

## The Decade in Review

General Convention 2010

## The Approach - The Last 10 Years

- The World
- The United States
- Israel
- Christendom (Babylon)
- The Truth Movement

## On the World Stage

- Natural Disasters
- Terrorism & Fear
- World Finances
- Climate Change Controversy

## Natural Disasters - Matt 24:7, 21

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

21 for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.

## Natural Disasters

- Earthquakes
  - China, Haiti, Chile etc...
- Floods (Tsunamis) and Storms
  - Indian Ocean Tsunami
  - Mississippi River
  - Katrina ...
- Volcanic Actions
  - Discharge Clouds - Iceland (air traffic interference)
  - Lava, Mud & Debris Flows

## Terrorism & Fear

- 2000 Bombing of USS Cole
- Muslim Shooter at Fort Hood
- Subway Bombing and Gas attacks
  - London, Tokyo & Madrid
- Recent failed attacks
  - Christmas Day and NYC Times Square failed bombings
  - Deportation of Cold War type Russian spies

## Luke 21:26 (KJV)

- Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken
- Terror replacing fear of the Cold War turning nuclear

## Al-Qaeda and a decade of terror

What has been the impact of al-Qaeda and its affiliates on Britain and the world? And have government responses to Islamic threats made the situation worse, asks Michael Burleigh.

By Michael Burleigh  
Published: 8:07AM GMT 07 Dec 2009  
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Terrorism in the UK 

Editor's Choice 



## World Economics & Finances

- Failing Euro
  - Not the key to Euro Dominance in Global Economy
- Entitlements -- Out of control
  - Portugal, Italy, Spain & Greece (PIGS)
  - 32 hour work weeks
  - 8-12 weeks vacation
  - Pensioned retirement when in early 50's

## Global Warming (formerly) - now Climate Change Controversy

- Resultant Controversy
  - Protect the environment
    - ---or---
  - Tax Modern Countries into 3<sup>rd</sup> world standard of living
- What should be our attitude/position?
- What consequences are likely or possible

## The United States

- Changing Political Winds
  - Conservative to Liberal (and back again?)
  - Future Impact of Rapidly Falling Administration Approval
  - Likely continue shifting of power of parties (its all about the economy stupid)
- Financial Problems
  - Bleak Economic and Employment Outlooks
  - In effective Stimulus Spending and ballooning Deficits
  - Entitlement Funding (SS, Health Care, Housing)

## Financial Problems

- Unprecedented Deficits (% of GDP)
  - Historically 5%
  - Now approaching 15% (lead to confiscatory taxing?)
- Unrest if There is a Shift from Current Policies?->World
  - Taxing carbon (and most things with a VAT)
  - Increasing (or Decreasing) UN support/commitments
  - Investment/Employment Stagnant Due to Uncertainty

## Israel

- Anti-Semitism
  - Rise in Acceptability - Why?
    - UN discouraging or encouraging?
      - Economic reasons (Oil Dependency)
  - Rise in Muslim Influence in World Politics
- Satan's Influence in this Time
  - Growth of anti-Semitism seemingly disproportionate
  - Jealousy of high tech leadership

## Genesis 6 - Satan's Children

6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

6:4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

## High Tech

- Israel becoming new "Silicon Valley of the World"
  - Becoming a "World Financial Envy"
- High tech knowledge from Russian Jews
  - >800K have returned
  - Expect another 1M
  - Return of Russian Jews (Growing absorption-How?)
  - Eze 38:12-13
- New Agricultural Developments (Water Stream Control)
- World class technology in desalinization of water

## Ezekiel 38:12-13

12 to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world. '

13 "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all its villages, will say to you, 'Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?'" '



### ***Israel, a Nation of Miracles***

The new born state of Israel was 60 years old on May 14, 2008. What a 60 years! To start with—the rebirth of the state of Israel in 1948 was a miracle of history and the miracles continue on!

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## Water, Finance & World Bank

- Red Sea to Dead Sea Water Canal Project
  - Preserve Dead Sea
    - Constantly Falling Water Level
    - Rapidly Increasing Salinity
  - Desalinated Water for the Region
  - Economic Stimulators
    - Hydroelectric Power
    - Vacation and Resort Development Along Canal
  - Joint Economic Development (Resorts etc. )
    - With Jordan & Egypt
    - Feasibility Study & Financing through World Bank

The World Bank

Home • Site Map • Index • FAQs • Contact Us

About Countries Data & Research Learning News Projects & Operations Publications Topics

Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Study Program

Search Red Sea GO

Home > Countries > Middle East and North Africa > Red Sea - Dead Sea > Red Sea - Dead Sea Water Conveyance Study...

Overview

Terms of Reference

Schedule of Activities

Other Basic Documents

Study Program Reports

Archived News Releases


Contact Us

### Red Sea - Dead Sea Water Conveyance Study Program

In 2005, the Government of Jordan, the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority (on this website hereinafter referred to as the "Beneficiary Parties") agreed on the terms of reference of a Study Program as a way to investigate whether and how the transfer of water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea can stop the decline of the Dead Sea water level and restore the unique natural and cultural environmental of the Dead Sea. A Feasibility Study is being carried out as part of the Study Program to review and assess the technical, economic, financial, environmental and social dimensions of a proposed water conveyance concept in an integrated manner.

**Preserving History**

The Dead Sea is a site of exceptional historic, cultural, economic, and environmental importance for the Middle East and for the world.




## Israel

- Seemingly Viewed Political Pawn by Current Administration
  - But still out maneuvering the US
- Focused on Maintaining its Security and Survivability
  - Gaza Isolation
    - Halt flow of rockets and weapons into the area
    - Continued Flotilla Assaults?
  - Wall & Barriers Separating West Bank
    - Will the UN push for "Internationalization of Jerusalem"
- Is Israeli government moving in right direction?

## Christendom and Babylon

- Revealing of Catholic Atrocities (1Ti 4:1-7)
  - But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;
- Satanic Influence in the Vatican
- Priestly abuse of young boys

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### Chief exorcist says Devil is in Vatican

The Devil is lurking in the very heart of the Roman Catholic Church, the exorcist claimed on Wednesday.

By Nick Squires in Rome  
Published: 6:30AM GMT 11 Mar 2010

« Previous 1 of 2 Images Next »



St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. Photo: REUTERS

Father Gabriele Amorth said people who are possessed by Satan vomit shards of glass and pieces of iron.

## Christendom and Babylon

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- Satanic Influence in the Vatican
- Priestly abuse of young boys
- New Pope Installed (Ratzinger -> Benedict XVI)
  - Changes now and in future
  - Strengthen or Weaken?
- Are the Scrolls "Rolling together" or Apart?

## The Truth Movement - Trends

- Growing, Shrinking or Constant?
  - Coping with Economic and Age Related Limitations
  - Rate of immersions seemingly constant or slightly declining
    - Exceptions in Africa and India

## International Trends

- Romania: Numbers declining. Less than 1000 consecrated, immersions down.  
Read book: Sky Through the Bars. Bro Allen's class: 50 attend 35 consecrated
- Moldova: 150 consecrated, 40 young people Immersions staying level
- Germany: 100. Numbers going down; not many young
- England: 25, no young people; no immersions
- Italy: 100 or less, older movement
- Siberia 5, (older movement)
- Australia: 150 brethren approx. Healthy number of young consecrated.
- Poland: Large number of brethren, alot of young people.

## The Truth Movement - Trends

- Growing, Shrinking or Constant?
  - Coping with Economic and Age Related Limitations
  - Rate of immersions seemingly constant or slightly declining
    - Exceptions in Africa and India
  - Zeal and Enthusiasm waning?
- Influence of the World
  - Unscriptural Re-marriages
  - Rom 7:2,3 ; Matt 19:3-9 ; Matt 5:32 ; 1 Co 7:10-11
- Issues Among Us
  - Influence of the World and its Toll on Brotherhood
    - Time/Work Pressures on Consecration and Family
    - Other Ills of Sin Creeping In

## Proclaiming The Truth- Traditional

- TV
  - Divine Plan Program (Dallas-Ft. Worth) satellite, cable & broadcast
  - 12 year public access cable free (Harris family AZ)
- Radio
  - Frank & Ernest (big in foreign countries)
  - Christian Questions (talk radio like call-in format)
    - Connecticut, Indiana & the Web

Christian Questions  
Talk Radio with a Purpose

Let us go up to the mountain of the LORD... and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths...  
Isaiah 4:2 (KJV)

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We started (having No previous radio experience) on Friday mornings for one hour on 980 W3UB in New London, CT. After about 2 years, we went to 2 hours on Wednesday mornings, then moved to Sundays. When W3UB changed their format we moved to 95.9 WFSM. We are now on 104.7 FM.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Are You Ashamed of the Gospel of Christ? (07/18/2010)
- What's Next for Israel in Prophecy (Part 2) Guest: David Stein (07/25/2010)

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## Proclaiming The Truth-New Media

- Distribution of DVD & SD based video & audio
  - Playable on inexpensive DVD portable players
- New booklet version of Volume One
  - God's Grand Plan of the Ages
  - Low cost of printing and mailing
- Internet Radio
  - Gospel of the Kingdom (live365.com/stations/gospel\_kingdom)
  - Dawn Devotional Radio (Frank & Ernest)
- Web Sites and more Web sites

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**Crusell.us** The only comprehensive search site for C.T. Russell's works online <http://www.ctrusell.us/>

**Divineplan.org - The Divine Plan Online.** <http://www.divineplan.org/>

**Harvest Truth Database** <http://www.biblestudents.net/htdb/>

**Mostholylife.com** 6 volumes with Expanded Comments cross-referenced, features user controlled page appearance <http://www.mostholylife.com>

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**U.K. Bible Students Website** Informative on Biblical topics. Answers to many questions such as: Does God exist? and Can we trust the Bible? and much more. Includes audio presentations. <http://ukbiblestudents.co.uk/>

**Silver Linings**

A moving portrait of the Christian walk as told through the endearing poetry of Jon A. Hamling. <http://darkcloudsilverlinings.com/>

**Estudiantes de la Biblia** Argentina - El Plan Divino de las Etades, Estudios Bíblicos, Literatura, La Biblia en un año, La Biblia en línea, Enlaces, Libro de Visitas. <http://ar.geocities.com/vedbarger/na/>

**TruthHistory.blogspot.com** A weblog researching the early days of the Bible Student movement, contains essays on [truth.history](http://truth.history) and rough drafts of sections of a book now in

## Assembling of Ourselves - New Media

- Online Meetings, Conventions, Studies, College Lectures
  - CUseMe (Audio)
  - Real Media (Audio & Video)
  - Acrobat Connect (Audio, Video and PowerPoint)
- Weekly studies
  - Conference call (conventional or Skype internet phone)
- Electronic Bibles, Br. Russell Writings, other aids
- Proliferation of laptops at meetings

## The Truth Movement

- Our Focus
  - As time get shorter what do we do?
    - Something different? - if not, why?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Volume - Study VII
  - The Deliverance And Exaltation Of The Church
    - page 232

## Volume 3 - page 232

- But, whatever of trouble or seeming disaster may await the saints while they remain in the flesh, and put a stop to the work which it is their meat and drink to do, let us take comfort in remembering that nothing can befall us without our Father's notice and permission, and that in every trial of faith and patience his grace shall be sufficient for those who abide in him, and in whom his Word abides. Let us look beyond the veil, and keep the eye of faith fixed upon the prize of our high calling, which God has in reservation for them that love him—for the called and faithful and chosen according to his purpose. Rev. 17:14; Rom. 8:28