

The Blessing
And
The Curse



# ISRAEL The Blessing And The Curse

By Dr. Morris Cerullo

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#### MORRIS CERULLO WORLD EVANGELISM

P.O. Box 85277 • San Diego, CA 92186

(858) 277-2200

E-mail: morriscerullo@mcwe.com

Website: www.mcwe.com

#### MORRIS CERULLO WORLD EVANGELISM OF CANADA

P.O. Box 3600 • Concord, Ontario L4K-1B6

(905) 669-1788

## MORRIS CERULLO WORLD EVANGELISM OF GREAT BRITAIN

P.O. Box 277 • Hemel Hempstead, HERTS HP2-7DH

44(0)1 442 232432

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#### Chapter 1:

## The "Refugee" Problem

When dealing with the conflict in Israel, it is impossible to avoid hearing, reading or using the word "refugee."

The Palestinian "refugees," after all, are at the center of the conflict

But the word "refugees" is a misnomer, indicating that the Palestinians are homeless.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

When the media speak of the Palestinian cities they often refer to them as "refugee camps."

The difference may seem minimal, but it is a subtle play on words intended to deceive people into believing that the Palestinians are living in tents out in the middle of the desert somewhere.

The "refugee camps," however, in any other context would be called another word that more accurately describes them: cities.

The Palestinians living in "refugee camps" are doing so in houses on streets with all the amenities anyone in a firstworld country would expect. It doesn't mean they are wealthy, but it does mean that "refugee camps" is a purposeful deception by the world's media elite.

The Palestinians are fully capable of living in Israel alongside the Jews—this is something the media do not thoroughly report.

There are many Palestinian Israelis who do just that; living, working, playing and peacefully coexisting with the Jews in Israel, making a positive impact on society. These Palestinian Israelis have Jewish friends and neighbors, and they live in peace with them.

The Israeli Legislature even has Palestinian members.

But the "refugees" don't find that equality good enough for them.

And therein lies the root of the conflict—the "refugees" don't want to live as peacefully co-existing Palestinian Israelis. They want to live as self-governing Palestinians with no Israelis around at all.

Partner, for the last several years, the Palestinians who live in Gaza and the West Bank have been governing themselves under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority—they make all the decisions that determine their present and future.

But that's not good enough for them.

Israeli citizenship isn't good enough for them.

Self-governance isn't good enough for them.

Just what is it they want?

This is the question too many major media outlets are

#### THE "REFUGEE" PROBLEM

afraid to answer, because inside the answer lies the awful genocidal truth—the reality that nothing will ever be good enough for the Palestinian "refugees" until Israel is driven into the sea and forever eradicated from the face of the planet.

This basic truth is so frightening and offensive, even to those who do not side with Israel, that the media have gone out of their way to make sure it remains hidden.

It is the sort of thing that Adolph Hitler wanted to do—rid the world of Jews.

The fact is, the Palestinian "refugees" are simply Arabs who are related to the same people who inhabit all the countries around Israel.

They share a genealogical tie to all the nations around them. They share a religion with all the nations around them. They share ethical ties to all the nations around them.

And yet, with only one exception, none of the Muslim nations around Israel will extend citizenship to the Palestinian "refugees."

Nations like Iran and Iraq will gladly compensate Palestinian terrorists' families after the terrorists have blown up innocent Israeli civilians, but they won't offer citizenship to the Palestinians.

The Palestinian "refugees" are actually refugees from their own people! At least the Israelis have offered them something the other nations refuse to offer—a place to live and work!

Make no bones about it, Partner, the Palestinians are a defeated people. That's important because the fact is, Israel

has won every war it has entered into as a nation—all of them defensive wars.

The "refugees" are actually the defeated people who tried their best to destroy the nation of Israel—and lost.

Where else do you see the nations of the world winning several defensive wars against an enemy, and then opening up their borders to that very enemy, offering to allow them to govern themselves in the very land from which they had already attacked multiple times?

Nowhere else but Israel

The nations who have refused to accept the Palestinian "refugees" into their countries are not just cruel, Partner—rather, some of them have a purposeful agenda behind their refusal.

If the Palestinians are assimilated into the nations around them, they will lose their national identity. After all, they share a language, a heritage and a religion. There is nothing separating the Palestinians from the residents of the nations around them except for geography.

A Palestinian who becomes a citizen of one of the nations around him will lose his self-identification as a Palestinian. He will then become one of the people of the nations around him

And that is the fear of those nations—that with the assimilation of the Palestinians, the cry for the eradication of Israel will begin to fall on deaf ears.

After all, it's nearly impossible to drum up world sympathies if there are no "refugees" to parade before the media demonstrating how they have been "wronged" by Israel

In other words, it's in the best interest of the agenda of some of the nations surrounding Israel to keep the Palestinians as "refugees." There's no percentage in it for them to help solve the "refugee" problem; if they do, they lose their public relations trump card.

So the Palestinians remain "refugees" from their own people, longing for land that belongs to the inhabitants of the nation of Israel—land they can never have.

Even today, regional tension continues to rise as senseless Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel go unchecked by surrounding nations.

So there are two solutions to the plight of the Palestinian "refugees:"

- Live in peace and govern themselves as so many Palestinians have chosen to do.
- The nations around them can open up and accept their brothers with open arms.

Instead, the surrounding nations and Palestinians choose the other, more violent option—fight Israel tooth and nail, killing innocent civilians routinely, and then use the sympathetic media to complain that Israel is the persecutor.

#### Chapter 2:

# The Changing Winds In Israel

The Palestinians compare their plight to that of African-Americans and their leader, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

They claim the parallel is obvious, and that Israel is their equivalent of the racist policies of 1960s America.

They invoke the name of civil rights to justify their struggle and their goal of self-governance.

They appeal to the human rights sensibilities of the nations around the world by complaining about how the Israelis are "mistreating" them.

And the ploy is working.

Almost.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not buying it.

Here's what he said in May of 2002:

"Now, I don't want you to be fooled by the apologists of terror. They tell us that the way to end terror is to appease it, to meet or give in to the terrorists' demands, because—listen to their argument—because, they tell us, the root

cause of terrorism is the deprivation of national and civil rights. Well, let's examine that proposition. If that were the case, then in the thousands of conflicts and struggles for national and civil rights in modern times, we would expect to have found endless examples of terrorism. But guess what: We don't. Mahatma Gandhi did not use terrorism in fighting for the independence of India. The peoples of Eastern Europe did not resort to terrorism to bring down the Berlin Wall. But one other example; one other example. Martin Luther King did not resort to terrorism in fighting for equal rights for all Americans. In fact, speaking in this city, in this very place, four decades ago, Martin Luther King preached a creed that was the very opposite of terrorism—not violence, non-violence; completely the opposite. So now we must ask ourselves, why did all these people pursue their cause without resorting to terror? Because they believed in the sanctity of each human life, because they were committed to the ideals of liberty, because they championed the values of democracy; simply put, because they were democratic, not terrorists. That's whv."

In other words, the Palestinian terrorists are invoking the name of civil rights as the impetus behind their struggle, and in so doing, they are appealing to the democratic sensibilities of a world that has forever been changed by the success of the American democratic model—a world that is suddenly consumed with the idea of guaranteeing to everyone the same "civil rights" enjoyed by Americans.

But when they invoke that "civil rights" angle, the Palestinians are overlooking one thing: the civil rights movement in America was not a war of terrorism. It was a peaceful effort.

Martin Luther King Jr. didn't advise his followers to blow up buses until the government bowed to his demands. Instead, he called on the living God to help the African-American people achieve the same rights as everyone else in the country.

He called on his people to peacefully protest the heinous treatment they were receiving, to petition, to pray, to stand up for their rights in legal ways.

And Partner, HIS METHOD WORKED! America still has problems with race, and there are still mountains to climb, but African-Americans have made incredible strides in the last 40 years since King's peace process began.

In the last two presidential elections, there has been at least a plausible chance that an African - American man might be elected to the presidency. That will only continue to increase until, should Jesus tarry, America will indeed have its first black president.

For African Americans to ascend so far, so fast, is a testimony to the peaceful revolution started by Dr. King.

But militant Palestinians have no desire for such a victory—they don't want to succeed inside the Israeli system. They want Israel dead.

Speeches like the one from which you just read the excerpt, have made Benjamin Netanyahu popular again inside and outside Israel.

In fact, Netanyahu was able to push through a vote in the Likud Party in Israel over the objection of then Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon.

That effort itself testified to Netanyahu's popularity—

and threw a scare into Sharon, who, without naming Netanyahu, grumpily complained about "those who fight terrorism with speeches."

The conflict between the two friends highlights a tremendous change in Israel—a wind of change that is sweeping through everything.

After Netanyahu's speech, Sharon's days at the pinnacle of Israeli power were numbered.

In fact, he became prime minister because Netanyahu, for whom polls had predicted a landslide victory, decided against running against then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

The younger and more popular Netanyahu was poised to replace Sharon, who—though unjustly—carries a stigma of military battles past to every word and deed.

While Sharon's popularity plummeted, the news was even worse for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who only slightly avoided being deported for good from Israel.

Arafat, who was holed up in his Ramallah office for a month, emerged from that enclosure to tour the Palestinian lands, only to suffer jeers and heckles from the people he was supposed to be governing.

Depending on who leads the Palestinians in the future, they have two options: continue down the road of increased terrorism, or turn to the process of peace. At any point, it's open, but one thing is clear: winds of change are blowing in Israel.

#### Chapter 3:

# The Church Of The Nativity:

#### **Microcosm For The Conflict**

Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity is established on an idea that cannot be firmly established.

The ancient Catholic church is built on the spot where legend says Jesus was born.

Now, we know Jesus was indeed born in Bethlehem, but it is anyone's guess where He was born. He was born in a manger, but just about everyplace in that rural city had a manger in the first century, and nobody kept records of where the boy was born.

In other words, the Church of the Nativity is a nice concept, but there is absolutely no way it can be accurately established that it is indeed built on the site of the birth of the Lord.

Nevertheless, it has been revered for more than a thousand years as His birthplace, and many Christian pilgrims have made trips to the site to honor the idea that God would submit Himself to His own creation and take on the form of mortal flesh so that He might rescue us from

sin.

During the winter/spring outbreak of violence in 2002, Palestinian terrorists fled to the ancient cathedral and, using automatic weapons, took civilians and Catholic clergy members hostage, holing up in the church for more than a month.

During the long standoff, the gunmen continued to hide in the church, still holding the hostages, forcing them to eat sparse rations and sleep on cold stone floors, not because they feared for their safely, but because they knew they would face justice for their crimes if they ever left the church.

As these terrorists held priests and civilians at gunpoint, the world media chastised Israel for the standoff, as if it was the Israeli military that had taken the Palestinians hostage.

Meanwhile, inside the church, the Palestinians were busy trashing it.

After the standoff was over and the Palestinian terrorists had agreed to exile the thirteen most vile of their number, the church was vacated, filthy and desecrated.

And Arafat treated the terrorists like royalty, putting them up in the fanciest hotels and trumpeting them as heroes over all the areas in his domain.

These, remember, were gunmen who were shooting at the Israeli military—military who had been called out because terrorists continued to target and viciously murder Israeli civilians because their ideology would not allow the Israelis to exist. In other words, these "heroes" of Arafat's were being honored because they had fled from the Israelis, who were only protecting their own innocent civilians against the heinous attacks by vicious terrorists.

Partner, every truth is parallel.

I have said that for years, and I will continue to say it.

Every spiritual truth has a parallel in the natural.

God's nature is Spirit.

For God to communicate with man, who lives in the natural world, He translates spiritual truth into examples that we can understand.

That's why Jesus so often preached in parables—the natural examples He provided illustrated and illuminated the spiritual truths he was actually trying to communicate.

When Jesus spoke about the sower and the seed, he was not trying to teach His Disciples about horticulture.

He was not trying to instruct them on the finer points of growing produce.

He was trying to explain to them a spiritual truth by using a natural example—an example they could readily understand

God does the same thing, time and again, as He tries to communicate spiritual truths to us—people who are stuck here in the natural world.

In that same vein of instruction, we can understand the conflict at the Church of the Nativity with an understanding deeper than what we saw on the news or what we read in

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the newspapers.

Palestinian terrorists are excellent at taking their religion and twisting it into something it was never intended to be.

Their justification for violence comes from an extreme interpretation of the religion of Mohammad—an interpretation that gives heavenly glory for murder in the name of Allah.

As they used that justification to attack Israel and build an insurgency, the extremist terrorists became the physical representation of the devil—their goal was the same as his; to take over at any cost, at any price.

The devil's goal is to devour us, to kill, to steal and destroy. His very name, Satan, is a Hebrew word meaning "adversary."

There is no way in which he does not oppose us. There is no time where he reconsiders his actions and wonders whether he's chosen the wrong side. There's no circumstance under which he will ever become our friend.

He is now, forever has been, and forever will be our enemy, the adversary of our souls—he will always be Satan.

Israel, meanwhile, represents the chosen people of God.

In the smaller sense, Israel represents the Christian Church—Israel is our older sibling; we are her younger sister.

But in the larger sense, Israel represents those who are chosen by God but who have not yet accepted the truth—

those who will eventually accept Christ as their savior and who will become His servants.

Remember, Israel is still God's chosen people. But they have rejected Jesus and relegated themselves to the outside —for now. As Paul says:

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

ROMANS 10:1-3

But though Israel has temporarily put itself on the outside, there will come a time when they will no longer be on the outside. Paul continues:

"I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?"

ROMANS 11:11-12

And Christians represent the one source of truth in the world. It is from us that the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shining everywhere—and through us, that those who are destined to receive the Gospel of truth will hear it. Without us, they will never hear the truth, and thus will never receive it. As the Bible says:

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"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

ROMANS 10:14

In the Church of the Nativity in May, 2002, three powers converged setting a tremendous example and spiritual revelation of the nature of the conflict in Israel.

Inside the church building were the Christians—the truth and light of the world. Outside, the devil—the militant Palestinians—was attacking those who are called to salvation—Israel.

As Israel began to fight off the enemy, the enemy fled to the one place it knew Israel could not obtain victory—the church—and it took the Christians hostage.

By using fear, intimidation and empty threats, the enemy was able to hold the Christians hostage in that church for a month.

And in this conflict in the spiritual realm that's exactly what's happening, the Church is allowing the enemy to intimidate it, allowing him to hold it hostage, keeping it from shining the light and reaching those who are destined for salvation

The enemy uses empty threats—from countries that restrict the preaching of the Gospel, to the ridicule of the ungodly mongers in Hollywood—to hold the Church hostage and restrict its ability to reach out to those who are lost and dying without the Gospel of peace.

And the more we stay inside the four walls of the church building, the more we make ourselves sitting ducks,

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just waiting to be kidnapped. But, as we get out into the world, ministering the Gospel everywhere we go, it becomes impossible for the enemy to stop the Gospel from going forth.

#### Chapter 4:

# Who's On The Lord's Side?

God's Word is always true. Now, it may seem folly to repeat something you doubtlessly already know, but I have a purpose for that statement.

God's Word never goes out without accomplishing what He intended for it to accomplish.

Every Word that has ever come from His mouth IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE!

Think about that statement, Partner. There has never been a human being besides Jesus Christ about whom that can be said

When God speaks something, you can count on it happening. When He declares a thing, it is accomplished the moment it is declared, though the manifestation of that accomplishment may not come until later.

God went out of His way to make this statement to the first prophet of the Bible:

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ISRAEL: THE BLESSING AND THE CURSE

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Genesis 12:1-3

God made that promise to the father of faith—the first man to become God's friend

That promise was passed down from Abraham to his descendants—to those who became his heirs.

And, Partner, that part is important. It's not every son who inherits his father's household in the Bible. It's only one son—only the son who is the heir.

In this case, Abraham had an older son than Isaac—Ishmael. But even though Ishmael was born years before Isaac, Ishmael did not inherit the household of Abraham—and he also did not inherit the promises of Abraham. He did not inherit because, as the Bible says:

"For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise."

**GALATIANS 4:22-23** 

The son of Hagar was born through the flesh—through unbelief—and thus he could not inherit the promises of faith.

But the son of Sarah was born by faith, by belief in the God who promised—and thus, because he was received by faith, he could and did become the inheritor of the promise of faith.

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That's important because the Muslims claim to be descended from Abraham through Ishmael. Whether or not that is actually the case is not the point, and is indeed beyond the scope of this book.

But even if the Muslims are indeed the descendants of Abraham, they are not the inheritors of the promises of faith—they have not inherited the promise of God to bless those who bless them and to curse those who curse them. That promise was reserved for the son who inherited it by faith

#### Remember what Jesus said:

"...If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father..."

JOHN 8:39-41

The children of Isaac are the inheritors of the promise of God to Abraham to bless those who bless them, and to curse those who curse them.

It is so because God has already determined—and destined—for all of Israel to be saved.

The promise we read earlier that God revealed through Paul will come to pass in the persons of the nation of Israel. Those who bless those children will receive blessings. Those who curse them will receive curses.

Melchizedek is the perfect example of understanding this principle. When Abraham had come back from the defeat of the kings who had kidnapped Lot, the king of Sodom desired prestige and glory by enriching Abraham. But the king of Salem, Melchizedek, only wanted to bless the man of God:

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And be blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand..."

Genesis 14:18-20

The man of God understood that Abraham was a servant of the most high God, and he also understood that the blessings of God were upon him. Therefore, Melchizedek wanted to bless the one God had called blessed—simply for the purpose of blessing him—so he brought forth the things Abraham needed: bread and wine to refresh him after the long battle and journey.

Now, Partner, the Bible says that, as great as Abraham was, Melchizedek was greater:

"But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better."

**Hebrews** 7:6-7

Today, the nation of the United States finds itself in the same position. Without doubt, America is greater than Israel. It is larger, it is richer, it is more powerful and every blessing is more abundant. In fact, America is greater than any nation on earth. No nation is as rich as America. No nation is as powerful. No nation has the tremendous blessings America enjoys.

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But, as great as America is, it is Israel that is chosen.

And American lawmakers, who realized this truth (at least in the past), have chosen to use America's overwhelming prosperity and technological and military might to bless the chosen nation of God. The lesser nation is blessed by the greater nation!

And those blessings continue to flow to this day, as America stands alone in the world with Israel, side-by-side, against terrorism and the insurgency of the extremists who desire nothing more than to eradicate Israel from the earth.

America is Israel's greatest—and only—friend.

And the parallel goes even further. Melchizedek needed nothing from Abraham. In fact, he came out to bless Abraham, not to be blessed by him.

But because of his blessing to the man of God, Melchizedek received a blessing even greater than any he could have imagined; he received the most precious promise given any priest of the most high:

"The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

PSALMS 110:4

The priesthood of the Mosaic law would come through the loins of Abraham—but the priesthood of the Messiah came following the order of Melchizedek! The blessing he received was greater even than the blessing that came on the priesthood of Abraham's progeny.

As the world takes sides in the conflict in Israel, America's faithfulness to God's chosen and blessed people will do nothing but bring blessings on America—and those

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who oppose God's chosen people will inherit nothing but curses, as we will learn in the next chapter.

#### Chapter 5:

## **After The Rapture**

I have covered the War of Gog and Magog in great depth in other books and publications. I may at some time in the future take up the subject again, should Jesus tarry, but right now my purpose is not to give another in-depth coverage of the subject.

Instead, I have a specific purpose and objective in mind in talking about the war that soon is to come on the nation of Israel.

As most prophecy-interested Christians know, the War of Gog and Magog will come to pass when a Russia-led coalition of armies invades Israel (Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39).

That coalition, however will suffer a stunning and devastating defeat at the hands of the living God.

Israel itself will have very little or nothing to do with the defeat that comes on the armies of the Russian coalition. The passages in Ezekiel make it clear that God's sovereign hand is the one that brings the victory to Israel.

But at the end of that war, God makes a tremendous statement:

"So will I make my holy name known in the midst of

my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken."

**EZEKIEL** 39:7-8

Today, we are in the dispensation of Grace. God has mercy toward those who oppose Him. He has mercy toward those who hate Him, as He gently woos them with His Holy Spirit.

If that were not the case, we would never have had a chance to come to know Jesus. As the Bible says:

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

ROMANS 5:8

Today, those who blaspheme God's name are treated with mercy; those who profane His name have another chance to come to know Him and come under His blessings.

But after the War of Gog and Magog, everything will change.

No longer will those who profane God's name have another chance to repent before the judgment falls upon them.

No longer will they be able with impunity to blaspheme Him and then repent and escape judgment.

Many have wondered about the judgments that come during the great tribulation.

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Many have wondered about their severity, and about the immediacy with which they fall.

Those who don't understand why God would bring judgment upon mankind in such a swift and devastating manner, have not read and understood Ezekiel chapter 39; God promises that the great tribulation will begin and the dispensation of grace will be over, superceded by the dispensation of judgment.

Partner, God has drawn A LINE IN THE SAND!

The War of Gog and Magog is that line!

On one side of the line is the dispensation of grace, mercy, patience and salvation.

On the other side of that line is judgment, retribution and holy anger at the blasphemy and pride of mankind.

Today, we find ourselves on the grace side of that line, living under the mercy of the Lord that allows us to come to Him even after a life full of sin and receive mercy.

But on the other side of the Gog and Magog line lies the dispensation of judgment and justice—and at that point, living in blasphemy and sin will no longer be tolerated long enough for the sinner to come to grace.

In the larger view, the nations of the world will find themselves inheriting either the blessings or the cursings of the positions they took during the dispensation of grace.

Those who have blessed Israel will find themselves blessed in the post-war Gog and Magog age; those who have cursed Israel will find themselves cursed.

Many have long believed the rapture will be the signal

for the great tribulation and the dispensation of judgment. That is absolutely correct, Partner! Just as the Jews believe Messiah will come around the time of the War of Gog and Magog, so most Christian prophecy scholars believe Messiah will return at the time of the War of Gog and Magog.

No man knows the day or the hour of Christ's return, but Jesus gave us to know the times and the seasons.

That's why our mission to reach every Jew on the face of the planet with the Gospel of Jesus Christ at least ONE TIME before he returns is so urgent!

We are on the grace side of the line in the sand, and now we must work while we yet have time to work, reaching God's chosen people as a blessing to them—blessing them simply because what God has blessed is indeed blessed.

And since God has blessed Israel and called them blessed, we must also bless them!



### Dr. Morris Cerullo, President Morris Cerullo World Evangelism Over 55 years of Proven Ministry To The Nations Of The World...

Morris Cerullo's accreditation for spiritual teaching is, in itself, quite formidable: a divine, supernatural call from God to preach and evangelize when he was 15 years old...graduation from New England Bible College...over half a century of experience as a pastor, teacher, author and worldwide evangelist. Many honors have been bestowed on Morris Cerullo, including honorary doctorates of Divinity and Humanities, both by academic and spiritual leaders around the world in recognition of his achievements and contributions to global evangelization. Dr. Cerullo is respected and looked upon by thousands of Nationals as God's end-time apostolic prophet to the nations of the world.

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#### Morris Cerullo World Evangelism

**U.S.** • P.O. Box 85277 • San Diego, CA 92186

Canada • P.O. Box 3600 • Concord, Ontario L4K 1B6

**U.K.** • P.O. Box 277 • Hemel Hempstead • HERTS • HP2 7DH

Web site: www.mcwe.com e-mail: morriscerullo@mcwe.com

ISBN 1-931887-53-5