

ALL PROPHETIC INDICATORS SEEM TO SAY THAT THE RED HEIFER WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR THE BUILDING OF THE 3RD TEMPLE. OTHER EVENTS THAT ARE PROPHESED TO HAPPEN SHORTLY BEFORE THE FINAL THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS ARE HAPPENING RIGHT NOW. THEY INCLUDE:

1

INTERNATIONAL PEACE PLAN FOR THE MIDDLE EAST (DAN. 9:27)

2

WAR ALONG THE EUPHRATES RIVER (REV. 9:13-16)



RED HEIFER READY NOW

“BUT IN TRUTH, THE FATE OF the entire world depends on the red heifer. For *G-d* has ordained that its ashes alone are the single missing ingredient for the reinstatement of Biblical purity—and thereafter, the rebuilding of the Holy Temple.”

► BY IRVIN BAXTER ◀

THE BIBLE PROPHESES the building of the Jewish temple on the Temple Mount shortly before the Second Coming of Jesus. The temple will be built just before the beginning of the final three and one-half years that immediately precede the Battle of Armageddon.

Jewish teaching holds that this temple cannot be built until Israel has a qualified red heifer of the third year. This heifer must be sacrificed to cleanse the people of Israel from “contact with a dead body.” Old Testament scriptures forbade a person from going into the sanctuary of the Lord after having contact with a dead body. Anyone that dared go up to the house of the Lord in a state of impurity was to be cut off from the congregation.

The only way that a person could be cleansed from contact with a dead body is described in Numbers 19. An unblemished red heifer of the third year had to be offered, her body burned and her ashes mingled in water. The person seeking pu-

rification then had to wash in this mixture and remain unclean for seven days. After this, he was pronounced clean and was then able to go up to the house of the Lord.

Because Israel has not had the ashes of a red heifer since 70 AD, many religious Jews don't believe they are qualified to go up to the house of the Lord. This is why many of them have not lobbied for the building of Israel's Third Temple. They don't feel they are allowed by scripture to go there to begin building.

ALL THAT HAS CHANGED

ON MAY 4, 2006, I WAS LEADING OUR annual prophecy tour in Israel. Rabbi Chaim Richman, Executive Director of the Temple Institute, came to the Grand Court Hotel to speak to our group of 93 people. Rabbi Richman is a member of the newly reborn 70-member Sanhedrin and has been the driving force behind the construction of the furniture (now completed) needed for the resumption of temple ministry.

As Rabbi Richman spoke to our group, I admit I was not fully prepared for the bombshell that he dropped on us. The question was asked by one of our tour members, “Rabbi Richman, what about the red heifer? Are there any prospects on the horizon?”

Rabbi Richman disclosed matter-of-factly, “Actually, we now have a red heifer. She is three and one-half years old. This is the first red heifer we've had since the Second Temple era that ended in 70 A.D.” Richman went on to inform us that the location of this red heifer is presently being kept secret because of the huge frenzy that was unleashed a few years ago when it was disclosed that religious leaders thought they had a qualified red heifer.

That incident occurred back in May of 1997. The red heifer's name was Melody. Hope soared among religious Jews that this was the red heifer that would cleanse them from contact with a dead body and open the way for the building of Israel's Third Temple. They believed this would usher in the mes-

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SLAUGHTER IN JUDEA
(MT. 24:15-21)

sianic era when their Messiah would be revealed. The news of Melody hit the major news streams, and the story spread like wildfire.

One magazine had a red heifer on its front cover with the caption, "The Cow that Could Blow up the World." The story stated that, if Israel did accomplish the successful sacrificing of a red heifer and if Jews became cleansed from contact with a dead body, it could produce a movement to begin the building of Israel's Third Temple on the Temple Mount. Reporters speculated that such a development would result in WW III. They contended that Muslims worldwide would converge on the Temple Mount to stop the desecration of the place, which they consider Islam's third holiest site. The furor blew over when Jewish leaders announced that Melody had developed a few white hairs in her tail and was not considered qualified for sacrifice and the cleansing from ritual impurity.

Until Richman's disclosure on May 4, information about a possible red heifer had pretty much dried up. Questions surfaced from time to time, but it was assumed that Israel had no red heifer. Now she does! The heifer has been pronounced qualified by the rabbis, and she is old enough to be offered today!

WHEN WILL SHE BE OFFERED?

SO WHEN WILL THIS RED HEIFER BE OFFERED? Does she have to be offered before she turns four years old, as some scriptures seem to indicate? If so, this will have to happen within the next five months. We have asked that question of Rabbi Richman and have not yet received an answer. However, it appears that the religious community in Israel intends to go forward at full speed. In June 2005, the Sanhedrin announced that it was time to build the temple and that they were going to begin.

The question immediately came to mind: How can they build the temple? Their government won't even allow them to pray on the Temple Mount due to fear of offending Muslim sensibilities. The communiqué disclosing the Sanhedrin's intention to rebuild stated that they would prefabricate the temple off-site like Solomon built the First Temple almost three thousand years ago.

That explained everything. They intend to prepare the temple off-site and then assemble when the political situation allows. We don't yet know whether the physical rebuilding of the Jewish temple has actually begun, but we do know that

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NUMBERING SYSTEM
(REV. 13:15-18)

the decision has been made to begin.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

THE PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE STATE THAT a temple will be standing three and one-half years before the Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In Revelation 11:1-2, John was told to measure the temple but to not measure the outer court because it would be trodden down of the Gentiles for 42 months. This depicts the temple under Jewish control and the outer court of the temple, where the Dome of the Rock now stands, under Gentile control. This scripture prophesies that the Temple Mount will be under a sharing arrangement.

At the Camp David peace talks in 2000, President Bill Clinton proposed the sharing of the Temple Mount. Since that time, a consensus has emerged among world leaders that sharing is the only possible solution to the dispute over the world's most disputed 35 acres.

There is another prophecy that indicates the temple will be standing three and one-half years before Armageddon. It is found in II Thessalonians 2:3-4. In speaking of the revealing of the Antichrist who is called the Man of Sin or the Son of Perdition in this passage, the Apostle Paul said that this Man of Sin would exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped so that he would sit "in the temple of God" and claim to be God. Obviously, the temple has to be standing before this can occur.

We also know from scripture that, once the temple is built, animal sacrifices will be resumed. We know this because Daniel 9:27 teaches us that the Antichrist will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to stop. Of course, the Antichrist can't stop sacrifices that are not ongoing. Daniel 11:31 also prophesies the stopping of the sacrifices by the Antichrist.

Here is the likely scenario: The temple is completed a year or so before the beginning of the final three and one-half years preceding Armageddon. The sacrifices begin. World opinion against the sacrifices escalates rapidly. The animal rights activists demonstrate worldwide, and world leaders are flooded with demands that the daily sacrifice of animals be stopped. The Antichrist, who will be emerging onto the world scene at that time, feels forced to deal with the situation. Since he has taken a leading role in bringing about the agreement that paved the way for the building of the temple, rumors are abounding

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EMERGENCE OF A WORLD GOVERNMENT (REV. 13:7)

that perhaps this man is the Jewish messiah.

The stage is set perfectly. The Antichrist announces that the rumors circulating about his being the messiah are true. In fact, he confesses...I am not only the Jewish Messiah; I am also the fifth Buddha, the Muslim's 12th Imam and the Christian's Christ. Since I am here as your Messiah, you won't need to offer these sacrifices any more. He orders that the sacrifices be stopped, and according to II Thessalonians 2:4, he stands in the temple of God claiming to be God. The same prophecy is found in Daniel 11:36.

THE COW THAT COULD BLOW UP THE WORLD?

BACK TO THE RED HEIFER. Is the red heifer, which exists in Israel at this moment, the cow that will pave the way for the rebuilding of Israel's Third Temple? All prophetic indicators seem to say that she is. Other events that are prophesied to happen shortly before the final three and one-half years are happening right now. They include:

- 1▶ An international peace plan for the Middle East (Daniel 9:27)—Roadmap for Peace reaffirmed on September 20, 2005.
- 2▶ The prophesied war along the Euphrates River (Rev 9:13-16)—in progress in Iraq.
- 3▶ The future slaughter in Judea (the West Bank) spoken of by Jesus (Mat 24:15-21)—being set up by Israel's promised withdrawal from the Judea by 2008.
- 4▶ Human beings to receive a number in order to buy or sell (Revelation 13:15-18)—Americans must have an ID card by May 11, 2008 in order to buy or sell.
- 5▶ Emergence of a world government (Revelation 13:7)—Globalization, World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, World Court, World Community.

When we add all these prophetic developments to the appearance of an approved red heifer and the decision to begin building the temple, the fact that we have entered the endgame of the endtime becomes undeniable. Exactly where are we on God's endtime prophetic timetable? We can't say with absolute certainty right now. It is obvious however that we are getting very close to the time that Jesus called the Great Tribulation. ■

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