

MAY 2017

# "TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



Truth is like a mountain, It cannot  
be moved and it never changes

## IN THIS ISSUE

### FEATURE ARTICLE:

"Where Is God?" (Part 3)

Page 2

### A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA:

"We Are One New Man "

Page 4

### PROPHECY UPDATE:

"The Miracle of Modern Israel"

Page 6

## WEBSITE UPDATE

The May 'Message of the Month' is Part 1 of a new series entitled, "The Place Of Praise." Your 'place of praise' is not talking about the church you attend. It is talking about the place you live spiritually everyday. It is talking about finding how to live so that no matter what circumstance you find yourself in, you can still be filled with praise. This series is filled with humor and depth all at the same time.

Trust me, this is good stuff!!!

As always, we thank you for your continued financial support. Everything we do has cost connected to it. A good example is making video content available. This is something we are looking into at this time. If God wants us to do this He will provide.

God is faithful!

# FEATURE ARTICLE: "WHERE IS GOD?"

## PART 3

**WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. It may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to help you and provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness. You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!**

We now come to Part 3 of this series on why so many prayers go unanswered. I will enjoy this one the most because we have already dealt with the difficult issues and now can begin to make applications in our everyday lives. Once again, I want to encourage you to go to our website, scroll down to the very bottom of the page, and click on "View Newsletters" to read March and April that contain Parts 1 & 2. Let's do a brief review.

I have shown you that the key to understanding this difficult issue is to try to see how God views things. First, He views our life as the blink of an eye and our trials and tests as less than a nanosecond in duration. Second, He views our faith as something of great value and something, which produces for us a great reward.

### **2 Corinthians 4:17 (AMP)**

"For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]!"

We must understand that if God answered every prayer, He would be depriving us of a great part of our eternal reward, a reward that can only be obtained by holding on to our faith, even in the face of death. Ours needs to be a faith like Job's that says, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him:..."

As with all attempts to explain unanswered prayer, I have now created more questions. Here is a great question: If all this is true, then why would God ever choose to answer any prayers? There is no question about it, God still answers some prayers. In fact, sometimes the answers to prayer are amazing and spectacular.

Does God not want the people who get answers to have as great a reward? I think there is a better answer.

It is a bit more difficult to give you an answer that can be supported with chapter and verse. But I think by giving you Bible examples, a strong argument can be made for what I am about to say. With all my heart I believe when God answers prayer, it is not just because someone has won the heavenly lottery. Rather it is because God has a specific plan and purpose for answering a prayer and working a miracle.

A good example of what I am trying to say would be Jonah. You all know the story. Jonah was told by God to go and preach to the people of Nineveh. This did not make Jonah happy because he would have rather seen them all destroyed. He runs from God in the opposite direction and finds himself in the belly of a great fish. That is how chapter 1 ends.

Chapter 2 begins with these words, "And Jonah prayed." That makes sense! I think this would probably be a good time to do that. Now I want you to consider something: Jonah was in rebellion against God. He didn't deserve to be delivered. God had every excuse to just let him be fish food! But He didn't. God answered Jonah's prayers. Why?

God originally had a plan and He was not about to let Jonah mess up His plan. He had a job for Jonah to do and come hell or high water, Jonah was going to do what God wanted him to do. If you didn't like the "hell or high water" part of that last sentence, consider this: Jonah 2:2 "...out of the belly of hell I cried."

In Acts 12, Peter was in prison. The church prayed without ceasing and Peter was delivered. Do you suppose that just maybe God had some special thing He wanted Peter to do? God doesn't answer prayer just because some lucky person caught Him in a good mood. God always has a plan and a purpose in everything He does.

## “ WHERE IS GOD? “

Continued from Page 2

I want to share a story that few people have ever heard. When I was six years old, I suffered a terrible accident. In those days, they were making cars that had what came to be known as “suicide doors.” These were rear doors that opened from the front to the back. The hinge was on the back of the door instead of the front. The reason they called them “suicide doors” was because so many people died when the rear door was opened even a crack while the vehicle was moving. The wind would catch it, and instantly the door would be blown fully open and the person holding the handle would be pulled out.

On the day of my accident, I was sitting in the back seat as my mother drove down a frozen Minnesota gravel road. We had to drive past my grandmother’s house and I asked my mother if we could stop and see grams. She was in a hurry and said we couldn’t.

You can call it rebellion or just plain stupidity, but something caused me to decide to just open the door and jump out. In those days, they didn’t put seat belts in cars. I cracked the door open and in an instant, I was pulled out of the car onto the frozen road. I rolled for about 200 feet before coming to a stop.

I was covered in blood and my head was busted open like an eggshell. Later in life when I would do some rather dumb things, my mother would say to me, “John, I know you have a brain, I saw it. Please use it.”

She gathered up my broken body and with my head in her lap, headed to a small rural hospital about eight miles away. Hospitals like this were not equipped to handle cases like mine. After doing all they could, they sat down with my parents and told them to expect the worst. My chances for survival were almost zero. If by some miracle I were to survive, I would probably never be normal because of the severe brain injury I had sustained.

Doctors had told my mother she would never be able to have children. She had prayed fervently and promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to the Lord to be used however God wanted to use him.

Now she found herself praying, “God, if you will spare my son’s life, I will give him to you to use however or wherever you choose.”

I was in a comma for three weeks. That was an interesting experience. All my memory prior to that has been totally erased. But I can remember things that happened while I was in the comma. I can remember them coming into my room and repositioning me in the bed. I can remember my mother sitting beside the bed crying out to God for a miracle. The thing I remember most vividly was the nurse coming into my room and giving me shots. Oh, how I hated that! I was aware of all these things, but was unable to respond or communicate.

Then one evening the nurse came in with the dreaded needle. She held it up, purged the air bubble, and went to stick it in my arm. Something triggered inside my brain and I responded by biting her as hard as I could. She ran out of the room screaming. I was sure I was going to be in big trouble! Not so! I have never been kissed so many times in my entire life.

God had worked a true miracle. Not only did I recover, I think I turned out quite normal. (Miss Linda is still not totally convinced of that!) So I ask you, why did God do that? The answer is very simple; God had a plan and a purpose. He saw my entire life and was not going to let anything get in the way of His plan. Sixty-eight years have passed since that amazing miracle happened. Again and again I have been amazed at what God has done with that crazy six-year-old that tried to jump out of a car going 60 mph on a frozen gravel road.

I want to conclude by saying: If you have experienced an amazing answer to prayer, start looking for the rest of the story. God has already written it or you wouldn’t be around to live it. And if you prayed and didn’t see your prayer answered, don’t be discouraged, angry, or bitter. As you stand firm in your faith, you are laying up great treasure in heaven, treasure that you can’t even begin to imagine.

I, on the other hand, have just had to be content for the last 68 years while waiting to see my treasure. Oh well, in God’s eyes it is only the blink of an eye.

To be continued  
next month



## A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



### *“We Are One New Man”*

During the 32 years we pastored at Rez, we had the privilege of traveling to Israel 26 different times. One of my fondest memories was the year we were first introduced to the

“Grafted In” symbol. We had become accustomed to the typical tourist jewelry, which you find in every gift shop throughout the country. From year to year, nothing ever seemed to change. However, the “Grafted In” design was something we had never seen before.

The symbol was made up of a menorah, a fish symbol, and the Star of David. The three symbols were joined as one, with the Star of David formed by the tail of the fish and the base of the menorah being woven together. (See the picture on the next page.) Immediately, we wanted to know who had come up with this unique design. We expected that some very talented jeweler had probably designed it.

We had a very dear Armenian friend who made custom jewelry in Jerusalem; if anyone would know who created this symbol, it would be him. He was more than happy to tell us the origin of the symbol. What he told us almost seemed like something out of an Indiana Jones movie.

The symbol was discovered on Mount Zion in a small assembly room dating back to the 3rd century AD. It is believed to have been created and used by Jews (who called themselves Nazarenes) and had declared their faith in Jesus as their Messiah.

The Messianic Seal was found etched or inscribed on eight ancient artifacts. The artifacts were presented to Ludwig Schneider, editor in chief of NAI's magazine, *Israel Today*, in 1990. They came from an elderly monk named Tech Otecus who lived as a hermit in the Old City of Jerusalem. Otecus said that in the 1960's, he had personally excavated about 40 artifacts bearing the Messianic Seal from an ancient grotto located in the immediate vicinity of the Upper Room on Mount Zion. What was once the main entrance to the grotto is now covered with a jail-like heavy wire mesh enclosure. Its door, leading down into the ancient baptismal place, is tightly secured with a heavy chain and lock. According to Schneider, the last remaining entry to the grotto was sealed shortly after he told the priests at the local monastery about the discovery of the Messianic Seal.

As we heard this fascinating story, we quickly realized that this symbol was more than just a unique design that was being reproduced on thousands of pieces of jewelry throughout Israel. It was a symbol that was shouting a message of truth from the past, a message that was lost for far too long.

You see, today we have the Christian religion and the Jewish religion called Judaism. For nearly 2,000 years, the Jews have suffered terrible persecution at the hands of Christians. As a result of this, a terrible wall of separation has arisen between Jew and Christian. However, this is not how it was when the first church was formed in the first century. The first century church was almost exclusively Jewish! Of course it was. Jesus was a Jew. All the disciples were Jews. The apostles were all Jews.

**Continued Next Page**

In fact, one of the biggest challenges facing the early church was the issue of how to integrate non-Jewish believers into the faith. Much of the writings of Paul dealt with these sensitive issues. Here are some examples.

**Ephesians 2:11-16 (CEB)**

"So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called "uncircumcised" by Jews who are physically circumcised. 12 At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. 13 But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. 15 He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. 16 He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God."

**Galatians 3:28-29 (MSG)**

"In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. 29 Also, since you are Christ's family, then you are Abraham's famous "descendant," heirs according to the covenant promises."

With all my heart, I believe God has allowed this ancient symbol to come forth, connecting Christian believers to the Hebraic roots of their faith. For both Jewish and non-Jewish disciples of Jesus, it is a statement of our faith in our Jewish Messiah. The Messianic Seal itself proclaims to the world the pervasive Jewishness of Jesus Christ and the decidedly Jewish foundation and roots of the church founded in His name. In Christ, we non-Jews have been grafted into the Jewish covenant of promise made to Abraham.

Allow me to share just one more experience we had in Israel. We were on the Mount of Olives when our Jewish guide said, "This is where the Messiah will 'return.'" Our ears perked up and later, when we were alone with him, we asked, "Matania, why did you say the Messiah will 'return'?" His reply brought joy to our hearts. With a shrug of his shoulders he said, "**You Christians say 'return.' Us Jews say 'come.' I have a hunch when He comes we will all find out we have been waiting for the same guy.**" WOW!!! Now that is what I am talking about.

In his mind, there was not some great separation between Jew and Christian. We all pray to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We all believe in a coming Messiah, and we all believe He is coming soon. In all this, Jew and Gentile become one together. We non-Jews have been grafted into the commonwealth of Israel!



*“The Miracle of Modern Day Israel”*

There is no place on planet earth that has been fought over, conquered, and then reconquered like the land of Israel. All this started when God told a man by the name of Abraham to lift up his eyes and look to the north, south, east and west. He told him that everything he saw was his for an everlasting possession.

Since that time, battle after battle has been fought for control of that small sliver of land. Still today the claims upon that land seem greater than ever. The Jews call it Israel and the Palestinians call it Palestine. Both say it belongs to them. The world seems to think this land should be divided between Israel and Palestine. They say the border must revert back to the borders that were in effect prior to the 1967 war, which Israel won decisively. Is this how today's borders should be decided? What are the real legal borders of Israel and how were they determined? Most people have no idea what the answers to those questions might be. I want to give you a little history lesson so you can be informed about this very important issue.

In 70 AD the Romans overthrew a Jewish revolt and completely destroyed the city of Jerusalem. At that time the vast majority of Jews were dispersed throughout the world. With no one to care for the land, it became a desolate wasteland, which was mostly uninhabited.

During the next 1,000 years, wars for control of this drought-stricken, desolate land continued. Most of these wars were fought between a new religion called Islam and a group dedicated to their defeat called the Crusaders. This is why today you can tour many ancient crusader fortresses located throughout the nation of Israel.

Eventually Islam prevailed, and once again the control and ownership of the land was determined by military conquest. This military conquest was not limited to just the land of the Bible. Islam continued to conquer and the Ottoman Empire was birthed. Few people realize how vast this empire became.

Basically it replaced the old Roman Empire. It conquered Constantinople, which was named after the Roman emperor Constantine. It then changed the name of that city to Istanbul, which it is still called today.

During the apex of her power, the Moslem Ottoman Empire controlled all of North Africa, all of the Middle East, all of Asia Minor, and came within a short distance of taking Vienna, Austria.

Because of the vastness of the empire, its ability to control the areas it had conquered began to wane. When World War I started, the Ottomans saw it as an opportunity to regain the glory of its former years, so they joined forces with the Germans. Germany lost the war and as a result, all of the territory once controlled by the Ottoman Empire was now given to the victors. Once again, control of the land of the Bible was determined by military conquest.

The Ottoman Empire was carved up by the League of Nations. They wanted to be sure they would never again have to deal with a religious empire whose goal was to conquer the world by violent military conquest. Most of the Middle East was given to the British. Because so many Jews had fought side by side with the allies, the British were also given a mandate by the League of Nations: Create a place Jews can call home.

They were given control of a vast area that stretched from the Sinai Peninsula up to the border of modern Lebanon, East to the border of Iran, and South to the border of Saudi Arabia. Out of this vast area, they were to carve out a place Jews could call home. They also decided they needed to provide a place Arabs could call home, so they created the Kingdom of Jordan.

Then they decided to give to the Jews all of the land from west of the Jordan River (the West Bank) to the Mediterranean Sea, and from what is modern Lebanon and Syria down to the border of Egypt. Most of it was either barren rocky terrain with not a blade of grass on it or lowland swamps infested with malaria.

From the time these boundaries were announced and defined, Jews from all over the world began returning to their God-given homeland. Needless to say, these brave Jews encountered great resistance from the Arab population in Palestine. This went on for decades until on May 14, 1948, Israel announced that, **with the approval of the United Nations**, they were declaring the establishment of a Jewish State.

Within a short time, war broke out with five surrounding Arab countries attacking the tiny, new state of Israel. Against all odds, Israel managed to win that war and boundaries were established as the terms of a cease fire. **It is very important for you to know that these boundaries were not the same as what the British had set.** At the time of the cease fire, Israel had not been able to gain control of all that had been given to them by the British. Once again the boundaries had been determined by military conquest. Those boundaries were in place until June 1967.

The Six-Day War of 1967 was the greatest victory Israel has ever seen. Her enemies were plotting a massive attack designed to once and for all eliminate the Jewish State. Israeli intelligence uncovered this plot and launched a massive first strike. In just six days, the war was over and Israel had reclaimed all of what the British had legally given to them. In spite of this, pressure from the United States forced Israel to give large portions of conquered land to Egypt and Jordan, including East Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, and portions of Judaea and Samaria. These borders still stand today, but do not include all the land legally given to Israel by the British and by the United Nations.

Now we have new threats and demands being placed upon the State of Israel. Israel is being told if they want peace, they must give up all the land won in the 1967 Six-Day War and return to the borders in place prior to that war. At the same time, Hamas is in control of the Gaza strip and still maintains Israel has no right to any land in the Middle East and must be completely annihilated and destroyed. I ask you, if that were to happen, do you think Hamas would agree to return to the current borders?

Israel is being accused of being an apartheid state in which Arabs are discriminated against and human rights are being violated daily.

Anyone who believes this propaganda obviously has never been to Israel.

Never in the history of the world has there been a nation state where the rights of all people and all religions have been more carefully protected. If you don't believe this, you have never been there. Go... and you will see Jew and Arab living side by side in peace and harmony. Talk to Arabs who are citizens of Israel, and they will tell you that their lives would be very negatively impacted if Israel were ever to be conquered by her enemies.

If you want the truth, check for yourself to see how many Arabs hold seats in the Israeli parliament. Of the 120 seats, Arabs currently hold 17. They hold those seats because Arabs who are citizens of the country and are allowed to vote elected them. There is even an Arab on the Supreme Court.

Hopefully you now have a better understanding of how the nation of Israel came into being and the truth about the unfounded claims of the Palestinians. From the time the Romans drove out the Jews until 1948, there never was a nation in the area now called Israel. Never has there been a nation called Palestine. The land was desolate and barren with almost no inhabitants. Why? Because no one wanted to live there!

Psalms 2 tells us where all this madness will end. Let it encourage your heart.

#### **Psalm 2:1-6; 12 (NIV)**

1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,

3 "Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles."

4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

5 He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

6 "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

12...

***"Blessed are all who take refuge in him."***

And that my friends,  
is the "Truth!"