



Sun rise over the east side of the Eternal City.

Israelnews, March 2011

## “A Little Horn” arising out of Persia

### Destroying Israel with peace!

*“I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words” (Daniel 7:8).*

The so-called peace process has stalled again because what Israel is required to give is a “bridge too far.” The idea of a two-state solution is seemingly dead. Adding to the instability in the region has been Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s recent visit to Lebanon, where—with Hitler-style ranting—he once again called for the removal of Israel from the regional map. He even visited the border with Israel to express his contempt for the nation and deliver his call for jihad. There, he lauded Hezbollah as a shining example of “resistance,” and hailed Lebanon as the world’s training ground for jihad.

If the truth be known, there never was a real agenda for two states living side-by-side. As far back as 1994, PLO chief Yasser Arafat declared that, “piece by piece, we will destroy Israel with peace!” This took place mere months after he shook hands with Yitzak Rabin on the White House lawn. Thus, there has been and is a “no-state” solution—meaning **no Jewish State**. It is to be replaced with another totalitarian Islamic dictatorship. This is the goal, and the Iranian axis will not give up until it is realized.

So Ahmadinejad stood on the border of Israel and proclaimed, in the name of A---h, the imminent disappearance of Israel. This is the same man who is tolerated by much of the global community and welcomed at the UN. He deems its sanctions weak, and anyway believes that the Iranians must expect difficulty in order to defeat the “Zionist infidel.”

### Encircled by enemies

So while the world watches, Iran has entrenched itself to the north, south and east of Israel. It has proxies in Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas, and has now forged a new alliance with Turkey. This means Israel is being encircled by a predator. There is no doubt that Israel’s enemies are feeling emboldened, given the failure of the international community to effectively rein in Iran’s nuclear ambitions or the growing menace of Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza.

Some 2,600 years ago, the Hebrew prophet Daniel saw a vision of a “little horn” arising out of Persia. This “horn” depicted a vile person who spoke blasphemous words and challenged the very existence of Israel (Daniel 8:9–10). As Daniel watched, this evil figure was cast down without human agency and the kingdom was assured to Israel (Daniel 8:25). While the original “horn” coming out of Persia (Iran) was Antiochus IV Epiphanes, about 167 B.C., it is true that this individual served as an archetype for “little horns” to follow. Daniel’s unique vision appears to embrace our times, and thus serves as a warning to those who would seek to destroy Israel. They may prosper for a time, but in the end they will fall, and the purpose of God for and through Israel will triumph.

According to Daniel, one of these “horns to follow” will serve a god of war, or jihad! (Daniel 11:37–39) It is therefore a comfort to know that the God of the Bible watches over Israel day and night, and that no weapon formed against Israel will prosper. This just means that there is nothing bigger than Israel’s God in the universe! Once you know this, faith is just a small step!

*(Excerpt from The little horn by Rev. Malcolm Hedding, Executive Dir. of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, published in The Jerusalem Post International Edition, December 2010.)*

# Please pray for rain!

## God, the Jews and rain

It's official—the Israel Meteorological Service is predicting that rainfall will be lower than in previous years, resulting in a crisis in the country's water supply. The Kinneret is 20 centimeters lower than in November, and has passed all red hazard lines. The water sources of the Taninim Stream have reached their lowest ebb ever.

While Israel may be known as a “land flowing with milk and honey,” it is not a country surging with water. According to the Talmud, if no rainfall has occurred after the 17<sup>th</sup> of Cheshvan (late October), individuals can take it upon themselves to fast and pray. If by next month no rain has fallen, we have a communal crisis.

Rain in the Promised Land plays an essential role in the covenantal relationship between God and the Jews. Not only do we live in a country that depends on Him for rain, but God's gift of rain is conditional on the fulfillment of our covenantal duties. God holds the key.

On the third day of creation, the Bible states: the earth brought forth vegetation, herbage yielding seed (Genesis 1:12). Yet, in Chapter 2 of Genesis, it says “No shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no herb of the field had yet sprung up; for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.”

## Man was created to pray for rain

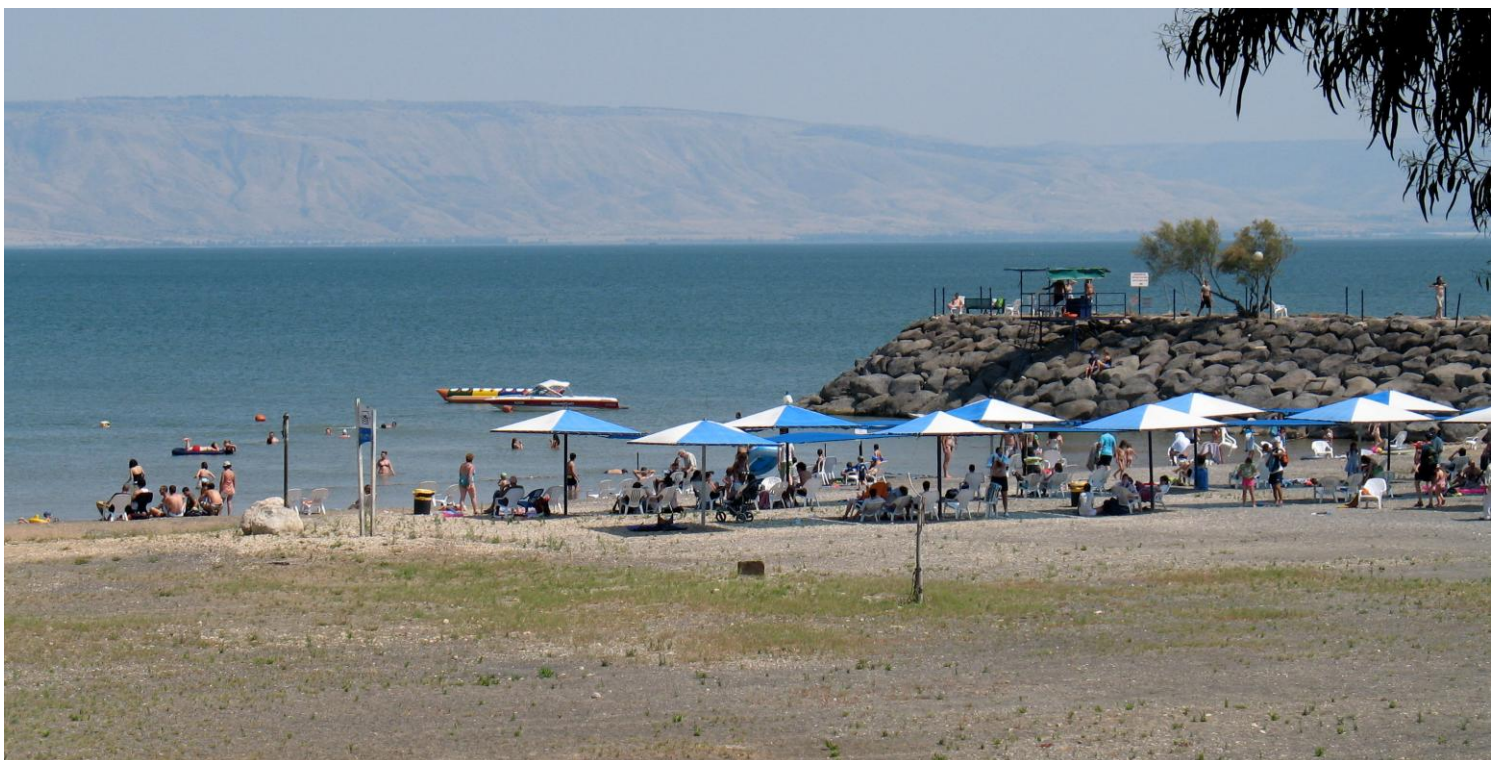
The Talmud answering the apparent contradictions says that the vegetation was just below the surface, and only when man was created to pray for rain did all the foliage materialize. From this we learn that God desires prayer.

The first prayer in history was one for rain; however, it did not fall until Adam asked for it. Imagine that! **Blessings are waiting just around the corner, but they won't come until we pray for them.**

Despite all our technological advancements, we cannot control the elements. Our human power is limited, and we must recognize that our very lives are a gift from God. Rain in Israel serves as a reminder of our covenant with God.

As watchmen on the wall for Zion, I beseech you to assemble prayer groups around the world and pray for a rainfall that will be a blessing for Israel—one that will allow Deuteronomy 28:12 to be fulfilled: “God shall open for you His storehouse of goodness, the heavens, to provide rain for your land in its time, and to bless all your handiwork. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.”

*(Excerpts: David Nekrutman, Executive Dir. of the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding & Cooperation in Israel. Mr. Nekrutman spoke about Jewish-Christian relations at CFI's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in June 2010 in Jerusalem.)*



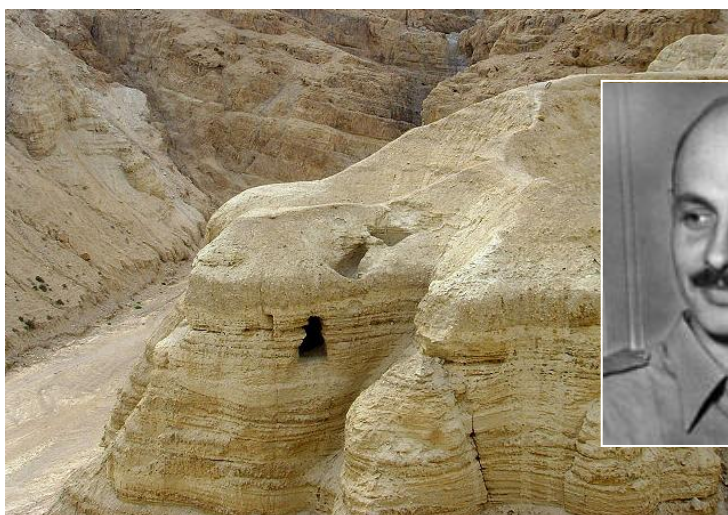
*The receding water of the lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) has passed all red hazard lines and left behind large areas of dry land.*

## Who were the people living in Qumran?

### Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Biblical scholars have now had 60 years to research the scrolls hidden in caves close to the Dead Sea Qumran community. The question of which Jews lived there 2,000 years ago is still the subject of controversy.

Ever since early 1947, when three Ta'amireh Bedouins discovered large clay jars containing ancient scrolls in a cave close to ruins of an abandoned community at Khirbet Qumran, the 150-year-old field of scientific Biblical research has sought to re-examine all the accumulated knowledge in light of these new findings. In 1952, Bedouins discovered another cave with a number of additional texts, and in 1956 they found cave 11Q. Israel was fortunate to purchase some of the scrolls and bring them to Jerusalem through the efforts of Prof. Eliezer Sukenik of the Hebrew University and his son, archaeologist Yigael Yadin.



A view of the cave cliffs and archaeologist Yigael Yadin (insert).

For the past 60 years these scrolls have been studied by scholars, and have proven to be a historical, philological and religious treasure. They were catalogued and photographed, and became a valuable guide for the study of Jewish Second Temple times—an original witness of the past. The 1991 release of the complete set of photographs of all scrolls ended the fight for access. Their successful restoration put an end to undue expectations; today we know much more about the sect that lived and prayed at Qumran and called itself “Yahad” (together, a commune).

Now we know that Qumran settlers were most likely members of the Essene movement, as described by Josephus, Philo Alexandroni and Pliny the Elder and proposed independently by Prof. Eliezer Sukenik in 1948.

### The Qumran sect and Christianity

Today, however, we understand that while the Qumran group lived according to the Essene principles, administered a rigorous entrance test for admission, shared one purse and imposed communal ownership, enforced restrictions of marriage, divorce and celibacy and insisted on the rules of cleanliness, it was a separate body, established by their leader, Zadok. This *Teacher of Righteousness* was a priest who no longer adhered to the rules of the Second Temple and together with a group of pupils had fled from Jerusalem to Damascus before settling at Qumran. The sect cherished Enoch 1 (the Ethiopian version) that is a collection of five independent books. Post-Maccabean Judaism is divided into three trends: the Samaritanism, Zadokite Judaism and Enochic Judaism by Prof. Gabriele Boccaccini (A study of *Beyond the Essene Hypothesis*.)



The Cave 4Q where a complete Isaiah Scroll was found.

**It was out of Essenism that some scholars trace the development of Christianity.** The *Teacher of Righteousness* and his group of selected individuals lived like the early Christians in their own closed community and shared Messianic dreams and hopes—in an attempt to bring a better world nearer by their own strict behavior. The Qumran sect survived the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem by at least a millennium, and served as the basis of the faith of Anan, the father of the Karaite movement. Josephus may have oversimplified the Second Temple religious movements by dividing them into three main ideological groups of Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes. The real world was much more complicated.

(This article is based on Alexander Zvielli's views, published in *The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition*, November 2010.)

## Communities under fire

### Weapons formed against Israel

While 2011 has just started, the pace of Gaza attacks against Israel is well ahead of last year's average. According to a news report from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), eleven projectiles were fired at southern Israel in the first week of 2011. Rockets and mortar shells were launched into the Eshkol, Ashkelon and Negev Regional Councils that are home for over 30,000 people. The IDF holds the Hamas terrorist organization solely responsible for maintaining the calm in the Gaza Strip and for any terrorist activity emanating from it.

Life in Israel's Gaza border communities is difficult. It takes only one rocket to destroy a house. Also, the same rocket can destroy an irreplaceable life or cause life-long physical and emotional wounds. Children suffer most with learning and behavior problems. Many become so traumatized that they need additional care, such as the *Sadna* program for special-needs children.



*Entrance to a kindergarten in Sderot. Many of the youngest children there only know time when they run into a safe room as rockets are raining down on their neighborhood. In the past three to four years thousands of rockets have hit Sderot causing loss of life and destroying homes and other buildings.*

The massive wildfire that consumed communities and much of the Carmel forest reserve in December may have been started by accident, but the dozens of other fires were what some are calling a new "arson uprising" against Israel. While nearly all of Israel's firefighters were battling the blaze in the north, no fewer than 25 fires were purposely set in forested areas ranging from the northern town of Kiryat Shmonah to Jerusalem. The "Peace Forest" outside Jerusalem was targeted by arsonist at least 18 times in November. Only recent rains have halted additional fires.

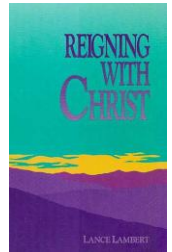
## Bible teaching to live by

### Treasures from Lance Lambert's books

Lance, one of the most distinguished Bible scholars and speakers in Israel today, celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 5<sup>th</sup>. To honor Lance we offer a selection of his books with this February newsletter. You may order using the enclosed form or visit our web site at [www.cfi-usa.org](http://www.cfi-usa.org) and look for the new **Shop** for books, DVDs and CDs.

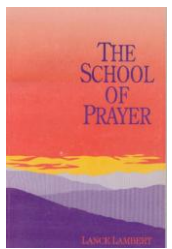
#### **Reigning with Christ** (B7)

Through twelve messages Lance reminds us that the calling of God for man is that we should have dominion over all things that God has created. \$12.00, 294 pages.



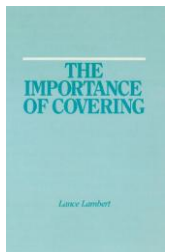
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Lance shares how corporate prayer—that is so little understood and so little taught—and more specifically, intercessory prayer, are vitally needed today. \$12.00, 200 pages.



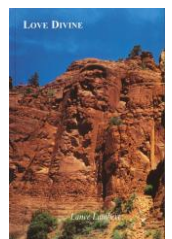
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*We thank the Lord for Lance's ministry. Order now while these titles are available at [www.cfi-usa.org](http://www.cfi-usa.org).*