An electronio	D-EAST C-NE c journal of the Middle East, for those who want to	be informed. weeks!
Issue No. 72 North Africa	August 31st, 2006	http://www.morethantourists.com
Contexts     Historical     e-NEWS Anniversary Quiz   1     Topical   1     Christian Zionism – Entity   2     Somalia   3     Calendar   3     This Month in the Middle East   4	<i>Welcome</i> <i>e</i> -NEWS is three years old! This issue you the background to the complex situation look forward to many future issues, and inter of articles on the various contexts that cause its religious component extends - to be an im Remember, go online to retrieve your co but thorough guide to the events during and Go to www.morethantourists.com/pdfs/	is that exist in the Middle East. We nd to continue bringing you a variety the Middle East - and areas to which teresting but complex region. opy of Israel in Lebanon, a concise since the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict.
	Email your responses to pkclark@pmbx.net a	& check the web for back issues.
Quiz		
Can you name these people and the	eir countries? All have appeared in <b>e</b> -NEWS of	over the past three years.









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And now a less demanding question, that might provide a guide for future articles.

During the past three years of e-NEWS some of our articles have appeared as part of a series, a number of which are

How Far Back Does It Go? (Issues 1-10)

Islamic Interface (Various issues, since **e**-NEWS 17) Jerusalem (27-39) Islam (34-63)

## Christian Zionism c) Entity - On Schedule?

Jesus' words in Matt 24:15-16 have been taken to refer to a future time when an active temple-based sacrificial system is disrupted: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains."

Other interpretations assume that they refer to the events of AD 70, when the Romans under Titus destroyed the Temple, or the Bar Kochba revolt of AD 135. The latter arose from the intention of the Roman emperor Hadrian to build a Temple to Jupiter on the still empty site of the 'Second' Temple. This is an example of how alternate interpretations of verses allow the development of a variety of theologies.

*Post-Millennialism* sees a gradual process of world Christianization, still in the future, during which Christians will dominate society. By degrees, during this period, Satan is bound and unable to interfere with gentiles obeying the Messiah. He will be released for a final confrontation, after which the resurrection (of the dead) and rapture (of believers) will be followed by judgement and the heavenly state.

*A-Millennialism* (which derives from *post-*) sees "the end of the age" as culminating in the AD 70 destruction of the Temple. This expects Jesus' return at the end of the Millennium, which is seen as the current Age of the Church rather than a future 'Christianization' of the world. Amillennialism sees Satan as currently bound, but to be freed briefly prior to the events of the last days.

*Pre-Millennialism* expects the return of Jesus before the Millennium, which is preceded by the 7-year Tribulation (the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, the previous 69 having concluded at the Crucifixion). Versions of this belief refer to the rapture of believers, and include Pre-Trib., Mid-Trib. and Post-Trib. By this interpretation the 'second coming' begins with the rapture (Jesus calls the believers), includes the millennium (during which Jesus reigns) and culminates with his coming in judgement after Satan is temporarily loosed.

This diagram represents the Pre-Millennial view



The role of Israel in these various positions is not initially clear. Post- and A-Millennialists tend to consider that Israel no longer holds the privileged position in prophecy that it did previously to their rejection of Christ - though there are different attitudes to this. Historic Pre-Millennialism also makes little distinction between Israel and the Church, acknowledging that God's covenant now includes people of all nations. The idea of dual fulfillment of prophecy is recognized, and allows for an initial occurrence (of the Tribulation, for example) in 70 AD, with the greater fulfillment being expected in the future.

In the Dispensational position, however, there is great significance given to the time of the rapture, which will initiate a period of Tribulation for a restored (but still unbelieving) Israel. This will include a restored temple and sacrificial system - however, during this 7-year period, the temple will be desecrated once again (as was done by Antiochus IV in 167 BC, see  $\mathcal{P}$ -NEWS 35). This sequence of events, and the expected antecedents (establishment of Israel, rule over Jerusalem, construction of Temple), mean that this version of Pre-Millennialism has a much sharper interest in contemporary Israel, and the development of conditions that might anticipate the unfolding of prophecy.

Dispensational Pre-Millennialism, then, looks forward to the rapid unfolding of a prophetic sequence. Apparent fulfillment of this sequence began with Israel's establishment as a modern state in 1948. Interest in the position of Israel in prophecy then grew exponentially upon the acquisition of Jerusalem in 1967. The seemingly miraculous defeat of a number of Arab armies, and the occupation of the West Bank, containing the most significant holy places of the Holy Land – all within a single week – greatly increased public interest in the prophecies related to Israel, the Temple and the Last Days.

Interestingly enough, this interest extends beyond the boundaries of Pre-Millennialism. The theological backgrounds of those interested in a future temple include some that might have been expected to be indifferent to the issue.



# Islamic Interface - Somalia

Somalia's current troubles could be said to have begun in 1991. In that year the president, Siad Barre, was overthrown by clan leaders. Somalia had attacked the neighboring Ogaden region of Ethiopia in 1977, creating an enemy for itself, but was expelled in the following year. During the 1980s President Barre's treatment of the Mijertyn and Isaq minority clans - preventing them participating in government - had increased Somalia's internal problems. The clan leaders that led the coup deposing Barre, however, failed to agree on a replacement, and plunged the country into years of turmoil.

#### TWO AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

In 1991 the north-western portion of Somalia declared itself independent as the Republic of Somaliland. Though it has not been recognised by any other states it has remained relatively stable since then.

During the 1990s Puntland, the territory around Garowe in the north-east, also developed independently, led by Yusuf Ahmed, and declared autonomy in 1998.

It was in 1992 that US troops landed in Somalia, ahead of a UN peacekeeping force. 18 US troops were killed in gun battles with clan militias in 1993, and the UN mission left in 1995, having failed to achieve its goal.

#### ATTEMPTS AT RESTORATION

An attempt was made in 2000 to establish a transitional government, even appointing a president, Abdulkassim Salat Hassan. In 2004 a new parliament was set up by a coalition of warlords, which then appointed a new president, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, leader of Puntland. This government, based in Baidoa, is itself plagued by disagreements and anarchy, and has little actual support outside of Puntland. The president is from the Darod clan, and his Prime Minister, Ali Mohamed Ghedi from the Mogadishu-based, Hawiye clan. Attempts to bring the government back into Somalia itself, from exile in Kenya, have not been successful. Two attacks in Mogadishu in 2005 on the Prime Minister demonstrated the weakness of the government.

#### RECENT EVENTS

In February of 2006 the transitional government met for the first time on

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1993 Battle of Mogadishu Somali territory, in Baidoa. However, in the following months, riots and fighting between rival clans in Mogadishu saw a severe outbreak of violence, with scores of deaths. On June 5<sup>th</sup> militias loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) took control of Mogadishu, and have since gained strength and driven out of the capital the warlords whose claims have divided Somalia for 15 years. Jowhar was taken by the UIC on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and Hobyo on the  $16^{\text{th}}$ .

To some extent the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea is mirrored in Somalia. Ethiopia seems to be supporting the transitional government (put together by an alliance of a number of clans) whilst Eritrea is suspected of supporting the Islamic Courts. The UIC claims that US finances are also providing arms for the clan militas.

### COMMERCE AND PUNISHMENT

US helicopter, just prior to the

Only this month did the port in Mogadishu open to shipping, after weeks of restoration under the authority of the Islamic Courts. Previously, cargo ships moored offshore and were unloaded onto the backs of porters who waded out to them. Imposing their version of Sharia Law, the UIC recently sentenced 5 drug dealers, including one woman, to public flogging. Each received 11 strokes.



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Israel   Israel incursion into Gaza continues (since 6/25). Ceasefire comes into effect on 8/14 but some troops remain in S Lebanon   Helicopter strike kills 2 in Jenin   Olmert challenged on war plans   Govt calls for, then rules out, talks with Sria   Fighting in Chebaa Farms area   Kofi Annan arrives in Tel Aviv     Barael incursion into Gaza continues (since 6/25). Ceasefire comes into effect on 8/14   Attempted shoe bomb at PM office   Govt calls for, talks with Sria   Fighting in Chebaa Farms area   Kofi Annan arrives in Tel Aviv     Balance   Attempted shoe bomb at PM office   Attempted shoe bomb at PM office   Israel isoldier killed by IDF mine in Lebanon     Balance   Attempted shoe bomb at PM office   Air strike on Gaza kills 2   Air strike on Gaza kills 2     Palestinian Cabinet released from jail   Olmert postpones disengagement plans   Olmert postpones disengagement plans   Air strike destroys house in Gaza     Government minister resigns   Arrest operation in Nablus, 5 wounded   Arrest operation in Nablus, 5 wounded
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Bit 20: Cease line colles into enect on 3/14   Attempted shoe bomb at PM office   Syria   I-J militant shot in Jenin IDF raid   Gaza, raids on Abassan, Shijaiya, 3 killed     but some troops remain in S Lebanon   Rafah crossing closed after only 3 hours-same on 8/11   Air strike on Gaza kills 2   Air strike on Gaza, 1 killed     Palestinian Cabinet minister Barghouti released from jail   Olmert postpones disengagement plans   Gunmen resist IDF arrest raid in Gaza, 1 killed     Air strike destroys house in Gaza   Air strike destroys house in Gaza   Air strike destroys house in Gaza
Ratah crossing closed after only 3 hours-same on 8/11 Palestinian Cabinet minister Barghouti released from jail Government minister resigns
released from jail Government minister resigns Arrest operation in Nablus, 5 wounded
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Both Polostinian day PM hold by Israel 4 arrested or Ratan, inc 2 Hamas members
Arab politician Manmud Musien arrested in Ramalian
WB & PM Haniya doubts ability Collaborator publicly executed in Jenin UN meeting
Gaza of PNA to function with Gunmen hold 2 journalists Abductors' deadline:9am on 8/26 Fox TV journalists released pledges \$500m for
Gaza so many MPs in jail Hamas celebrate Hezbollah 'victory' in Gaza
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Aug   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25   26   27   28   29   30   31     T   W   T   F   S   S   M   T   W   T   F   S   S   M   T   W   T

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