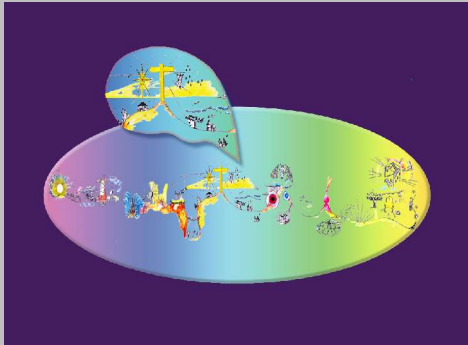


平成20年 2月 月報
フルダ・ミニストリー

一主に在る
とこしえの集い

HEBRUARY 2008

NO 148



Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testaments) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

www.huldahministry.com
information@huldahministry.com



HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

[SALVATION FOR ALL
THE NATIONS]

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD during the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah: "Go to the Recabite family and invite them to come to one of the side rooms of the house of the LORD and give them wine to drink."

So I went to get Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah, the son of Habazziniah, and his brothers and all his sons – the whole family of the Recabites. I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the room of the sons of Hanan son of Igdaliah the man of God. It was next to the room of the officials, which was over that of Maaseiah son of Shallum the door-keeper. Then I set bowls full of wine and some cups before the men of the Recabite family and said to them, "Drink some wine." But they replied, "We do not drink wine, because our forefather Jonadab son of Recab gave us this command: 'Neither you nor your descendants must ever drink wine. Also you must never build houses, sow seed or plant vineyards; you must never have any of these things, but must always live in tents. Then you will live a long time in the land where you are nomads.' We have obeyed everything our forefather Jonadab son of Recab commanded us. Neither we nor our wives nor our sons and daughters have ever drunk wine or built houses to live in or had vineyards, fields or crops. We have lived in tents and have fully obeyed everything our forefather Jonadab commanded us. But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded this land, we said, 'Come, we must go to Jerusalem to escape the Babylonian and Aramean armies.' So we have remained in Jerusalem."

Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying: "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Go and tell the men of Judah and the people of Jerusalem, 'Will you not learn a lesson and obey my words?' declares the LORD. 'Jonadab son of Recab ordered his sons not to drink wine and this

command has been kept. To this day they do or drink wine, because they obey their forefather's command. But I have spoken to you again and again, yet you have not obeyed me. Again and again I sent all my servants the prophets to you. They said, "Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and reform your actions; do not follow other gods to serve them. Then you shall live in the land I have given to you and your fathers." But you have not paid attention or listened to me. The descendants of Jonadab son of Recab have carried out the command their forefather gave them, but these people have not obeyed me.'

"Therefore, this is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'Listen! I am going to bring on Judah and on everyone living in Jerusalem every disaster I pronounced against them. I spoke to them, but they did not listen; I called to them, but they did not answer.'" Then Jeremiah said to the family of the Recabites, "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'You have obeyed the command of your forefather Jonadab and have followed all his instructions and have done everything he ordered.' Therefore, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'Jonadab son of Recab shall never fail to have a man to serve me.'"

JEREMIAH 35.

The Muslim taxi-driver on the way to Heathrow airport was very eloquent and confident in explaining his beliefs and many times expressed how happy he was being a Muslim. He was a polite, friendly and peace-loving man, who claimed not to drink at all because of the Islamic law and have never been seduced by alcohol. For him, adhering to the strict teachings of Islamic law was not a burden, but rather, something he saw as key to his own and social well-being. While listening to him I was reminded of the account of Recabites in the Bible, quoted at the beginning.

'*Jonadab*', the leader of the unique nomadic group '*Recabites*' shows up in the Scripture around 850BCE in the reign of King Jehu. He is known to be a Knite; the same tribe that Jethro, Moses' father-in-law belonged to. The Knites, though they were not Hebrews, were very prominent in purging the northern kingdom of Baal worship, and when the northern kingdom was destroyed by the Assyrians they moved south to be assimilated into Israel and lived in the land of Judah. Jonadab established some rules in the nomadic tribe such that they would neither build houses, nor grow wine or any kind of crops. The Recabites, even some two hundred and fifty years later, were amazingly faithful to their forefather's instructions to maintain their nomadic existence. Jonadab's instruction of banning all sorts of sedentary occupations in this world and his descendants' obedience to their parent's commands, both significantly echo Moses' law. In comparing the Recabites and His people Israel, the Lord made an issue out of the big difference in their faithfulness to their instructors. In the time of the prophet Jeremiah, the princes of Judah were all disobedient in keeping the covenant, and actually their utter disloyalty to the Lord had continued for hundreds of years throughout almost the entire history of Israel. Accordingly, the Lord declared that the disloyalty of Judah would be punished while the fidelity of the Recabites to their leader would be rewarded. At the end, the Lord made a puzzling remark by saying: '*Jonadab son of Recab shall never fail to have a man to serve me.*' While the term "serving me" usually implies a priest-hood in the Jerusalem temple, there are some references to duties to kings, to prophets and to patriarchs in the Scripture. The Jewish Mishnah interprets the Lord's words as the fact that the Recabites were given special duties to perform in connection with the Jerusalem temple after the return from Babylonian exile. Some Jewish commentator interprets it: 'The Recabites will be members of the Sanhedrin, or their daughters will marry Kohanim (Levite's priestly family) and their grandsons will serve in the temple.' It would be highly probable that having been commended by the Lord of Israel, the Recabites later would be incorporated into the tribe of Levi so as to devote themselves further to the true God in line with his His prophetic declaration.

Although the taxi-driver with whom I conversed on the way to Heathrow introduced himself as a liberal Muslim, probably meaning that he respected all other faiths, his faith in a god of Allah and his faithfulness to the regulations seemed not to be swayed by any external cause. I wondered how the Lord finally leads those faithful believers of pagan gods to the knowledge of the true God. He might somehow give them a chance to be directed to know the truth, just as He did with the Recabites.

The majority of people in the world seem to assume that Islam is a peaceful religion. Despite the fourteen hundred years of violent history of Islam, and recent Islamic terrorists' offensive methods of attack; suicide bombings, assassinations, and military operations, the news media still tends to view Islam as positive and harmless. Nevertheless, we cannot turn a blind eye to some of the dangerous beliefs that the Muslims believe in and claim: 'Global peace can only be reached with the conversion or submission of all human-beings to Islam, and if non Muslims submit to conversion or subjugation to the Islamic faith, there will be peace pursued, if they do not, Muslims are obliged to wage war against them.' It is apparent that their violent attacks especially on the Jews and Christians are not Muslim's simple defence to protect their faith, as they claim.

Lately, it seems that a number of world leaders are increasingly engaged in discussions about the crisis in the Middle East, and the rise of Muslim fundamentalism, using a lot of apocalyptic language. Joel Rosenberg who has worked for some of the world's most influential and provocative leaders as a political columnist for the '*World*' magazine, presents some up to date and relevant questions about what the future holds on the basis of biblical prophecies ('*Epicenter*' Tyndale House Inc.)

1. How serious is the current nuclear crisis with Iran? Is there any way to avoid a direct military confrontation? Or is another cataclysmic Middle East war just around the corner? And if so, how will such a war change our world? 2. Why is Russia selling arms and nuclear technology to Iran, given the seriousness of the present situation?...Have Russian leaders in the post-soviet era given up their dreams of dominating the world, thus ensuring that the twenty-first century will be a time of global stability and security? Or is the Kremlin destined to lurch back to totalitarianism, rebuild its military, and once again set its eye on the oil rich nations of the Middle East, as it has so many times in the past? 3. What is the future of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the post-Arafat world? Is there any hope real peace and reconciliation between Israel and her neighbours in our lifetime? 4. What is the future of Iraq in the post-Saddam world?...is there any real hope for peace and prosperity in Iraq, where the West has invested so much blood, sweat, and financial resources? 5. Will a resurgent and increasingly radicalised Islamic movement established the worldwide caliphate, or global empire, of which its leaders dream and for which they pray and fight?...

In light of the recent worldwide developments in which Muslims are getting more involved than before, it would be worth understanding the background of the Islamic beliefs.

The Islamic religion started when Muhammad proclaimed the Koran to be God's ultimate revelation, and in 610CE Muhammad announced that he was the final prophet of God, and that having been given a new revelation of truth, he superseded the previous revelations recorded both in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Without the backing of written prophecy about all his claims and himself, he boasted that the Koran was the original revelation of God and that it was the Old and New Testaments that changed what had been revealed in the original koranic revelation of God. Thus, for centuries, followers of Muhammad adopted their founder Muhammad's illogical claim of the Koran's authenticity and superiority to the Bible. When it comes to the historical fact that the Bible was written far earlier than the Koran and compiled far before Muhammad and his religion's existence, Muslims are quick and subtle to refer to the advantage of 'updating'. In fact the Muslim driver did exactly this, and argued for the superiority of an updated version, in rhetorically questioning: 'Won't you put more trust in updated information than an outdated one? Who prefers outdated revelation? The same is with the Koran. Koran is the most updated final revelation of God, and most trustworthy among anything else. But the Bible is outdated and redundant.' His logic was not of his own but something that has been taught for centuries by his forefathers.

Muhammad kept peace with others and devoted himself to the teaching and persuasion after professing himself as the first and last prophet of God. In his early ministry, he endured being a minority. He expected other religious believers to turn to Islam through his gentle manner of teaching and behaviour. However, unable to perform any divine miracles or healings written in the Scripture, he failed to convince them after three years of devoted teaching at Mecca. After the failure he had to flee at night to Medina, where his religion eventually succeeded in adding a fairly large group of converts. In Medina, Muhammad completely changed his teaching and started using military methods to expand Islam, which he called 'jihad'(holy war). His changed teaching can be traced in the Koran

itself as well, which not only teaches 'jihad' but also provides instructions for war. Then Muhammad massacred the Jews who had for centuries lived in peace with Arab neighbours in Arabia when they refused to abandon their faith in Yahweh. Once he gained superiority in a military force he broke a ten-year truce with the Koreish tribe governing the area around Mecca, and superseded the tribe.

It was not until 622CE that the armies of Islam set out to conquer pagan Arabs and Jews who lived around their first- and second-most holy cities; Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. These cities were much more closely associated with Muhammad and his disciples, and yet, Jerusalem, which they claim as their third-most holy city was not so relevant for them at the time. However, Muslims believe that Muhammad supernaturally visited the sanctuary in Jerusalem and departed in a spiritual journey to the seventh heaven from the rock under the roof of the Dome of the Rock. This is one of the reasons why Jerusalem became so important after the death of Muhammad despite the fact that Jerusalem is not specifically mentioned in the Koran. After his death in 632CE, within a century Islam rapidly expanded from the Ganges River in India to the north of the Spanish Peninsula, and then swept across north Africa, Turkey, Asia, even going as far as Indonesia and Malaysia. Among the six requirements of Islam, the sixth pillar, 'jihad' seems lately to have been most magnified. Extremist Islam believers are said to be called to kill those who reject Islam, eventually aiming for the total destruction of Judeo-Christian democratic cultures. No matter how peaceful the religion may appear to be, there is a dangerous call based on a fundamental principle of Islam: 'Any territory that was ever under Islamic rule can never be surrendered to non-Muslims'. Throughout her history, Israel has been targeted for oppression and threats of destruction.

After 1948, when the modern State of Israel was created, Jews living in Arab countries started being forced to abandon their possessions and flee to Israel. The hatred against the Jews still exists today even after the horrific holocausts in the last century and its increase is reported throughout the world, in that Jewish synagogues and cemeteries are being targeted for desecration. All such occurrence is exactly as it is prophesied in the Scripture as the signs of the end times, culminating in a massive military invasion of Israel by '**Gog and Magog,**' as prophesied in Ezekiel 38&39. Many believe that this invasion will involve the armed forces of Islamic nations, led by the Russian military with many allied forces. However, the Scripture also says that this invasion is to be allowed by God Himself so that he will finally reveal His power by delivering Israel from the enemies' hands. By causing a great earthquake and confusion in the minds of enemies, God will defeat the invading forces from the north as illustrated in Ezekiel: '***In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the fields, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. Every man's sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulphur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.***' (38:19-23).

Excitingly, however, Ezekiel foretells here that many people will see the Lord's awesome power through the war and they will repent of their sinfulness. Thus, many Islamic nations will know that God of Israel is the only true God, by seeing the prophecies of the Bible coming true before their own eyes, and only then, will they realise that the majority of prophecies in the Koran was actually derived from the prophecies in the Bible. Also they will realise for the first time that Jesus Christ died on the cross for them, and also rose from the dead for them. If many Muslims are spiritually to be awakened in this way and turn to Christ before the final war on earth, called 'war of Armageddon,' it would be wonderful. Even today, as if hinting at a coming mass of conversion in the Islamic world (although it is not openly told by the mainstream media) but a dramatic spiritual revolution is already under way throughout the Islamic world. That there are more Muslims turning to Christ in the Middle East especially since 11th September 2001 is really encouraging good news.