

THE BIBLE MAGAZINE



Vol.23 Issue No.2

April 2010

BUILDING UP ZION





“Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion. But they know not the thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor.”
Micah 4:11,12

WRITTEN OVER 100 YEARS AGO

John Thomas: Describes the coming transfer of power **PAGE 3**

PROPHECY FULFILLING

David Billington sees the fulfillment of prophecy in controversy about settlements upon the mountains of Israel today. **PAGE 4**

In this edition of the **MILESTONES UPDATE** by **Don Pearce** the attention is upon Germany, Europe, the Vatican & Russia. The rift between Israel & the U.S. **PAGE 14**

Paul Billington presents an article about the building up of Zion. Unseen by the world, the hand of the Lord is at work **PAGE 18**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

A BIBLE MAGAZINE REPORT on **The 2010 Jerusalem Conference** features an address by an Israeli archaeologist whose work has been on the Temple Mount **PAGE 24**

EXHORTATION

A few words about depression & despair and where it should lead us. **PAGE 12**

THE BIBLE VINDICATED

The truth of the prophecy of Daniel and Jesus is seen in fallen stones around the temple platform today **PAGE 31**

Ron Kidd sees an amazing correspondence between dinosaurs and the dragons of the Bible **PAGE 6**

DOCTRINE

Art Bull has another section in his series on “The Personal Devil & his Companions” **PAGE 26**

BACKGROUND HISTORY

The King of Jerusalem by B. Edwards considers the counterfeit claimants to Jerusalem’s throne **PAGE 28**

Ken Loveridge writes about the entry of the Romans into the Land under Pompey **PAGE 34**

EDITORIAL

Our views can be shaped by the Bible or by the media **PAGE 32**

REGULAR FEATURES

Food For Thought **PAGE 11**

Quotables: from various writers **PAGE 23**

Prophecy Days & Events **PAGE 33**

BACK PAGE FEATURE The shocking Electric Eel

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17



COVER

18

Above: Entering the controversial suburb of Ramat Shlomo, East Jerusalem, where plans to build Jewish homes have caused a serious rift between Israel and the United States. See article on BUILDING UP ZION



6

Ron Kidd considers the mystery of the dinosaurs in the light of the Bible. What can we learn about these creatures?



14

In his Milestones Update, **Don Pearce** draws our attention to the growing power of Germany in Europe. One of the many “milestones” of prophetic fulfillment today.



24

An address by Gavriel Barkai given at The Jerusalem Conference this year is reported and transcribed for the information of our readers. He dealt with matters related to his work as an archaeologist.

“...remember the LORD afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.” *Jeremiah 51:50*

By Paul Billington BRANTFORD.

Building homes for the Jewish people in the Biblical lands of Judea and Samaria (the so-called West Bank), and in the city of Jerusalem, has become a red rag to the European bull—as well as to the United States and much of the rest of the world. This is because there is a determination on the part of the nations to establish a Palestinian State in the Biblical heartland, and to award much of Jerusalem to it as the capital. While there is much talk of restarting “negotiations,” the fact is that the outcome to be forced through is a “two-state solution” in which Israel gives, and the Palestinian Arabs take. That is the so-called ‘Peace Process.’

This is what the world sees as justice. The Arabs who sought to destroy the Jewish State in 1967 are to be rewarded with financial aid and a new Arab country—whereas Israel must pay the price for winning that 1967 war, and surviving. The Government of Benjamin Netanyahu has been forced (by the Obama Administration) to freeze building new Jewish homes in all of the so-called West Bank whereas Arabs can—and do—build as they choose.

The Hand of God

There can be no understanding of the Arab-Israeli dispute if we leave aside God—and His word, the Bible. It is not a matter of politics. Human reasoning alone, and its view of justice, cannot possibly comprehend the grand purpose that is unfolding through the events of the Middle East during the past century. The fact is that the Jewish people who were scattered among the nations of the world for some 2,000 years are returning to their ancient homeland. This has happened in the face of enormous opposition from the world—and what is more, it has come to pass in fulfillment of the writings of the prophets. The world does not wish to recognize this fact, but the history of the past century demonstrates the Truth of it. Consider the vast movement of Jews from Europe before, during and after the Second World War—together with the conditions of that exodus—and see it alongside passages from the Bible, such as:

“Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he” (Jeremiah 31:8-11).

We must see that a partial fulfillment of those words were exhibited in the waves of



By Paul Billington BRANTFORD.

BUILDING UP

immigration to Mandatory Palestine—and after to Israel. The Return has continued to the present day—they have come from all parts of the world. Surely the LORD is building up Zion, and the building of Jewish homes in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem today is part of the picture. The nations of the world may be opposed to it—but this is the Hand of God! The prophet Isaiah wrote:

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isaiah 11:11-12).

Israel's Challenge Today

In view of the clear evidence of God's Hand being at work in these things—why would Benjamin Netanyahu freeze building operations in Judea and Samaria today? The present writer had the opportunity to put that question to a member of the Israeli parliament (the Knesset) a few weeks ago. Visiting MK Yaakov Katz at his home in Beit El, we asked about Netanyahu's



The author interviews Yaakov Katz, a member of the Israeli parliament, at his home in Beit El and asks about

FORD ON.



P ZION



Member of the Israeli parliament (Knesset) discussing the Government's building policy

decision to freeze settlement building. He replied as follows:

“That was a very bad decision, not for Am-Israel (the people of Israel). Israel will overcome, because we see as in a graph that since we came here we are always growing—we are growing and growing; and when we are suffering we are growing even more.

“For instance, in this case, when Netanyahu decided about the freeze, we knew of the idea and started to build many, many houses before the freeze. If you go around you will see that construction. So as to the question of how many people will live here (Beit El is in the West Bank), we will have millions of Jews who will come back to Israel. Judea and Samaria will very soon be full of Jews, just as in the other parts of Israel. Nobody can stop it because it was spoken by God through the prophets—and the words of the prophets will become a reality.

“I do not think that it is good for him (i.e. Netanyahu) when Jewish history—world history—will be written that he as Prime Minister gave orders to the Jewish people not to build, just because they are Jews. For ten months they are not allowed to build, but Gentiles are allowed to build.

“We suffered from such discrimination in Europe, in Germany, in Russia and in many other countries during the time that we were in the diaspora. No one can believe that the Prime Minister, who considers himself to be a nationalistic man and obtained votes from the people who he now represents—and even me a member of the Israeli parliament and head of my committee—I recommended him, and I am supposed to be one of the ministers in his cabinet!

“He did something that no Prime Minister ever did before by limiting the time (for building). This again shows you how that the human being is weak, and how much help we need from God to overcome.

“Netanyahu was under heavy pressure from Obama and from others. But there are a few things that you have to say, I'm not doing—and he didn't have the strength to stand up.”

MK Katz said that every time the United States forces Israel to surrender land for “peace,” it is followed by rocket attacks and civilian casualties. His message was clear: the Jewish people must trust in God and not in weak human leadership.

Bible Connections

The reference made by Yaakov Katz to the word of God spoken by the prophets, shows us the connection that many Jews in the Land today make with the Bible. For many this ancient Book is their title deed, and their presence in the Land today is the Return that was prophesied.

This connection is strengthened by the archaeological discoveries that link them to the Biblical history of ancient times. For example, a news story in February focussed attention on a wall that was said by archaeologist Eilat Mazar,

to date to the time of King Solomon and which is mentioned in 1 Kings 3:1, (and in chapter 9:11-15). The report (*Jerusalem Post*, Feb. 23, 2010) said:

“Ancient stone fortifications that were recently uncovered outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City date back some 3,000 years to the time of King Solomon and support the biblical narrative about the era, according to archeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar, who spoke to a group of reporters at the site on Monday. “If the age of the wall is correct, the finding would be an indication that Jerusalem was home to a strong central government that had the resources and manpower needed to build massive fortifications in the 10th century BCE.”

This news item is published at a time when the Jewish people are engaged in an effort to unite Jerusalem and identify it with its Biblical past history. The wall (and gateway) was actually uncovered some years ago and reported in the *International Jerusalem Post* May 10, 1986.

Today, it is important politically, for Jews to



CONNECTING WITH BIBLICAL HISTORY

Archaeologist Eilat Mazar points to an ancient wall in Jerusalem that she says was built at the time of King Solomon

establish the Biblical connections, because there are those that deny that link, claiming that “the existence of a powerful monarchy in Jerusalem is largely mythical.” This is seized upon by Arabs who seek to deny the Jewish connection with the Land.

Uniting Jerusalem

When we attended the Seventh Annual Jerusalem Conference this year we heard Nir Barkat, Mayor of Jerusalem deliver the opening address under the heading “Uniting the City of Jerusalem.” He outlined plans for building in the city, saying that it was to benefit all—Arabs and Jews. He said:

“This plan clarifies to all why there is no alternative, but to leave Jerusalem united. Any other solution, practical or ideological, will not hold water. Our objective is to unite Jerusalem as described before” (in his speech



RAMAT SHLOMO: A CONTROVERSIAL BUILDING SITE IN EAST JERUSALEM



***A LINK WITH FIRST TEMPLE TIMES:
SOLOMON GATEWAY FOUND IN 1986***



***MAYOR OF JERUSALEM NIR BARKAT:
UNITING THE CITY OF JERUSALEM***

touching on education, transport, tourism etc. etc.).

The next speaker, Natan Sharansky (a former government minister and now head of the Jewish Agency) was very direct. He said:

“When I left the Government I said Jerusalem must not be divided again. I did not want negotiations over Jerusalem... There is no way that dividing Jerusalem can bring peace, it can only bring war. The world blames us for everything. I can’t understand it... the world is against us.”

The fall-out that has since been reported in the media over Israel’s plans to build in Jerusalem demonstrates that uniting Jerusalem is going to be a formidable challenge. When Sharansky said that “the world is against us”—he could well have paraphrased Zechariah 14:2, “all nations against Jerusalem...” That is the direction in which events seem to be heading.

For many Jews in the Land today the Bible is their title-deed to the Land. It is also the basis of their claim to the city of Jerusalem, the capital of the kingdom of David and Solomon. That is why the archaeologist’s reference to King Solomon’s wall (mentioned earlier) is important. If the Bible is true then there is a clear link to the Jewish people and their vision of the restoration. That connection is confirmed when evidence of Solomon’s temple is produced—and that was the subject of another speech at the Jerusalem Conference given by Dr. Gavriel Barkai—archaeologist and Director of the City of David Temple Mount project. His talk is reproduced in this issue of the *Bible Magazine*, page 24.

Discrediting Evidence

On one occasion we submitted ourselves to a guided tour of the Temple Mount led by Sheikh



NATAN SHARANSKY: “THE WORLD IS AGAINST US.”

Abdul Aziz Bukhari. There was no evidence that he knew of, to suggest that a Jewish temple had ever been built on the site, yet Abraham had built a mosque there, he said. And that is the Arab line—flying in the face of archaeology, history (e.g. Josephus) and the Bible.

How on earth do the Jewish people deal with such a denial of the facts? We heard the story from an interesting man in the settlement of Shave Shomeron in the northern part of Samaria. David Ha’Ivri (his name means David the Hebrew) told us that the Bible states that the Temple Mount was purchased by King David (see 2 Samuel 24:21-24), and that is where King Solomon built “the house of the LORD” (2 Chronicles 3:1-2). He went on to say:

“The Moslems who *de facto* control the

Temple Mount are, unfortunately, allowed by the Israeli Government to do what they please on the site.

“They have carried out criminal acts, destroying the most important archaeological site in the world—using bulldozers to dig out areas under the Temple Mount in order to construct the largest indoor mosque in the region. They have taken earth and rubble, trucking it out and dumping it in the Kidron valley.

“The State of Israel has very strict laws regarding the preservation of archaeological material, and it is forbidden by law to dig, and to take away anything that you find. Archaeological finds belong to the State of Israel—to the Government—and it is a criminal offense to steal the archaeological riches of the Land. Unfortunately, these laws have not been imposed on the Temple Mount.

“Archaeologists and their helpers, who sifted through the earth that was dumped in the Kidron Valley were arrested by the police for sifting the debris. I have dealt with all this in my book, *Reclaiming the Temple Mount*.” (Note: a license was granted later, in 2004).

So Temple denial is a growing phenomenon. Whenever a discovery is made that supports the Biblical account, there always seems to be someone on hand to cast doubt upon it. It was so with the Tel Dan ‘House of David’ inscription, with the list of Temple repairs ordered in the reign of King Jehoash (2 Kings 12:11-12) and currently with the Royal palace of King David, as well as Solomon’s wall and gatehouse mentioned earlier. When it comes to denying the existence of the First and Second Temples, the whole game becomes fanatical and bizarre. It is a denial of reality, of Truth itself. Yet this is what



SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ BUKHARI: NO EVIDENCE OF A TEMPLE



DAVID HA'IVRI: “MOSLEMS DO WHAT THEY PLEASE.”



VOLUNTEERS SIFT THROUGH RUBBLE FROM THE TEMPLE MOUNT: THOUSANDS OF ARTIFACTS DATING TO THE FIRST TEMPLE HAVE BEEN FOUND

Israel today is having to deal with.

There is then, a determination on the part of some to oppose Bible Truth in the interests of retaining reputations, power and control—whether political, religious, ideological or professional. This must, ultimately, lead to a crisis. As was said many years ago—Facts are stubborn things, you cannot just wish them away!

Building Jerusalem

The Psalmist wrote:

“The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel” (Psalm 147:2).

Building a city is a work of time—and so it has been with the building up of Zion. Anyone who takes the trouble to study the history behind the return of the Jewish people to their ancient (and Biblical) homeland, must conclude that it is a miracle of supernatural proportions. This is no mere accident of history—it is not a long string of coincidences as we look back on the events of

the past century, and the gathering together of the outcasts of Israel. Step by step we have witnessed the building of the nation, and it has been according to the Divine pattern as expressed in Exodus 23:30 and Deuteronomy 7:22. This last passage reads:

“And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.”

First, God used the British to drive out the Turk. Then the British were removed from the Land. The massive movement of Jews to the Land continued and the amazing War of Independence gave Israel their sovereign foothold. The attempts made to destroy Israel through terrorist activity and outright war only strengthened their presence in the Land, until in 1967 they occupied the Biblical heartland itself; Judea, Samaria (called the West Bank by Jordan) and the city of Jerusalem were occupied by Israel. This was followed by Jewish settlement in the area—and as Yaacov Katz pointed out

“Since we came here we are always growing—we are growing and growing...” Now, another crisis seems to be unfolding as Israel is determined to build Jewish homes in parts of Jerusalem claimed by Palestinian Arabs. Thus, against the background of confrontation and controversy we see the physical building up of Zion “by little and little.”

As we observe this process today and the mounting opposition to it by the nations, we should understand that another kind of building is going on at the same time. The character of the nation is being built. As MK Yaacov Katz said: “When we are suffering we are growing even more.” There might be more to that statement than he realized. Suffering (tribulation) shapes character—and it can do so in a nation just as it does in individuals. For one thing it makes us realize “how much help we need from God...”

This is another dimension to the history and experiences of the Jewish people. Their dispersion and suffering has had a profound effect upon many of them. The ghettos, the

persecution, the Inquisition, the Holocaust and the traumatic birth of the nation—all of it has been shaping the national character. There has been punishment, yes; there has been chastisement—but such a view is not the complete picture: The Scripture says:

“My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth” (Proverbs 3:11-12).

That passage is quoted again in Hebrews 12:5-11, but we should not miss the application to God’s *national* son, Israel (Exodus 4:22-23). This is all God’s work and through it He will perfect the nation, and *they will praise Him for it.*

In Psalm 102 we find it written:

“When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD” (verses 16-18).

So a people are being created—Zion is being built up in more senses than one. Many will doubtless have fallen by the wayside, but “the remnant shall be saved.”

The Unseen Builder

“Every house is builded by some man” says Hebrews 3:4, “but he that built all things is God.” So the truth is that “the LORD shall build up Zion” and when he does so, says Psalm 102:16, “he shall appear in his glory.”

But this glorious appearance cannot mean that the Almighty Creator of the universe will appear in person, for as He told Moses (Exodus 33:20), “there shall no man see me and live.” Further, the Psalm is not referring only to the LORD’s glory, for it says “*he shall appear.*” This has to be referring to a manifestation of the LORD (Yahweh), as when “the angel of the LORD appeared” to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush (Exodus 3:2), and said (verse 6), “I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” The angel could speak as the representative of God, for as Moses was told in Exodus 23:21,

“Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: *for my name is in him.*”

In a similar way, Jesus of Nazareth said that he represented his Father: he said “I am come in my father’s name” (John 5:43), and again: “the works that I do in my Father’s Name” (10:25).

Now the disciples of Jesus understood that he would “restore again the kingdom to Israel” (Acts 1:6), or in other words build up Zion. This is a work to be done in his Father’s Name, in fulfillment of what was spoken through the Prophets. Jesus told his followers: “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18), so that we understand that he is now the one who is controlling events according to the plan given to him by the Father—and that plan includes the restoration of Israel. As the prophet wrote (Isaiah 49:5-6).

“And now, saith the LORD that formed me

from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.”

The work of bringing Jacob again, and of raising up the tribes so as to restore the preserved (i.e. desolations, ruins) of Israel is the work of the “servant,” the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and His Holy One.

Here then is the unseen builder of Zion, the now immortal King of Israel who has been gathering his nation, even though as yet they cannot recognize him. As Israel faces her enemies she is being taught to trust in God—not in man. As the LORD says through the Prophet:

“Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, *I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me*” (Isaiah 49:12-16).

When the enemy comes into the Land, he will be expelled by tremendous power that shall then be unleashed. The LORD will appear in his glory. The scene was described many years ago by John Thomas in his exposition of the Apocalypse:

“All the men that are upon the face of the land shall shake at his presence.” “And his feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives, which shall cleave in twain.” “And he will plead against Gog with pestilence and with blood; and rain upon him and upon his bands, and upon the many people with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.” Thus shall Jerusalem and the Holy Land be delivered from “the kings of the earth and of the whole habitable” confederate with Gog. They will fall upon the mountains of Israel, and upon open field, and a sixth part of them only will escape. Thus all the catholic and protestant, and Mohammedan, heathen will see the judgment executed upon them; and “the house of Israel will know that Yahweh is their Elohim from that day forward.” Therefore “sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. Yahweh hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the King of Israel, Yahweh, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more”—Zeph. 3:14, “then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more”—Joel 3:17.”



“...there can be no kingdom without the restoration of the Jews. There are those in our day who deny their restoration. This is proof-positive that they do not understand the gospel, which is the glad tidings of the restoration of the kingdom again to Israel, and the blessedness of all nations through their government: for, we repeat it, “Salvation is of the Jews.”

JOHN THOMAS,

The Faith in the Last Days (page 194)

“...unless we saturate our minds with the law and the prophets, as well as the apostolic writings, we shall never develop warmness of heart, and a real affinity with Israel.

GRAHAM PEARCE,

Do You Understand the New Covenant?

“The desolation of Edom, that is still a monument of God’s indignation to all that pass by, speaks not only of the past, but of the overthrow that awaits the great anti-Jewish world of the latter days.

G.C. WALKER,

The Ministry of The Prophets (Isaiah).

“The Apocalypse is a great deep. There is a wisdom and a beauty in it that imparts an ecstasy of admiration when the mind opens to them. It not only imparts knowledge of the future, but it does so in a system of symbolism that is symmetrical in structure, complete in plan, distinct and vigorous in detail, and perfect in the appropriateness of its figures.

ROBERT ROBERTS,

Thirteen Lectures on the Apocalypse



AT THE JERUSALEM

BIBLE MAGAZINE REPORT

ADDRESS BY ARCHAEOLOGIST DR. GAVRIEL BARKAI DIRECTOR OF CITY OF DAVID TEMPLE MT. PROJECT



This address was given in Hebrew; the following transcript is taken from the translation provided.

Ladies and gentlemen: on the topic of what is happening here in Jerusalem and in Israel, the international media, the general public and we ourselves too have somehow missed the point. We have missed something that is happening and it is a serious point. What I am referring to is that alongside the armed intifada, there is also a cultural intifada. The cultural intifada finds expression in tangible ways as much as the armed intifada does.

The tomb of Joseph was one of the first (cultural) sites attacked, and afterwards other sites were attacked like the synagogue in Jericho, the synagogue in Eshtemoa. The synagogue in Aza (Gaza)—with the archaeological remains.

This cultural intifada—its main purpose, is to undermine the right of the Jews to the land of Israel by denying the temple. It is known as *temple denial*. This is of the utmost importance to us. The Temple Mount is the very heart and soul of the people of Israel. Israeli history is firmly tied up with the Temple Mount. From the 1990's on, this has been one of the unfortunate results of the Oslo Accords: this ever growing trend of temple denial.

I go to universities all over the world. I go to these places and people ask me, "What proof do you have that there ever was a temple, a Jewish temple in Jerusalem?"

And I answer: "What proof do you want to prove that water is wet?" What is wet? Everybody knows it. The same is true for the

temple. It should be known to everyone.

They want tangible evidence. So what happens? The State of Israel ceded the Temple Mount to the Waqf in 1967; to the religious Moslem authority—the authority over the Temple Mount that has existed for a hundred years and more. The Waqf is bent on refusing to allow people to conduct archeological diggings on the Temple Mount, and this has totally obscured our knowledge of it. Now we don't have the knowledge of *that* Jerusalem (to enable us) to draw maps of the changing boundaries of the city over the years and years of its existence.

The Moslem Waqf is trying to have it both ways. On the one hand, not allowing archaeological digs, on the other hand proclaiming that no relics have been found attesting to the existence of a Jewish temple. They say, Show us one single remain of Solomon's Temple. Show us one single remain of the Second Temple on the site of the Temple Mount. I say of course I will show you something if you let me dig there, but no, they don't let anybody dig there.

Temple Denial is bound up with what Minister Begin (previous speaker at the Conference) said before about the post modernist trend. The facts? don't let the facts bother you!

What is important is that we have two paleographical findings that deny the entrance of non-Jews to the Temple Mount.

From the Second Temple on, not only the

Western Wall but all four walls of the temple (platform) are standing to this day. In the Givat HaMivtar area a sarcophagus was discovered from the First Century B.C. bearing an inscription. And the person buried there was proud of taking part in building the temple. It says, "Simon built the temple." That is Jerusalem's temple.

These findings contrast with the Arab story that we have heard before. There are two accounts: the Palestinian/Muslim story which is being adopted on a large scale by anti-Israel western forces and is becoming stronger and stronger among innocent people who do not know the actual facts. They don't know that the historian Flavius Josephus described the Second Temple. They don't know anything about Massechet Middot. The fact that Middot,... the Mishnah described the temple—they don't understand. They don't know about Solomon's Temple. The Bible describes it, but they say it is one big fiction. The Bible, that is a religious book. They say we made it all up. They dismiss everything as being the religious invention of mystics.

Temple Denial is becoming stronger and stronger so the officials of the Moslem Waqf along with many others speak about the "purported temple" that the Jews had. Mahmoud Hamdi Zaqqouq, the Egyptian Minister in charge of the Waqf—the Moslem religious authority—said Jews have no connection whatsoever to the Western Wall. They never had any holy link to that site. The Jews have no claim to any purported temple any where at all in this city. He said that in April 2001.

In the Summer of 2000 there was a press conference. Yasser Arafat, not of blessed



Mount is a microcosm of the entire Middle Eastern conflict. Just as Jerusalem is the heart and soul.

Unfortunately I have to say that Jews play right into the hands of temple deniers. The very fact that people are willing to be content with the Western Wall as the remains of those times and forget that the Western Wall derives its sanctity from the temple and the Temple Mount. It has no significance on its own. It is an external wall of the Temple Mount.

Some people say, "Well, let the Arabs have it. We don't care about the Temple Mount. Let them have everything except the Kotel, except the Western Wall." So along with some rabbis, they cling to the Western Wall and play into the hands of temple deniers because the rabbis say it is forbidden to ascend the Temple Mount.

There are Halachic rulings, and there is evidence of rabbis enabling ascent to the Temple Mount, but all the rabbis these days lean right towards... they're scared. They're scared, that's all. And we are playing right into the hands of temple deniers on this point.

I want to say this with the utmost seriousness. This trend of temple denial, even though it appeared earlier, gathered force in the 90's when a physical change was made resulting from the status quo on the Temple Mount. Instead of two major Moslem edifices the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Temple Mount Mosque, we now have four buildings there. Temple Mount, Al Aqsa Mosque, the Musalla Marwan, which is the huge one. The huge mosque in Solomon's stables, and another one. There is room there for 10,000 people, more than three times the number of people that can fit into the Binyanei HaUmah Conference Centre. This is an extremely significant change to the physical status quo on the Temple Mount. And it has brought about our helplessness with regard to the denial of the sovereignty of the State of Israel over these places.

Let me be even more blunt. Denying the temple is even a worse crime than denying the Holocaust. I am fully aware of the severity of what I am saying. In Jerusalem everything is political. What you do, what you don't do. It is all political here in Jerusalem. Everything is intensely political. If you sneeze it is political. If you sneeze on an Arab, on a right wing Jew, on a left wing Jew. Everything is political in Jerusalem, hence my comparison in drawing this analogy. I don't like to speak about the Holocaust but I have to say something personal here. The year I came to Jerusalem is now 60 years ago. But I am 43, so that is a bit strange isn't it? 43 years ago I ascended the Temple Mount for the first time and that is why I count my age from then. When I came to Jerusalem 65 years and two weeks ago, I was released from the Budapest ghetto by the Soviets. I was born in the ghetto. And as a baby I wore a star of David, a yellow star of David on my baby clothes. I can attest

that there was a Holocaust. I was too young for personal memories but my mother wrote a diary in the ghetto—and I have it. I have photographs of the Soviet officer holding me. A Colonel—a Soviet Colonel—who held me on his lap. There are films. There are concentration camps, there is evidence. There is testimony.

Nothing like that exists for the temple. Nobody has seen the temple with his own eyes. In a few years the same will hold true for the Holocaust. The "purported" Holocaust. The very fact that the civilised world accepts temple denial, the very fact that I have to provide evidence to journalists that the temple existed, that it is not obvious in itself. These are very difficult things that are happening. And with this point I would like to move on to a more pleasant point.

For five years now I have been sifting the earth that the Waqf dumps from its excavations



Rubble from Waqf digging on the Temple Mount awaits removal

on the Temple Mount (see photograph on page 22). Under Ehud Barak as Prime Minister there was authorisation for 400 truck loads of earth to be brought from the digging—the Waqf digging on the temple mount. With this wealth—a richness of archaeological findings—we are trying to do our best to get something at least out of this archaeological crime. This terrible crime.

The whole world is up in arms against Afghanistan where they shattered two statues of the Buddha. But when bulldozers broke into the Temple Mount—it is political. It is not cultural, so nobody cared about the Waqf's bulldozers. And from this earth we have removed thousands and thousands of artifacts: 15,000 of them can be dated to the First Temple. Some of them are bullae, that is seals, and Immer for example was one family of Kohanim, of priests, who were in charge 2,600 years ago on the Temple Mount. This seal from the time of Jeremiah has the name of Ga'alyahu ben Immer, who was apparently a brother to Pashur ben Immer according to the book of Jeremiah. He was an official. Some kind of official in the house of God. This person was from the Temple of Solomon.

memory, spoke at that press conference at Camp David. He was asked, "What about the Jewish bond to the Temple Mount at Jerusalem?" He said—he was typically nodding his chin emphatically—he said "Temple, temple, I don't know anything about any temple! Nothing! No temple! Maybe in Nablus. Maybe Nablus," he said.

In another interview Arafat claimed that the Jews never had a temple in the Land of Israel, ever. This is the "purported" temple approach of the Arabs. This term also serves Dr. Yusuf Natshah, the chief historian of the Waqf. He speaks of the temple that never existed, and I am sorry to say that this is temple denial. This is an important point of principle because the Temple





A SHOCKING TAIL OF WOE FOR EVOLUTION



It may seem a bit fishy if we claim that the ugly brute seen here is the biological counterpart to a rat zapper. The electric eel has “unique organs *made of* electroplates which are located in rows” says the New England Aquarium. “The electric eel generates its characteristic electric pulse in a manner similar to a battery, in which stacked plates produce an electrical charge. In the electric eel, some 5,000 to 6,000 stacked electroplaques are capable of producing a shock at up to 500 volts and 1 ampere of current (500 watts).



So how did this “unique” creature and its electroplates evolve? The rat zapper requires 4 AA batteries, but this eel carries its electric supply in its tail and can deliver lethal discharges to stun or kill its prey. What a tale! It really is stunning to realize that this all developed before man learnt how to generate electricity. The eel had its electroplates while man was still using candles! Once again we see evidence of an all-wise Creator.