*

Jeremiah has been called “the weeping prophet”, and even his second book is called: “The Lamentations of Jeremiah”. But if we stop to consider the reason that made that long-suffering prophet of God cry, we will see that he had more than enough reason to cry when considering the situation of his people.

Israel had strayed to such a degree over the years, going as far as even in those days to offer their children in the fire before the god Moloch (**Jer. 32:35**). Neglect among the people of God had led them to a very low level of degradation, thus provoking the wrath of the Almighty, who then determined to punish them very harshly. God told Jeremiah what He was going to do, and gave him the hard work of delivering the message of judgment. The Scripture tells us that, at first, Jeremiah refused, telling the Lord that he did not know how to speak, but God told him: *“Do not say, I am a child; for to everything that I will send you, you will go, and you will say everything that I will command you” (Jer. 1:7).*

The Chaldean armies of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, were then the instruments used by God to punish the foolishness of His people, and Jeremiah announced it through the streets of the cities of Israel, but... no one believed his message. He was accused of being a coward, a traitor, a liar, an exaggerator, etc. He was punished harshly and painfully, to the point of being exposed to death (**Jer. 38:4-5**). All this was done to him in order to keep him quiet so that he would no longer speak the message that the people did not like. But JEREMIAH

## THE MINISTRY OF JEREMIAH

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

COULD NOT BE SILENT, why? For the simple reason that the message was not from him, it was from God. And so, he continued in that painful process, both physically and emotionally for the prophet. Physical, because of the pain that his brothers caused him on his body, and emotionally, because he saw with desperate sadness the stiff neck attitude of the people of God, who had their ears completely closed to the message of the Lord.

But just as it has always been, the day came when the Word of God was fulfilled (for my Lord repeats it even later, saying: *“heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away”*, Mt. 24:35), and the terrible judgment, ruin and destruction struck the foolishness of the nation, and the part of the people that survived was taken in the transmigration to Babylon (the northern kingdom, 10 tribes of Israel, had previously been exiled by the Assyrians, of whom none returned to Israel), and of those who were taken captive to Babylon, never returned, except only a just under 50,000 from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin after the seventy years appointed by God. What a tremendous lesson Israel had. The Jewish people have never forgotten the way in which God “healed” them so that they would never again worship images and other gods besides the God of heaven.

What is described in history is far behind in the annals of the people of Israel, but Paul the apostle tells us that *“the things that were written*

*before were written for our teaching” (Rom. 15:4)*, and certainly the story described here has a tremendous application for the present time, very particularly speaking of those to whom, in these days, the Lord has wanted to entrust to us in this last time THE MINISTRY OF JEREMIAH.

Among the great and terrible signs fulfilled in these days, which are the last before the return of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory, is the apostasy of the church. Other times I have brought to your consideration the exclamation of the Lord, when He said in the form of a question: *“When the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8)*. And I have said that these Words of the Lord have made me tremble, because they imply something terrible for the Christians who are not awake. With them the Lord makes us understand that because of the violence that will cover the earth, there will be very few who will truly keep their integrity; and what our eyes are currently seeing confirms the veracity of the Master’s Words more and more each day.

The people called of God, nowa days, are very far from living at the level of spirituality and holiness that the Lord demands; undoubtedly the cities and towns of countries that call themselves Christian are full of temples and religion, but the same moral degeneration that prevails in them gives loud evidence that they are empty. Surely there is appearance in many aspects, including the universal manifestation of the

“charismatic” movement, among which are numbered thousands and thousands of our own brothers in the Oneness faith. However, the idols that Israel worshiped in ancient times are in vogue in an alarming way today, and they are: the worship of religious institutions, false prophets and the traditions of men. Vanity, denominational pride, boasting (both among ministers and among members), hatred, ill will, advantages, cunning, intrigue, etc., etc.

My brother who read these words, you cannot tell me that I am exaggerating. How I desire myself this were not true, but there is no way to deny it, since it is the reality that surrounds us: a corrupt environment that stinks in the presence of the Holy One. But Jeremiah’s message still stands: *“Humble yourself, my brother, seek God with a clean heart. Leave haughtiness and pride, and look for your brother in the love of Christ. Stop worshiping ‘the image of the beast’ (religious systems), and in interior and exterior holiness, serve the Lord with fear and trembling. Let the mark of God be on your forehead” (Ez. 9:4).*

Jeremiah then said, *“My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart” (Jer. 4:19)*, and we say the same as Jeremiah now when we see the stiff-neckedness of the people of God (referring now to the Church). We now write, shout and say in despair that the scourge is coming for the people of God (Gentile Church) because of their foolishness and deviation. But how few listen!

*“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8)*. While that Day arrives, all that “Jeremiah” can do is cry and ask the One who can do everything to wake up His Church that is stupefied with that deadly lethargy of Satan.

God bless you. ■





# WHY CAN'T THE JEWS BE ERASED?

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

In the past, when referring to the Jewish people they were called “the people without a country.” From another point of view, the Jews are the only people on Earth to whom the original Creator of all things has promised a country forever. In the Scripture of this promise are the words: **“I AM THE ALMIGHTY GOD” (Gen. 17:1-8)**. There is no other people that can make this claim to any portion of the earth, for the Almighty is who has spoken and has set the limits of the land that will be for Israel. How foolish and absurd that the so called “wise” of the world spoke of colonizing them in Madagascar, Australia or Tanganyika!

NO NATION CAN DETERMINE ITS LINEAGE BY THE CLEAR LIGHT OF RELIGIOUS HISTORY UP TO ANCIENT TIMES LIKE THE JEWS. They had literature before most nations had letters, a literature that is now more widely disseminated than that of any other people or nation. Compared to the Jews, the nations that are of modern history are just starting.

Some uninformed Christians of today get angry at how much the prophetic teachers have to say about the Jews. But this is because they don't know their Bible. The Jews are the key to prophecy and all prophecy is intimately linked with the Jews.

When we talk about the Jews, we are talking about a people that had its origin in a miracle. Of Sara, being already ninety years old and barren, Isaac was born; from Isaac came Jacob, and from Jacob the

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twelve tribes of Israel. In the natural course of events, Isaac could not have existed. But by the power of God, he came into being; and from that point, a nation clothed in the supernatural, rose to its feet and began its difficult march through the centuries **(Gen. 12:1-4)**.

No other nation in history has had such manifest and visible signs of the Divine Presence. By them, the Red Sea was withdrawn and the Jordan River divided. They were miraculously fed in the desert, they were sheltered and guided by the divine pillar of fire by night. For them, the sun and the moon were stopped in their journey so that their enemies could be defeated. They began as a miracle, and their continuation to this very hour is a miracle.

Renan wrote: *“The philosophy of history has entirely failed to account for the Jews.”* Hegel declared: *“Like a dark enigma, the history of the Jews has tormented me all my life.”* Mark Twain said: *“All things are mortal but not the Jews, all other powers pass away, but they remain.”*

During the 30 centuries of its existence, the Jew has been perpetually teetering on the edge of the abyss of annihilation, yet it has always survived and recovered, and in the hour when nations have endeavored to destroy it, it

multiplies faster than ever before. Why? The Word of God has the only answer, and whether some like it or not, the clear facts prove **THE BIBLE IS TRUE**.

Lord Beaconsfield said: *“The attempt to wipe out the Jews has been carried out under the most favorable auspices, on the largest scale and for the longest period of time. Egyptian pharaohs, Assyrian kings, Roman emperors, Scandinavian crusaders, Gothic princes, and inquisitor saints have all alike devoted their energies to the fulfillment of this common purpose. Expatriation, exile, captivity, confiscation, torture and massacre on the most extensive scale, have been carried out in vain. The Jews, however, remain!”*

Whether some like it or not, their perseverance is miracle of history. Whether others like it or not, the number of eminent Jews in the world is, and always has been, out of all proportions with respect to their population. And not because they contrived to put themselves in places of eminence, but because of their clear brilliance and application. Their positions in the faculty of universities are awarded by competitive examinations, where not even the name appears in the documents, however, under these conditions, they have won in an outstanding proportion. Jealous as we may feel, the fact remains that most of us are greatly indebted to the Jews. It was Jewish money that financed Christopher Columbus and made the discovery of this continent possible. It was Jewish money that sustained the Revolutionary War. Haym Salomon, was the Jewish merchant who almost single-handedly



supported Jefferson, Monroe and Madison in the days of their financial difficulties, leading America to victory. Salomon rarely asked for interest on loans, and frequently made loans knowing he could never be repaid. He died squalid; his lungs exhausted by tuberculosis. Nothing was done to compensate his heirs and nothing was done to perpetuate his memory.

**THE NUMBER OF JEWS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE NOBEL PRIZE IS VERY LARGE, THUS INDICATING, THE GREAT ADVANCES IN SCIENCE AND OTHER WORTHY CAUSES FOR THE BLESSING OF HUMANITY.**

Here are some of them: Baeyer—Chemistry, 1905; Michelson—Physics, 1907; Ehrlich—Medicine, 1908; Lippmann—Physics, 1908; Metchnikoff—Medicine, 1908; Wallach—Chemistry, 1910; Asser—Peace, 1911; Fried—Peace, 1911; Barany—Medicine, 1914; Willstatter—Chemistry, 1915; Haber—Chemistry, 1918; Einstein—Physics, 1921; Bohr—Physics, 1922; Meyerhof—Medicine, 1922; Franck—Physics, 1925; Hertz—Physics, 1925; Bergson—Literature, 1928; Landsteiner—Medicine, 1930; Warburg—Medicine, 1931; Loewi—Medicine, 1936; Ossietzky—Peace, 1936.

Others, who were some of humanity's greatest helpers in our time, are: Waksman. Discoverer of streptomycin, used to destroy tuberculosis and many other diseases. Dr. Joseph Goldberger. Discoverer of the prevention and cure of pellagra, a disease that, in the South, killed 7,000 and maimed 150,000 each year. Dr. Goldberger

injected into his own body what was thrown by the dying, using himself as a guinea pig. He earned comparatively nothing during his lifetime, but his widow, in 1929, was awarded a pension by Congress. Dr. Jonas E. Salk. Polio, in the early 1950s, was considered the most feared killer and disabling disease of children, and because of this it was called "infantile paralysis." Through the instrumentality of Dr. Jonas E. Salk, assisted by the staff of the Virus Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, the Salk vaccine was created. Doctors in America wanted him to receive at least a dollar for each child inoculated, but Dr. Jonas Salk, a Jew, would not accept such financial compensation. If his wishes had been monetary, he would have received untold millions. Today, this disabling disease is barely remembered.

Some time ago, The Miami Daily News printed the following article.

"A Nazi suffering from syphilis must not allow himself to be cured with salvarsan, because this medicine is the discovery of a Jew, Ehrlich. You should not even take the steps to find out if you have syphilis, because the Wasserman reaction used for that purpose is the discovery of a Jew.

...if you suffer from heart disease, you should not use digitalis, which was developed by a Jew, Ludwig Trabo. If you suffer from toothache, you should not use cocaine, because you will be benefiting from the work of a Jew, Solomon Stricker. Typhus should not be cared for, because it will get the benefit of

discoveries from Jews, Widal and Weil. If you suffer from diabetes, you should not use insulin, per the research work of a Jew, Minkowski. If you suffer from headache, you should avoid the use of pyramidon and antipyrine, discovered by Spiro and Eiloge. Anti-Semites who suffer from seizures must resign themselves to them because it was a Jew, Oskar Liebreich, who thought of using chloral hydrate for their treatment. The same with the sufferings of psychosis, neurosis and psychopathy, since a Jew, Freud, is the father of psychoanalysis".

As a minority group, and because they are the international people, they have been blamed for almost everything, even the black plague of the 14th century. In recent years, they have been accused of plotting the overthrow of all Gentile governments.

And so, throughout the history of the world, the bloody stream of persecution of the Jews has continued. A new wave of hatred is rising over the Earth in our days and the afflictions of the Jews cry out to heaven for mercy and judgment. Hatred of them has become a talisman (a charm) among millions of pagans, and strangely enough, some deluded Christians have given in to the influence of vicious hate propaganda.

No wonder a great English statesman and educator said in 1939: "The lights of Europe are going out one by one, the light of culture, learning and human benevolence. And they are fading because the deified monster, Hitler,

is engulfing them".

Those words are exactly in accordance with the judgments pronounced by the Word of God. The Words of **Genesis 12:3**, have not been revoked by God: **"AND I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND THOSE WHO CURSE YOU I WILL CURSE: AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED"**.

**ALL THOSE WHO PERSECUTE THE JEWS SHOULD READ WHAT THE LORD SAYS ABOUT THEM IN THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH:** *"For I am with you, says the Lord, to save you: and I will make consummation among all the nations among whom I have scattered you; in you, however, I will not make a consummation, but I will punish you with judgment, and I will not cut you off completely... However, all those who consume you will be consumed; and all your afflictors, all will go into captivity; and those who trampled you will be trampled down, and to all those who made prey to you I will give as prey. But I will cause healing to come to you, and I will heal you of your wounds, says the Lord; because thrown they called you, saying: This is Zion, which no one seeks. Thus says the Lord: Behold, I will return the captivity of Jacob's tents, and I will have mercy on his tents; and the city will be built on its hill, and the temple will be established according to its shape. And praise shall come out of them, and the voice of people rejoicing: and I will multiply them, and they*

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## WOMEN OF GOD

Sister Maya Romero



Dear sisters let us be careful that the cares of this life do not drag us away from the presence of God, let us remember that *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* (James 5:16). In many congregations a lot of our brothers and families in Christ have separated themselves from God and renounced their faith. Some of us are suffering the pain of a child who wants nothing to do with God. This should wake us up to realize that the enemy of our soul does not sleep, *"because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* (1 Peter 5:8), this should move us to pray and cry out to God! "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18).

I greet all of my sisters with the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to the Lord for this opportunity to write in the periodical Maranatha. May God bless this ministry and all those that make it possible for us to receive this periodical. May God continue to bless and strengthen pastor Efraim Valverde III and his family.

The words that I want to express in this occasion are not new but many times I have heard my husband Manuel Romero speak them, and also pastor Efraim Valverde III. *"Pray without ceasing"* (1 Thes. 5:7). The apostle Paul wasn't referring to the act of being on our knees all the time (At the same time it would be good if we could), but that we would continually be in a posture of reverence and conscious that we belong to God and should be seeking to reflect Him in our lives all the time.

As Christian women I'm sure we have all heard many, many times that we need to pray and that our prayer has power, and the truth is that we have experienced that there is power in prayer! Haleluyah! Prayer should be an essential part of our lives and an indispensable pillar as daughters of God.

We must be persistent in prayer before our God as the widow was persistent before the judge to obtain what she sought after without giving up (Luke 18:1-8). I want to be as this widow and I invite you my sister that you also be as this widow. May God allow me to see what my heart desires.

My prayer before the Lord is that He would put this persistence in us and wake up in us hunger, desire, and passion for God and His Word. God never grows weary listening to our prayers. Always remember, *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."* (Math. 21:22)

Let us always pray one for another. May the Lord greatly bless you all. Shalom!  
Sister Maya Romero.. ■

## YOUTH SECTION

Sister Liliana Valverde



The Lord bless all the young people that have been called to His Army to fight, battle and overcome! It's a great blessing to write to you all from my heart. I pray these few words will encourage you.

As youth living in these times, many individuals or situations, or things of this life will try to discourage, distract, and deviate us from following the LORD. It's very possible that upon some you there has come a heaviness upon your life or anxiety, depression, oppression, temptations, indecision, problems in your family etc., but God knows all of it and we need to take it all before Him. I want to encourage you not to faint or fall away from your relationship and service unto our LORD. And you have been failing or falling call out to the LORD and arise in the power of His Holy Spirit.

There are times when we go to church and we feel down because we are dry and don't feel His

presence but we want to seek God and draw near to Him. Let's not give up! Let us be spiritually stubborn as Jacob and let us wrestle in prayer, *"I will not let thee go, except thou bless me."* (Gen. 32:26). *"Jacob wrestled with God he wrestled with the Angel (of the Lord) and he prevailed. How did he prevail? He wept and made supplication"* (Jacob conquered Gods heart in urgent humble prayer and brokenness). *"he found Him in Bethel, and there He spake with us;* (Jacob had a powerful experience with God when Jacob conquered His heart)" (Hosea 12:3-4).

We need to learn how to cry out to the LORD, taking and leaving our burdens before His presence. How wonderful it is to know we can cast all our worries and fears on Him, and He will carry the weight of all our struggles and burdens (1 Pet. 5:7). *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 4:6-7).

One of things my dad, Pastor Efraim Valverde III ministered to us at Lockwood Camp was the importance of having the liberty to ask for help from our parents, and or our pastor. Especially

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## Why can't they erase the jews? Comes from page...10

*shall not be diminished; I will multiply them, and they will not be diminished. And their children will be like the first and their congregation before Me will be confirmed; and I will visit all their oppressors" (Jer. 30:11. 16-20).*

IF YOU THINK THAT THE JEWS CAN BE DESTROYED, LET'S SEE WHAT THE LORD CONTINUES TO TELL US IN THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH. *"Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day, the laws of the moon and the stars for light at night; that part the sea and roar its waves; The Lord of hosts is His Name: If these laws fail before Me, says the Lord, also the seed of Israel shall fail*

*to be no nation before Me every day. Thus says the Lord: If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth found below, then I will reject all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the Lord" (Jer. 31:35-37).*

Every Christian with any capacity for spiritual discernment knows that behind the hatred of the Jews is Satan himself. If anything proves the existence of a personal demon, anti-Semitism proves it. Satan knows that God, through Israel, gave us the Book he most despises, the Book that prophesies his doom. Satan knows that when God came to manifest Himself to this world, He did so in the likeness and appearance of a Jew, among His people Israel. Satan knows well that the precious Blood that ran to cleanse sinners came from the wounds and open side of our Lord Jesus Christ in His aspect of

Humanity, in the semblance and appearance of a Jew (**Jn. 4:22**). Satan knows that the scepter has not been taken from Judah and that the Lion of the Tribe of Judah is the One who will reign over all the Earth. And Satan knows that nothing stops the spiritual blessing from flowing into the heart of a Christian more effectively than the infection with the "Jew hate" virus. May God fortify the spirit of each reader of these lines against the satanic influences already spread everywhere today, which are robbing many churches of the Divine blessing!

May every true follower of the Lord do their best to combat this current wave of worldwide anti-Semitism. Pray for all to find that individual peace with God and serenity of mind that is possible only through faith and trust in the atonement brought to us by the

sacrifice of Jesus Christ nearly 2,000 years ago, as prophesied by the prophets Daniel (**9 :24-27**), Isaiah (chapter 53, why He died, a sacrifice for our sins) and Zechariah (chapter 12, says when Israel will recognize their Messiah).

THIS WORLD OF DISTURBANCES, IN DUE TIME, WILL BE PACIFIED BY THE VISIBLE REAPPEARANCE OF THE MESSIAH OF ISRAEL. MEANWHILE, THERE IS PEACE, JOY AND ETERNAL LIFE AVAILABLE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL HEART THROUGH FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO DIED THAT WE MAY HAVE LIFE, AND LIFE ABUNDANTLY (JN. 10:10).

God bless you. ■

## Comes from page...11

when we don't have the liberty to come before the LORD. We need all the help we can get in our walk with our LORD! The enemy wants to isolate us from our LORD and those who care for us.

There will be dry spells in our walk with God and so many other things that will try to distract or discourage us from crying out to the LORD. Positively responding to these obstacles are will fuel our nearness to Him and spiritual growth. Like the Apostle Peter, the moment he began to sink while walking on water, he immediately CRYED out, saying: *"Save me Lord!" (Matt. 14:30)*. The apostle did not wait

until the water was up to his waist or even up to his neck to cry out to the LORD. He cried out immediately. Many times, we take our eyes off the LORD because of the distractions, temptations, or ambitions of this world, and we begin to sink. LORD, please help us to keep our eyes on You! We must have our eyes *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2)*.

I know how it feels when we feel like we can't go on, but there is a portion in Scripture that has been of encouragement to me these past months, when the apostle Paul asks the LORD to take the thorn (sickness, trial, difficult, etc.) away. After the apostle asks this of the LORD three times,

and the LORD responded: *"My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor. 12:9)*. The LORD allowed this thorn (trial) in the flesh to make him stronger.

Satan wants to paralyze us with spiritual laziness and heaviness! That is why so many young people are experiencing that spiritual heaviness now more than ever. Our enemy knows that he has little time left. So lets *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1Pet. 5:8)*

Finally, I want to remind you that we are chosen, redeemed and loved, let's not let the enemy or

anyone else tell us otherwise; The LORD has a plan and purpose for you. He chose you on purpose! (**Is. 44:1-2**).

I ask you to pray for my family and I so that the LORD would continue to give us strength of His Holy Spirit to continue in this fight, I also ask you to pray for the youth in Salinas. I know that the LORD will pour out of His Spirit to take us to higher levels in our walk and use us so that all the young people who at one time lived for the Him will return!

God bless you!

Your sister in Christ,  
Lillian Valverde. ■



I greet all of our brothers who read this report with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We give many thanks to God for the great privilege of having completed nine years serving the local community in Fresno, California. In celebration of this accomplishment we hosted a fellowship service on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> of this year. God in His infinite mercy and

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA  
Pastor Leopoldo Aguilar

kindness has always favored us with His Presence and continuous blessings. We are extremely grateful to all the saints of the Most High who joined us in this celebrating this special day. We also felt honored

that our pastor Efraim Valverde III was able to be with us on this day. We ask all of our brothers to please keep us in your prayers so that when He returns He will find us the work that He commissioned us to do. The

congregation at Fresno, California also prays for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ around the world.

May the peace of the Lord be with all of our brothers in the faith. All honor and glory be to our Lord Jesus Christ today and forever. Amen.

Pastor Leopoldo Aguilar. ■

I greet you in the Name that is above every other name, the Lord Jesus (Phil. 2:9).

We began the activity by reading Psalm 8 and then the Lord moved me to speak about the type of sacrifice that pleases Him (Ps. 141:2). Next, our pastor, Efraim Valverde III, took the place and ministered to us concerning marriage, focusing especially on the young people who are in the process of forming their own marriage.

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE  
IN THE AREA OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
Pastor Leopoldo Aguilar

During the evening service Pastor Roman Bustillos initiated the activity followed by Brother Antonio Zeferino who led us in songs of worship and praise. After that Pastor Efraim Valverde III took the place and spoke to us

about extremely important information about the current situation in Israel and around the world.

He also spoke to us about maintaining our mind focused

without allowing it to stray (Ps. 119:110). At the end of the activity Pastor Efraim Valverde III presented all the nine pastors who joined together to coordinate this beautiful spiritual event. We rejoiced greatly! May the Lord bless all the pastors who collaborated in this activity and also our pastor, Efraim Valverde III.

Your servant,  
Pastor Alfredo Tienda. ■

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each one of you. We give the Lord thanks that He allowed us the opportunity to gather together once again.

We began the activity on Friday at noon by listening to the Word of God imparted to us by Pastor Jose Estrada and Pastor Carlos Morales. On Saturday morning Pastor Efraim Valverde III shared with us the main article which appeared in the "Maranatha" publication (Jan 2023) entitled "Normal Demon Possessed Persons."

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE  
IN JUXTLAHUACA, OAXACA  
Brother Nestor Quintanar

He shared with us about the importance of understanding that there are actions which appear to be correct or which are not done with an evil intent, but that without being aware we can be demon possessed or controlled by Satan's evil intentions (Mk. 8:33). During the evening service Pastor Alfredo Corcoles shared the Word of God followed by Pastor Efraim Valverde

III who spoke about importance of humbling ourselves before God. He declared that this was the only way we can be protected in our hearts and minds from being possessed or controlled by Satan (Mic. 6:8).

On Sunday morning Pastor Noe Rodriguez taught about the importance of water baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This was followed by baptisms in which Pastor Justino Flores was the baptist.

After this we concluded one more fellowship service by the Grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. I encourage you to press forward, battling every day to try to please our Lord, although at times we may walk through the valley of shadow of death, let us not fear because our Lord Jesus Christ is with us (Ps. 23).

May God bless you.  
Brother Nestor Quintanar. ■



Blessed be the Name of Jesus Christ our God and Savior. I greet all of my brothers in the precious peace which only our great God can give (Ps. 119:165).

I thank God that we could attend this precious youth camp in Lockwood, California. I thank God that since 1980 I have been able to partake of these activities. In those days that we were hearing the Word of God we were ministered to about the importance of being filled with God's Spirit (Is. 44:1-4, 1 Cor. 12, Acts 1:4). We were also taught about the importance of the people of Israel who is God's clock (Lk. 21:24). We were reminded about the events which led to the establishment of the Modern State of Israel (Is. 66:6-10) which was reborn on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948. We were also

## REPORT ON YOUTH CAMP AT LOCKWOOD, CA

Pastor Jaime Vidal



instructed about the recapturing of the Old City of Jerusalem on June, 6<sup>th</sup> of 1967. *"Now learn the parable from the fig tree"* (Mt. 24:32).

Our very beloved brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde III, shared these and many more important teachings. God has used him to continue with the messages that God gave to his grandfather, Pastor Efraim Valverde Sr. The most precious aspect about this camp was the Presence of our God. The Lord used our beloved brother, Antonio Zeferino, our friend and brother, Felipe Nava, the praise group and also all those who participated in the kitchen to minister to us.

God bless you. I ask prayers for my family.  
Pastor Jaime Vidal. ■

May the Lord Jesus bless all of my brothers. I thank God for allowing us to celebrate this service once again which we host with the purpose of giving glory to God and for the edification and blessing of His saints. On Friday our brother, Samuel Quintanar, spoke to us about the influence of the fourth beast and he admonished us to reflect on who is influencing us, God or the world.

Later that day Pastor Alfredo Tienda shared with us about subjection in the system of God. On Saturday Pastor Moises Quintanar spoke to us from the Word of God about seeking spiritual gifts and about being filled with the Holy Spirit. Later that evening the local congregation shared a special song and the children presented a skit. Later, Pastor Timoteo Cervantes

## REPORT OF YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN VILLA JUAREZ, SINALOA

Brother Elias Cruz



provoked us to seek God in prayer. We were able to experience the Presence of the Lord and later, filled with the Lord's joy, we ended the service dancing before the Lord. It was a great blessing. On Sunday Pastor Alfredo Tienda shared instruction from God's Word and then Pastor Timoteo Cervantes led us in prayer and in this manner we ended the service.

I thank God for all of His blessings. I also thank the pastors who supported us with their presence and to all our brothers who also accompanied us in this activity. We ask that you pray for us. My desire is that the Lord Jesus will always bless you.

Brother Elias Cruz. ■



# TESTIMONIES

ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO ISRAEL

each and every place we visited. The Scriptures came to life for me as we traveled to various places. Each part of Israel (both the land and the people) is a testimony that God has allowed as evidence of His faithfulness. Thank God for His people, Israel, who we are now a part of by the mercy of God.

Sister Flora Vargas,  
Tijuana, B.C.N.

God bless all of my brothers and sisters in the Lord. I want to thank my Savior Jesus Christ for allowing me to once again return to Israel.

By God's Grace this was my fourth trip and each trip has been a great blessing to my life as I have been allowed to comfort Zion, the people of God. The harmony and fellowship among the group was also marvelous.

God bless each and every one of us who made this journey. May God also bless our families that could not make the trip and we proclaim: "Next year in Jerusalem." The reality is that the privilege of being in that place is an undeserved gift, because how many people, even among the beloved people of Israel, have not been able to be in the Holy Land. May the Lord help me to treasure this privilege and to not forget that this is all due to His Grace and great love. We are anxiously waiting the Coming of the Messiah! Yes, come quickly, Lord Jesus! Shalom,

Bro. Magdaleno Luna,  
Lone Pine, Ca. ■

God bless you! When we were asked if we wanted to share a brief testimony about our trip to Israel, the first thing that came to my mind was the verse: *"I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. How great are His signs! And how mighty are His wonders!"* (Dan. 4:2-3).

This was a very special trip for me! Sometimes one thinks that only reading the Bible is sufficient, but this is not true, because being in Israel opened up my mind even more to God's Word. This can only be accomplished by being in the actual place where the events and stories we read about in the Word of God took place.

We had not even left Israel and I was already thinking that I wanted to return again next year. I encourage those who are planning on traveling to different places to seriously consider going to Israel. The money or effort you invest to make this trip cannot compare with the blessings that God will give you once you are there. I returned home with a peace that cannot be obtained in any other place.

In conclusion I want to thank God for my dad, Carlos Peña, who paid for my trip to Israel and for my family for all their support. Once again I encourage you my brothers and my sisters so that together with the Lord's help we can exclaim: "Next year in Jerusalem!" Sister Judith Peña.

God bless you. I am extremely grateful to my God for allowing me to be in the Holy Land for the first time. It was a very special to visit





## THE BAPTISMAL SACRAMENT

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr

*“Go ye therefore, and instruct all Gentiles, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19). “And he said to them: Go into all the world; preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16).*

Being aware of the tremendous and universal confusion that prevails, and looking at how little we can do to remedy such a situation, the pressure of the enemy tries to discourage us by telling us that there is no point in us doing our part. But we know that the voice of the Holy Spirit continues to command us to keep saying and doing what has been entrusted to us, until we reach the end, and that is what we will continue doing.

The Scripture instructs us that every word consists of two or three witnesses (**Mt. 18:16**), and that is the reason that has moved us to cite two different portions in the New Testament, where the Lord speaks specifically and emphatically of the BAPTISMAL SACRAMENT. The quoted verses are only the beginning of a series that we will mention in the course of this study, noting that it would be impossible for us to quote them all, since the New Testament Writings are quite extensive with respect to the Baptismal Sacrament.

The first thing that we have to establish clearly is the fact that baptism, by decree of our Lord Jesus Christ himself, is essential to obtain forgiveness of sins and salvation. The believer who truly loves and fears the Lord will seek to do what the Lord orders in His

Word in regards to baptismal command. It was also the Lord himself who said that, *“unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).*

We are aware that many of our beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, across races, borders, and denominations, have been taught the erroneous interpretation that the Sacrament of Baptism is only a form of public profession of faith. However, this is not what the Lord says or what the apostles wrote in their epistles. Thus, over and over again, and many times in the New Testament, we find the established fact that the Baptismal Sacrament is for the forgiveness and washing of our sins, therefore it is for this reason that it is indispensable (please read the following Scriptures: **Acts 2:38 8:16, 10:48, 19:5, 22:16; Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21**).

Baptism is certainly not all there is to salvation, since salvation does not consist of a single operation or a single sacrament, but is a process that begins with hearing the Word of God (**Acts 2:36-38**), and ends with being *“faithful unto death”* (Rev. 2:10). There are some who reduce all salvation to nothing more than the Baptismal Sacrament, and ignore the importance of the new birth and the transformation of the *“new creature”* by the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is not right

(**Jn. 3:1-7; 2 Cor. 5:17, Eph 4:24**). Others, reduce all the salvation to the audible manifestation of the tongues spoken by the person who receives this gift of the Holy Spirit that God has poured out, do not give importance to the life of holiness that, invariably, the Christian must live and this is even more erroneous (**1 Cor. 13:1; Gal. 5:19-24; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Heb. 12:14**).

There are other doctrines and sacraments that are also important in the life of the Christian, but on this occasion, we continue to focus our attention on the topic that we are dealing with right now: The Baptismal Sacrament. This is the ceremony established by the Lord Himself in His Church, to acquire the forgiveness of our sins, the remission of our guilt: THE BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF CHRIST JESUS THE LORD (**Acts 2:38**), which we have already established, without a doubt, is indispensable for the salvation of the soul. We reiterate that if there are those who do not give baptism its due importance, they are not Christians who truly love the Lord and *tremble at His Word (Is. 66:5)*. The believer who truly loves the Lord is unconditionally willing to obey what the Lord commands, and nothing or no one will stop him from obeying Him.

We mentioned at the beginning that we are aware of the tremendous universal confusion that prevails today in the so-called Christian

world in relation to the doctrines of the Bible, and in a particular, with respect to the Baptismal Sacrament. We can't ignore the powerful influence that the determination made at the Nicaean Council in the year 325, when the “Trinity” was officially approved, in addition, the invocation of the titles Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in baptism, and the baptizing of infants (who are innocent) were officially established. Millions and millions of Christians have accepted this Biblically unfounded and unpracticed baptismal formula during the centuries that have passed, without stopping to consider whether it agrees with the original formula in the Holy Word or not. Just as it has been practiced during the centuries that have passed, it continues to be done in this present century (which, by the way, is already the last).

But just as the Word of God can't vary or change, in this same manner, our determination to continue saying what we see and understand in the Holy Scriptures must not change or vary. We cannot and should not believe that it is wasted time and labor to continue clarifying these fundamental truths, because we know that the Lord will once again use our small contribution so that some of our brothers who read this will receive light on the truth in this most important fundamental doctrine as is the Baptismal Sacrament. According to the original pattern taught and practiced by the Lord's apostles in the early Church, baptism is to be administered by immersion (i.e., immersing the penitent completely in water, **Mt. 3:16; Acts 8:38, -39; Col. 2:12**), invoking upon him or her the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:38, 10:48, 22:16**). And





from the precise moment in which the Lord said that, ***“WHOEVER BELIEVES and is baptized...”*** (Mr. 16:16), the Baptismal Sacrament must be administered to the human being of the age and able to believe. The innocent child cannot believe.

We reiterate that we are aware that the Bible has been and is currently being by people who choose to incorrectly interpret Christian doctrines and this should not surprise us, since Satan himself quoted the Holy Scriptures when he wanted to tempt the Lord Jesus on the mount (Mt. 1: 10). Therefore, on this occasion it is not our intention to enter into a long explanatory polemic to try to convince someone with our own abilities, but we are only making a simple and uncomplicated comment, knowing full well that the only One who can convince someone of this truth is our God, who knows the hearts and who can do all things. Furthermore, we are not presenting this subject with a spirit of superiority, believing ourselves to be better, as we are aware that many do, but rather, on the contrary, we give thanks to the Lord, who in His love and mercy has desires to enlighten our minds to be able to see the truth quoted in a clear and simple way. Not as the dogma of some religious organization, but as a decree given by the Lord Himself and His holy apostles.

Our comment is directed (the Lord knows) with the love that Christ has placed in our hearts, for all those who still do not know and serve God, but with even greater love for many of our brethren who today love and serve the Lord Jesus with all their hearts, but who have not yet been able to understand the original truth regarding the

Sacrament of Baptism. We cannot help but feel a pain and burden in our soul when we see many of our brothers, both ministers and members of congregations, using the wonderful Name of Christ Jesus the Lord, for all their actions, their works, their prayers for deliverance and healing, and in all aspects of their lives and ministry. But when it comes to invoking Him in the Baptismal Sacrament, they ignore the most wonderful supreme Name of JESUS the Lord, they deny it and even use it disrespectfully. This has always been something saddening for us to see and hear. Nevertheless, it is the reality before our eyes, and it's not possible for us to ignore it and say that it's not so. It's sad to say that those who act in the described manner aren't few but multitudes, across regions, races, languages, and borders.

We are also aware that many of our brothers to whom the truth that we explain in this article has been presented to them at times in a spirit of arrogance, by those who profess to have the revelation of the Name, and instead of helping their brothers who have not understood this Truth; with their arrogant and condescending actions they have contributed to shut them down and further distance them from this wonderful revelation. Moreover, this Truth has regularly been presented as the property of a “certain” religious organization, and when it has been done and is done in this way, the Supreme Name “which is above all Names, JESUS THE LORD” (Phil. 2:9-10), is inadvertently degraded by believers “of the Name.”

But the Truth of God can't be made vain by human fallacy, and this Supreme Truth in the pages of

the Holy Book, stands tall like a majestic banner in the sight of all who raise their eyes to see the Lord of Glory and announce that ***“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”*** (Acts 4:12). For the truth is not only that “the Lord Jesus saves”, but that “salvation is in the Name of the Lord Jesus”. Our confidence is in the fact that the Lord knows the hearts of the multitudes of His children who love Him, and it is He who in His due time is going to reveal to our beloved brothers the truth of baptism in His Name, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and God.

Therefore, if you are one of those who have already understood it and have not yet obeyed it, beloved brother, our question today is: ***“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”*** (Acts 22:16). It is just and correct to obey God first than men (Acts 5:29), and what has been said is not an idea of men, nor a commandment of men, but rather it is a specific and concrete ordinance given by the Lord Jesus himself, our God and Savior.

My brother, if you love Him, in time you will understand and obey Him. When your time comes from the Lord to do it, do not hold back, thinking about religions or organizations, for it is not to the religious institutions that we are going to give an account to, but to the One who called us: the Lord. Look for a minister of God who will administer the true and only baptismal formula (read **Ephesians 4:5**) and continue to serve the Lord among those with whom you have been serving the Lord with.

Do not be ashamed to confess the Name of your Lord Jesus, which you have called upon in baptism. Surely there are other sincere believers who will also accept this Truth when you present it to them.

On the other hand, you will also meet others who will despise and even hate you for what you have done, despite all this, isn't it a supreme privilege to suffer and to be hated for His Name? And this can happen even among Christians themselves! (Matt 24:9). But you aren't going to do it to belong to a “certain” particular religious group, but in obedience to the Lord, as a member of His Church here on Earth.

If these humble words have had any effect on your spirit and you want more help and information about it, additionally, if you want someone to come to your home to administer baptism in the Name (not Names) of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, which is: JESUS CHRIST THE LORD, look for us, call us or write to us. We are here to serve you with all the love of Christ, without wanting to take advantage of your spiritual need or with any conditions, but for the sole joy of seeing that you obey our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Beloved brothers God bless you all, it's the prayer and desire of your brothers that by the Grace of the Lord we have part in this MINISTRY OF SERVICE that is spread throughout the world, and in which our Lord Jesus is the Chief and Supreme Leader.

God bless you. ■



## BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

discussing the subject of water baptism with the purpose of obtaining members for a certain religious denomination or organization. Rather, my goal is that the obedient Christian, whoever and wherever he is, will receive from God the fullness of His salvation. Now that we are aware of these basic truths, let us now continue in our discussion by considering the following questions.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM?

The Lord stated that *“he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mark 16:16). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, through Peter’s lips, declared: *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you...for the remission of your sins...”* (Acts 2:38). Paul, referring to the Lord’s sacrifice, declares that the Lord gave Himself for His Church *“that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water (baptism) by the Word”* (Eph. 5:26). Peter, referencing the fact that Noah was saved by water in the ark, states: *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...”* (1 Peter 3:21).

### HOW SHOULD WATER BAPTISM BE ADMINISTERED?

Paul explains to us that baptism is a symbol of the burial of one who has died. For this reason he poses the following question: *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were*

*baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death”* (Rom. 6:3). On another occasion he explains to us that we are *“BURIED with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him”* (Col. 2:12). According to these Scriptures, baptism is a symbolic burial through which the believer, now dead to the world (repented) is buried in the waters of baptism and emerges from them, ready to live a new life in Christ. For this reason, baptism should be administered through immersion, submerging the body of the penitent completely in water, according to the example given by the Lord Himself when He entered into the Jordan River to be baptized: *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water”* (Matt. 3:16). Likewise, when Phillip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, the Scriptures tell us that *“they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water...”* (Acts 8:38-39).

### WHAT NAME SHOULD BE INVOKED DURING BAPTISM?

The Lord commanded His disciples to baptize the Gentiles *“in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matt. 28:19), and when the apostles carried out the Master’s commandment, they baptized thousands upon thousands of believers in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They did

not disobey the Lord, as some have had the audacity to say. On the contrary, they faithfully executed His commandment, because they had understood that the “Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” is JESUS the Lord, and that He is ONE. They understood when the Lord told them: *“He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father”* (John 14:9). They understood that *“God was manifest in the flesh”* (1 Tim. 3:16). They understood that the Lord Jesus was Israel’s Messiah, and that He could be none other than God Himself, because there is only one God (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 44:6). They understood that only the God, YHWH, can save, and they were given revelation to understand that the Lord Jesus is that same God, because the Name of God given to men that they might be saved is JESUS the Lord (Acts 4:12). This is the Name “which is above every other name” that Joel mentioned when he prophesied: *“That whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered (saved)”* (Phil. 2:9, Joel 2:32). The following Scripture verses bear witness that the original believers in the Church were all baptized calling upon the Name of Jesus Christ, and never with the titles Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5, Acts 22:16, Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, 1 Pet. 3:21. The baptism invoking the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was not utilized in the apostolic era or in the first centuries of the Church. It was an interpretation which came later as part of the package of many other false doctrines, fruit of the apostasy, which were accepted and confirmed by the Council of Nicea in the year 325 A.D.

The doctrine of baptism is a subject of supreme importance, and has been considered to be so throughout the centuries which have passed since the Church was founded by our Lord Jesus Christ. He himself demonstrated the prominence of this sacrament when he issued the following command: *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:16). He also commanded His apostles to: *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”* (Matthew 28:19). He also emphasized the importance of being baptized, when He traveled to the Jordan River where John was baptizing, and asked John to be baptized Him, saying: *“Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness”* (Matthew 3:15).

Many present-day religious leaders teach that baptism is not truly important; thereby contradicting the same Lord they claim to obey and serve. They are following the example of the Pharisees and lawyers who *“rejected the counsel of God against themselves”* by refusing to be baptized by John (Luke 7:30). Nevertheless, this tract is not directed to those who oppose the Word of God, but to the sincere Christians, who, having a pure and sincere heart, want to obey the Word of God. These Christians are willing to obey God’s commandments, whether they come directly from the Lord or through His apostles, since the Lord bestowed upon them His authority when He declared: *“He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me”* (Matthew 10:40). I must clarify here, that I am not



**TO WHOM DOES THE BAPTISM BY IMMERSION, INVOKING THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, APPLY?**

You, the reader, can find the answer in the Word of God. It is for the Jews (**Acts 2:36-38**). It is for the Samaritans (**Acts 8:14-16**). It is for the Gentiles (**Acts 10:45-48**). It is for believers who have already been baptized with other baptisms (**Acts 19:1-5**). *“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, EVEN AS MANY AS THE LORD OUR GOD SHALL CALL”* (**Acts 2:39**).

In conclusion: My beloved brethren and friends, if you love the Lord and are one of those who are interested in being sure of the salvation of your soul, we sincerely invite you in the love of Christ to meditate on this important doctrinal subject. The message contained within this tract is not merely a denominational point of view, but is a very specific commandment given by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who declared: *“He who believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”*

Note: If you were enlightened by reading this brief tract or if it awakened an interest in you to know more about this fundamental doctrine in the process of salvation, we invite you to visit your brethren at the address listed on this tract or write to the editor of Publicaciones “Maranatha.” ■

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

*“Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”* (**Acts 16:29-31**).

**I** must inform you that this message is not for everyone. It is only for those who are convinced of the fact that none of the many things that this world has to offer can give the peace that their soul desires.

Neither is it written with the intent of obtaining followers by attempting to convince someone to leave their religion to accept a different one. On the contrary, it is for those who have already experienced the fact that no religion can change their lives. This message is intended to help those who, because of the miserable circumstances in which they presently live, whether it is a sickness, marital or family problems, addictions, traumas, prisons or similar situations, have arrived at the conclusion that only God can deliver them.

It is for those who have come to the point in their lives in which they are compelled to ask the same question that the jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas: *“What must I do to be saved?”* If you find yourself in this category, through the love of Christ the Lord, I will explain to you God’s plan of salvation precisely as it is described in the Holy Bible.

**FIRST STEP:** You must acknowledge and confess your misery and need before God, and you must sincerely repent from your sins. Without this fundamental step, everything else you do will be in vain (**Acts 3:19**).

**SECOND STEP:** You must now accept the Lord Jesus as the Savior of your soul. You must believe that by His Grace and His Blood that He shed on the cross, He is able to cleanse all your sins, no matter how filthy they might be (Isaias 1:18).

**THIRD STEP:** You must believe that by doing the previous step, this is proof that you have become a partaker of the miracle of having been *“born again”* (John 3:3), which is the same miracle as having been *“born of God”* or *“begotten of God”* (**1 John 5:18**).

**FOURTH STEP:** It is now imperative for you to be immersed in the waters of baptism just as the Lord was, making certain that when you do so, the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ is invoked upon you (**Acts 2:28 and 4:12**).

**FIFTH STEP:** Being now a *“child of God”* (**1 John 1:12**), a *“new creature in Christ”* (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), allow the Lord—who now lives within you—to direct you in how you must live, what you must do and what things are not beneficial to you.

**SIXTH STEP:** The Lord has promised to give each of His

children the power of His Holy Spirit to help us to overcome and to give forth the *“fruit of the Spirit”* (**Galatians 5:22**). Ask the Lord to give you this gift together with the evidence of *“speaking with other tongues”* (**Acts 2:4**).

**SEVENTH STEP:** Exercise yourself in reading the Word of God so that you might grow spiritually and become grounded in your faith. Occupy yourself as much as possible in serving others, thereby doing God’s work.

**FINAL STEP:** now try to live the rest of your life in peace and in holiness, loving everyone, and being in communion with those who love the Lord as you love Him now. Seek out as much as you can the fellowship of those who live *“looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”* (**Titus 2:13**).

**CONCLUSION:** Even though we may not know you, the Lord knows who you are, and our prayer is that He will bless you. We also ask our Lord Jesus that He will work in your life, praying that the plan described in this tract will bring the change in your life that you greatly desire. If the Lord places in your heart the desire to receive help from us in any way that we can, please contact us. We are here to serve you ■

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FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN  
DOCTRINE

The LORD our God is one  
LORD (Dt.6:4)

God is not a Trinity  
(John 1:1, Col. 1:15)

The Supreme Name of our  
God  
Is the LORD Jesus Christ  
(Phil. 2:9)

Baptism is by immersion  
(Rom. 6:4)  
In the name of the LORD  
Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38)

The Holy Spirit of God  
manifests itself by means of  
the fruits (Gal. 5:22-26)  
The gift of the Holy Ghost by  
the evidence of speaking in  
tongues.

Seeking to live a sanctified life  
is an imperative requirement  
(Heb. 12:14)

The Church is ONE and it  
belongs to the LORD  
(Matthew 16:18, Acts 20:28)

The Church of the LORD is  
not a religious organization,  
It is the body of Christ  
(1 Cor. 12:27, 2 Tim. 2:19)

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