



The Nile River in Cairo

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A new era for the Middle East ?

The ancient land of pharaohs

When President Hosni Mubarak stepped down on February 11 and handed over power to the military, his nearly three decades of iron rule over Egypt had come to an end. Calls for his resignation had been repeated around the world, including the U.S. In the midst of the turmoil and rioting, a former Israel Defense Forces' General, Labor Party Chairman and Cabinet minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, made the following comments:

“When I watched his [President Obama's] speech in which he said President Mubarak would step down, it pained me to see his collapse. President Mubarak stood by our side for 30 years. He was a strong leader. He kept proudly to [Anwar] Sadat's commitment and followed in his path. Mubarak always emphasized the strategic importance of peace with Israel, and that this peace was the basis for stability in the Middle East. Americans don't realize what they've done. We remember what was said when [President Jimmy] Carter proposed that the Shah of Iran give up nicely and allow Khomeini to take his place. In Gaza, too, when the Americans came in, they supervised the democratic elections [by which Hamas came to power]. If there are elections in Egypt the way the Americans want, I will be surprised if the Muslim Brotherhood doesn't win. This will be a new Middle East—radical, Islamic and extremist.”

The main issue

It took a long time for Israeli government officials to realize that Islamic fundamentalism was and is the main factor in the Arab world's rejection of a Jewish-run state in the heart of the mostly Muslim Middle East. In the same fashion, it took a long time for American and European government officials to acknowledge that Muslim fundamentalist groups were serious when they contended that Islam must and would prevail over the West in the struggle for world

domination. It is not a coincidence that the previous Arab world's leaders attempted to prevent a Jewish state from being formed. Today the Mosque-going Muslims have a visceral hatred for Israel based mainly on their faith, and a vast majority of observant Muslims resent the powerful U.S.—again based mainly on their faith. The same is true with most of the anti-government protestors in Jordan, Yemen and elsewhere. Will Egypt eventually break its peace treaty with Israel? One may hope that in the end, the American-funded and trained army will not allow it to take place. Currently the military is in charge in Egypt.

Christians should be worried

The Copts in Egypt are the largest Christian community in the Middle East. They constitute 8-10 million of the total population of about 80 million Egyptians. The riots have led to new attacks on Egyptian Christians with church burning and even brutal attacks on Christian families. The Christians believe that Mubarak kept the radical extremists at bay and fear that they are in danger after Mubarak's departure. A mass exodus of Egyptian Christians may follow in the near future.



The Media has downplayed any signs of anger and resentment toward Israel and the U.S. in their coverage of the riots.

Egypt as Israel's neighbor

Throughout history, up until the present day, Egypt has resolutely set itself against the purpose of God concerning the Jews and has tried, time and time again, to destroy them. During the 1967 Six-Day War, Nasser's overwhelming military strength sought to destroy Israel and her people. The same was true in 1973 when Egypt, with its various allies, attacked Israel on Yom Kippur day. Israel survived both wars.

In 1977 then-President Anwar Sadat made an official visit to Israel as the first-ever Arab leader. With the Camp David Peace Accords a year later, peaceful relations have characterized the relationship between Israel and Egypt.



The famous handshake on the White House lawn: President Anwar Sadat, President Jimmy Carter and Prime Minister Menachem Begin at the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty in 1979. The Treaty has lasted unbroken for 32 years.

Blessed be Egypt my people

When Joseph and Mary, with their baby son Jesus, escaped Herod's fury, Egypt gave them shelter. This act of mercy is not forgotten. Egypt has a glorious future. Isaiah 19:20 and 22–25 hold God's promises for the riot stricken land:

It will be a sign and witness to the LORD Almighty in the land of Egypt. When they cry out to the LORD because of their oppressors, He will send them a savior and defender and He will rescue them. In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and in that day they will acknowledge the LORD. They will worship with sacrifices and grain offerings; they will make vows to the LORD and keep them. The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance.

(Resources: Arutz Sheva—On-line news, David Dolan—Crisis in Egypt, Caroline B. Glick—Israel and Arab democracy/The Jerusalem Post and Malcolm Hedding—Egypt, the great antagonist of Israel. Photos: Wikipedia Commons/Creative Commons—Licensed for public use.)

The third and final stage

Islam's attempts to take over the world

The first attempt was the Battle of Tours in 732 A.D. The European Christendom forces were untrained and poorly prepared for the battle with disciplined and well trained and armed Muslims forces. But the Battle of Tours went for the forces of Christendom and the extraordinary thing was that Islam was routed, turned back into Spain and Portugal, and there it remained in the Iberian Peninsula for 200 years. It was finally forced out from the Peninsula into North Africa, where it stagnated for hundreds of years. If the Muslim forces had won, then of course the Vatican would have been destroyed, and there would not have been the Reformation with Martin Luther. Muslims would have crossed over the channel into Britain and taken over the British Isles.

The second attempt, the Battle of Vienna in Austria, was as late as 1693 A.D. Once again the Christendom forces were expected to be defeated and the Ottomans to conquer the whole world. Only by the grace of God did these two attempts fail. Had the Muslims won this second attempt, then probably the Pilgrim fathers would have been Shia Muslims fleeing from Sunni Muslims, which would have meant that North America would have been colonized by Muslims. It is an amazing fact of history to look at it in this light.



The World Trade Center prior 9-11.

In my estimation we are now in the third attempt. It began with the 9-11 attack upon New York. That was the "opening shot" of the third and final attempt of Islam to take the whole world. It is not so much a war as money and human reproduction. It is estimated that the EU now has 35-70 million Muslims and many are citizens of these nations. If and when Turkey joins the EU, another 70 million Muslims will be added to its population.

(Excerpts of Lance Lambert's October-November 2010 Update message. Order a CD copy for \$7.00 or print the transcript at www.cfi-usa.org or e-mail to cfiusa@cfi-usa.org.)

The writing is on the wall

Inscription who can read?



Writing on the wall at Belshazzar's feast by Rembrandt. Wikipedia Commons, public domain.

Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of thousand. When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the Temple [of Solomon] which was in Jerusalem, in order that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought the gold vessels...They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone” (Daniel 5:1–4 NAS).

In consequence of this, during the festivities, a hand was seen writing a mysterious sentence on the wall of the chamber, “*Mene, Mene, Tekel Upharsin.*” It defied all attempts at interpretation. Finally by the Queen’s advice, Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, was brought into the palace and he gave the following interpretation:

God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. You have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. Your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians (see Daniel 5:25–28 NAS).

Consequences of human actions

In the heart of London within the recesses of the National Gallery, a painting by the great Rembrandt solves the riddle to the Book of Daniel. In this depiction of King Belshazzar’s feast, the artist shows the moment when a hand appeared and wrote on the wall a phrase that only Daniel could decipher. Daniel becomes the key to understanding the encryption. King Belshazzar knew the past because of how God judged his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar for pride, yet he still took silver and gold vessels from God’s holy Temple and used them in the orgy that exalted pagan gods. The king dared God, and He called his bluff.

The rubble of history should be the greatest indicator that pride and taking God out of the equation does not bode well for any empire. The tendency of every great nation is to believe it will always be a superpower. In the end, God judges every nation to see if its technology or power becomes a new Tower of Babel.

As people who believe in the God of Israel, we must read the writing on the wall. We are accountable for our actions, and should serve to glorify His kingdom on earth. There will be a judgment based on what we have done with what we received from our respective faith communities. In a time of post-modernism, God is being sidelined from society. All is relative! We must rescue God and bring Him back into our national conversation.

We have an opportunity to demonstrate that religion can be a force to repair a broken world and help the global community understand that the God of Israel is the One who truly represents peace, justice, compassion, morality and love. Just as God humbled proud kings of old, He can humble modern nations and peoples. We must, therefore, incorporate the first rule of spiritual life: **God is God, and we are not.** The rest is commentary.

(Excerpts from The writing is on the wall by David Nekrutman—The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition, October 2010. Photo below is a panoramic view of the reconstructed City of Babylon that was built on top of the ancient ruins in Iraq.)



Wall of prayer in the nations

A Shield for Israel

In the earlier years of CFI, while working with many Russian immigrants, we came across an eye-catching article in a Russian language newspaper. A journalist had written an article about CFI and entitled it *A Shield for Israel*. They saw us—Christians from the nations—as being a spiritual shield over the nation of Israel. Since natural walls are usually made of brick or stone and solidly set in the ground, a spiritual wall must be anchored in the truths of faith, from the Word of God; i.e., the promises of God to this nation of Israel. When a spiritual wall is securely set, fewer breaches in the wall are possible.

This admonishes our Watchmen around the world to stand strong, with their Shield of Faith held high. Armor is usually strapped to the arm to give protection against hurled weapons. I think of the phylacteries religious Jews wear, which symbolically are to be a Scriptural protection for their hearts to help them be obedient to God's commands.



Pastor Mark at the Wall wearing phylacteries for a prayer.

Jewish men use them during morning and weekday prayers as a reminder of their religious duties. As Watchmen for Israel, remember daily your responsibilities to guard and defend the nation through prayer and intercession. You are the eyes to the blind and strength for the weak, and a shield for the defenseless.

Intercessors need to watch the news and never forget their post duties, being careful not to fall asleep during watches. Thank you to everyone on the Wall of Prayer (project) in many nations. To sign for this project, please e-mail to prayer@cfijerusalem.org. (*Sharon Sanders, CFI Jerusalem.*)

Ministry work in the nations

When you pray, please include all the 25 CFI ministries that support the work and projects of the Headquarters in Jerusalem. We now cover most of the globe, including Africa, Europe, Far East, Israel-Middle East, North America and South East Asia. Cover in daily prayers the leadership and staff of CFI in Jerusalem. Thank you, dear friends!

This Year in Jerusalem

Making history in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon...

Plan to be with us from May 25–June 5, 2011 on a tour to Israel. There is no time like the current to show our support to the Jewish people. Call 1-800-336-2876 for airline seats and 1-704-552-1283 for the Israel land tour. We are here to make it happen. Shalom!



Group members at the Western Wall Plaza in 2010.

Plant-a-Tree to reforest Mt. Carmel

Over 5.0 million trees and 15,000 acres of natural woodland were destroyed in the Mt. Carmel fire. We need to keep the memory of the forest alive as it rehabilitates itself by the Mighty Hand of God. You can help this process by sending a gift to support the **Carmel Forest Fund** Project. Donate by mail or at our web site. We thank you for your efforts in rebuilding northern Israel. (*Burned forest near Isfiya, Mt. Carmel.*)

