

A COVENANT WITH DEATH...

Part II

The Mariners Tried it in Jonah's Day
Man Is Trying It Today
Antichrist Will Try It Yet Future
BUT...

By Arlen L. Chitwood

“Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves...

And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it” (Isa. 28:15, 18).

“And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them” (Jonah 1:12, 13).

The world has absolutely no idea what is really happening relative to Israel and the nations in the Middle East. They don't have a clue; they couldn't even venture a good guess. But, nonetheless, they vainly attempt to deal with the matter anyway.

As well, not knowing a thing about what is presently happening, they can have no idea concerning what is about to happen. Like everyone,

they can see the storm clouds rising all around them, but they have no means whatsoever to even begin to connect one thing with another, providing some semblance of understanding.

SCRIPTURE ALONE relates information of this nature, information which will relate the beginning, the end, and all between — information concerning the things presently happening and the things about to happen regarding Israel and the nations.

Men can and do talk about and write articles about the matter, but the worth of their material would have to be judged solely on the basis of *ONE THING: their adherence to and how they line up with what THE ONLY completely accurate source of information has to say.*

But the world wouldn't give a second thought to this lone, available source to find out what's really going on; nor could they understand this source even if they did give it a second thought.

Thus, the world finds itself trying to deal with a problem that they not only know absolutely nothing about but are unable to even begin to understand — understand what this whole matter is all about, why certain things are happening, and how to look upon and deal with the resulting situation.

At least the world's attention has been drawn to *the right place*, but that's as far as the matter goes, or can go. And the world's attention has been drawn to Israel in the Middle East only because it can be easily seen and understood, even from a naturalistic standpoint, that *this is the center of a continuing problem — so far, UNSOLVABLE — that spreads out into and affects the nations of the world.*

But the world has no idea *WHY*. They just know that this is the case.

Then, though the world has absolutely no idea concerning what is really happening — *why Israel's presence back in the nation's land after almost 2,000 years is creating such turmoil* — they attempt to deal with the problem anyway.

A number of U.S. presidents in modern times have tried to deal with the problem. Several have

seemingly made some headway, though short-lived. In reality, in the end, they have all come up empty. And, if anything at all has seemingly been accomplished, it could only have been or will yet prove to be negative, making matters even worse than they had existed before they tried.

The complete scope of any attempts to solve problems with Israel and the surrounding nations is inseparably related to that seen in Matt. 12:43-45.

The Jewish people, taking matters into their own hands and re-entering an “empty, swept, and garnished” house left “desolate” (Matt. 23:37-39) have made matters worse, seven times worse than they had previously existed (something which will be enacted during *the great storm* foreshadowed in Jonah, when the furnace is heated seven times hotter than normal [Lev. 26:18-31; Dan. 3:19-25]).

And, in a similar and related manner, individuals or nations today trying to straighten matters out pertaining to a house left desolate and the surrounding nations can, in the end, only accomplish the same thing that the Jewish people have accomplished and will yet accomplish by re-entering this house.

The current U.S. president though, through his Jewish son-in-law, has tried, and has pledged to continue trying to deal with the desolate house and the surrounding nations. But he will end up exactly where all have ended up. It simply can't be done for one very simple reason — this is *A MATTER BETWEEN GOD AND ISRAEL* — which, for explanatory purposes, could be divided into two parts:

1) Regarding Israel and the nation's disobedience, God has torn, and only God can heal — “I will take away, and none shall rescue him” (Hos. 5:13, 14).

That is to say, God, in His sovereign control of all things, has either *caused* or *allowed* matters to develop into the state in which they presently exist, for an evident reason; and *ONLY* the One Who caused or allowed that which presently exists can rectify matters.

2) Then, all existing peace efforts, past and present, run counter to that which God has specifically stated *MUST OCCUR* in order to rectify the existing situation. All such efforts in the type would leave Jonah on board the ship, with the storm being quelled or the ship and crew being saved through some type naturalistic means, rather than seeing him cast into the sea in order to change the existing conditions (note again the vainless efforts of the mariners on board the ship).

And all peace efforts of this nature in the antitype (again, in the antitype of the mariners), accordingly, are built around Israel's right to remain in the land, with problems among the surrounding nations being quelled through naturalistic means, rather than through Israel being driven back out among the nations (or, as the Arabic nations, along with Iran, state matters, "driven into the sea," which would be the same thing as out among the nations from a metaphorical standpoint [from the type in Jonah], though this is hardly what these nations mean by their rhetoric about *driving Israel into the sea*).

The Antichrist, with the seven-year covenant that he will make with Israel (which will begin the time in which Jonah's prophecy pertaining to events surrounding the tumultuous sea will be fulfilled), will seemingly, for a time, do that where all preceding him have failed, which God has said that He alone could and would one day do. And this man, in a related respect to the latter, will, "as God," sit "in the Temple of God" in Jerusalem, "shewing himself that he is God" (II Thess. 2:4).

And the only possible reason that God refers to this covenant as He does — a "covenant with death," an "agreement with hell [Heb. *Sheol*, the underworld, the place of the dead]" (Isa. 28:18) — is because of what this man will do and seemingly succeed in doing, which, in reality, is simply what man is

vainly seeking to do today. *It can only have to do with Israel living in the land in some type peaceful existence; and, in Antichrist's case, living in the land after this fashion with a rebuilt Temple and a reinstated Mosaic Economy.*

And note what this would do/will do — whether through man today or through this man yet future. This would/will allow Israel to remain settled down in the wrong place, in the wrong condition, at the wrong time — *a place which Scripture depicts as a dead state, remaining in Sheol* (cf. Gen. 23-25; Jonah 2:2; John 11:1-44).

And continuing to occupy their present place in the land, UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS (dead, void of spiritual life) — which this would allow them to do indefinitely — Israel could NEVER, NEVER, not in a million years, realize the reason God called the nation into existence.

Thus, it is little wonder that God refers to a covenant which would seek to bring such events to pass as a "covenant with death" and an "agreement with *Sheol*," for such a covenant not only **COMPLETELY MILITATES AGAINST** God's plans and purposes for having called Israel into existence during Moses' day 3,500 years ago but all of His work relative to the nation during the intervening years.

(God made a covenant with Israel at Sinai. And, had Israel obeyed the terms of this covenant, God would have placed Israel at the head of the nations, ruling the nations within a theocracy in the land previously covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then, in this position, the Jewish people would have formed the evangels, carrying God's message to the nations [Lev. 26:3ff; Deut. 28:1ff].

Israel disobeyed the terms of the covenant, and the opposite resulted. *The Jewish people found themselves separated from the Lord, at the tail of the nations, with the nations holding the sceptre* [Lev. 26:13ff; Deut. 28:15ff].

The new covenant which God will one day make with the house of Israel will reverse all that presently exists in the preceding respect. God, in that day, will give the Jewish people "a new heart," "a new spirit," and cause them to walk in His statutes. He will put His

"law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts" [Jer. 31:31-33; Ezek. 36:24-32; 37:26-28].

But that awaits the results of God's dealings with Israel out among the nations during "the time of Jacob's trouble."

And the "covenant with death" and "agreement with *Sheol*," about to be ratified, *can only run counter to any of God's covenants and be designed to keep conditions as they presently exist and will exist during the Tribulation — Israel in the land, with a rebuilt Temple and a restored Mosaic Economy — PREVENTING God from dealing with the whole house of Israel out among the nations [effecting LIFE from DEATH], PREVENTING the new covenant from ever being made, and PREVENTING the nation from ever realizing her calling.*

But, though God will view this man's covenant with Israel in this manner, in the end, when the Antichrist breaks his covenant, God will use this man to fulfill his purpose:

1) Through uprooting His people from their land and driving them back out among the nations with the rest of world Jewry.

2) Then, through unleashing a persecution unprecedented in all Jewish history, a persecution which will ultimately drive the Jewish people to the place of repentance.

(Note that *the same thing* is seen concerning the harlot [Israel] and the Beast [Antichrist] in Rev. 17-19a.

The harlot, at first, is seemingly at home in this man's kingdom [17:1-7]; and, in the light of related Scripture, *this situation will exist because of the covenant that he will have made with her.*

But, ultimately, the day arrives when this man turns upon the harlot [17:11-17; 18:1ff]; and, in the light of related Scripture, *this will occur when he breaks his covenant, ultimately resulting in Israel's repentance, cleansing.)*

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