

WORLD OF THE BIBLE NEWS & VIEWS

NEWSLETTER OF WORLD OF THE BIBLE MINISTRIES, INC.

Jerusalem Yields New Secrets

by Dr. Randall Price

This summer Dr. Price and Dr. Lamar Cooper led amateur archaeologists in excavating at two important sites in Jerusalem. Members of the archaeological team came from across the United States including students from Liberty University in Virginia, Criswell College in Dallas, and Veritas Evangelical Theological Seminary in California.

The excavations took place near the famous Western Wall and in connection with the Temple Mount that this wall in part surrounds. Our part in the Western Wall excavation came at the conclusion of three-years of work by the Israeli Antiquities Authority. It was first begun as a salvage dig to rescue remains discovered when a police station at the site was removed in order to construct a new, larger building. Realizing that underneath this portion of the Western Wall plaza lay the remains of the early second-century A.D. Roman street known as the “cardo,” the archaeologists went slowly down documenting



each layer of history until they reached a street lined with shops some 50 feet below ground level.

Two of these column-lined streets, one on the east and one on the west, ran through the city from the north to south. Historians believe that the Roman emperor Hadrian, who put down the second Jewish revolt led by Judas Maccabeus, exiled the Jewish community from the city and then changed its name to “Aelia Capitolina” (as well as that of the country to “Palestine”), was responsible for the construction of the cardo. The oldest mosaic map of the Holy Land (from the 6th century A.D.), discovered in Madaba, Jordan,

clearly depicts these main streets of Jerusalem, the accuracy of which has been confirmed by excavations of sections of both these streets since 1967. In fact, it was quite exciting to trace the contours of the street we were excavating on a copy of the Madaba Map. I directed the clearing of one of the last sections of this famous street to be excavated, on which lay the remains of ancient

pottery and coins where they were dropped some 1,900 years ago.

One of the unexpected discoveries at the site was the remains of a 7th century B.C. administrative building beneath a part of the street that had been removed in the past and then buried by successive layers of history. On the floor of this building were discovered inscribed artifacts that depicted an Israelite archer in Assyrian style and a seal inscribed with the name of an official by the name of “Netanyahu,” interestingly, the same family name of the present Israeli Prime Minister.

Continued on page 3

Summer Greetings from World of the Bible

Dear Friends of World of the Bible,

The world is turning against the state of Israel as seen in the irrational condemnations after the “Peace Flotilla” incident and as the dominant media culture continues to give a pass to radical Islam in many areas including the building of a mosque very near Ground Zero in New York City (not realizing this is a provocation and a victory dance on the grave of those who died there). We at WBM continue to counter this ignorance with resources based in true history (see article on the Temple Mount in this newsletter), grounding in the reliable Word of God, and proclamation of the prophetic Word.

As you know the mission of this ministry is to “Bring the World of the Bible to the Word of the Church”. We try to accomplish this through Randall’s scholarly archaeological endeavors (see the article on the May dig in Jerusalem in this newsletter), through his thorough historical research for the books he writes, and through his depth of knowledge of the Word of God and the prophecies of the Word. Just recently at a small church conference where Randall presented “Digging for the Truth, Archaeological Discoveries and Biblical Reliability”, a man indicated he had come to Christ because of this presentation that cleared away doubts about the Bible for him.

As I write this greeting, Randall



is on one of the most important archaeological quests of all times, the search for Noah’s Ark. As Randall said in a recent update:

“This is the last season of expedition possible under our permit with the Turkish authorities. With our team of 14 professionals and specialists in their respective fields we will be exploring two sites to locate and excavate possible structures that are thought to lie beneath the glaciers.

At our lower site we will first remove the tons of rock covering the glacier under which a Kurdish shepherd once saw a large wooden structure encased in the ice. He will be working beside us and helping identify the exact place where he says there was a hole into which he looked into the structure and saw rows of columns. Once we have removed the rock debris we will drill through the underlying glacier to locate the structure, and outline its form, in order to excavate it for exploration and documentation.

At our upper site we will employ ground-penetrating radar and seismic-resistivity to pinpoint the location and dimensions of

structures beneath the glacier indicated by our satellite data. Last year we reached this area by GPS instrumentation and dug a test hole at one corner of the target area. The satellite later revealed that we were only 30 feet from the target (the eastern edge of a 200 foot-long man-made shaped object). The more accurate instrumentality we employ this summer will locate the structure and

enable us to document its size and shape in three-dimensions. Once located, we intend to expose and document a portion of it. **Our goal is to advance God’s glory and the truth of His Word.**”

Randall and Richard Bright and the Ark Search LLC team believe it is possible that God would in these last days give an unmistakable sign of that mercy to many by the discovery of the remains of the Ark of Noah showing that there was a definitive judgment in the past of sin and so there will be again as the Bible clearly states. God is not obligated to bring this extraordinary historical witness to pass, as His Word will stand with or without this discovery but Randall and the team believe they have been led through extraordinary and providential circumstances to the expedition they have undertaken. Please pray for the expedition’s safety and ability to reach the goals they have set for this summer! 🙏

*Ken Stanford,
WBM Operations Manager*

The second site, one connected with the Temple Mount, is the Temple Mount Sifting Project, which has been an on-going attempt to recover some of the thousands of artifacts from Temple times. Under the current political and religious situation in Israel, the Temple Mount is under the jurisdiction of the Islamic authorities (Waqf) and no archaeological penetration of the site is permissible. Although Israeli archaeologists have long wished they could excavate and uncover the rich historical treasures of this most important site in Judaism, the 1967 conquest of the area by Israel only increased animosity and made such a dream even more unattainable. However, since 1996 the Waqf has conducted extensive construction projects on the Temple Mount that have resulted in thousands of tons of archaeologically-rich debris being dumped into the Kidron valley. Some of this was collected by Israeli archaeologists and Gabi Barkay and Zachi Zweig and transported to a work site near the Mount of Olives. For several years a team of archaeologists assisted by a steady stream of volunteers have worked throughout the calendar year sifting through the piles of debris in search of ancient artifacts that might give evidence of and help explain the Jewish Temple and its practices. More than 4,000 coins, numerous inscribed materials, figurines, architectural fragments, and more have been discovered among the rubble.

Our team was privileged to sift through a special collection of debris from the eastern side of the Temple Mount. Carried down the

steep slope on this side, destruction debris had accumulated on either side of the modern road cut through the ancient Kidron valley. In 2009 when the Pope came to Jerusalem, a stage area was created in this area for his visit and the Israeli archaeologists were able to collect the



dirt from the construction site. We sifted through a small portion of this dirt, but found it to be very large with finds. On the first day a murex sea shell was discovered. This was the shell from the Mediterranean Sea used by the priests in the Temple to dye the special blue-purple color used in the priestly garments (the strings that hang from their robes). Soon after coins began to be found; over 40 by the time we finished! Then a very unique and rare bullae (clay seal) was discovered with the name of an ancient Israelite of the First Temple period written in Egyptian

hieroglyphics! This was the first of this type ever discovered in Jerusalem! Other important finds were some of the ancient tiles used to decorate the floor the inner Temple courts and a small figurine.

Each of the volunteers had a sense that they had contributed to our historical knowledge of the ancient Temple and felt they had touched a part of the past when the events of Scripture themselves were being enacted. We invite you to join us on one of our World of the Bible archaeological excavations and join the ranks of future discoverers! 🌍



Dig photographs courtesy of Matthew Sievers

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN CLAIM TO THE TEMPLE MOUNT?

By Randall Price

Islam, from the beginning, knew that Jerusalem and the Temple Mount were important to the Jews. The Caliph ‘Umar selected a Jew to guide him to the place of the Sacred Rock because he recognized it was connected with Jewish biblical tradition. The first Muslims called Solomon’s “great place of prayer” the “City of the Temple,” and during the early years of Muhammad’s ministry among the Arab tribes, Muhammad attempted to win over the Jews of the Arabian Peninsula by ordering every believer to face Jerusalem in prayer (in accord with Jewish custom). But in a.d. 632, when this produced no Jewish converts, he ordered his believers to turn back toward Mecca, as is recorded in the Qur’an (Sura “The Cow”): “We appointed the *Qiblah* [direction] towards which you did formerly pray only that we might know him who follows the mes-



senger from God from him who turns back on his heels.” This is in line with the fact that later, Ka’b al-Ahbar proposed to the Caliph ‘Umar (or Omar) that the place of prayer in Jerusalem should be fixed north of the Dome so that Muslims, during their prayers, would turn towards the *Sakhra* (“the Holy Rock”). However, ‘Umar is said to have retorted, “You want to adapt yourself to Jewish usage, but we were not told to pray towards the *Sakhra*, but towards the *Ka’aba* [in Mecca] alone.” These early testimonies from the Muslim occu-

pants of Jerusalem make it obvious that the later denials of a connection between the site of the *Haram* and Judaism are arising from a deliberate rejection of the mount’s pivotal place in Judaism.

One major reason the Muslims focused their building efforts in Jerusalem at this early stage of the city’s Islamic history was that the capital of the new and expanding Islamic empire was Damascus (in Syria). The proximity of the two cities meant that Jerusalem was within the orbit of the many activities evolving from the main center of Islam at that time. Although the cradle of Islam was Arabia, and the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina are located there, the whole of Syria and its surroundings eventually came to hold a greater interest for the Muslims. Miriam Ayalon, professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology at

Dr. Randall Price Fall Conference Schedule

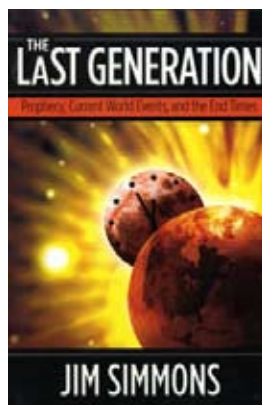


September 18—Steeling the Mind Prophecy Conference, Denver, Colorado
1-800-977-2177

September 24-26—Grace Baptist Church Prophecy Conference, Troy, Ohio
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The Last Generation

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Jim Simmons, friend of the ministry, in this book combines a look at the prophetic Word, apologetics, and events (past and present) since 1948 and the rebirth of the nation of Israel as “signs of His coming” in a sweeping perspective to give the reader a reason-

able argument for this generation alive today being the last generation”. A thorough and current prophetic primer for anyone wanting a good overview of end times prophecy.

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the Hebrew University noted these additional factors for the Muslim interest in Jerusalem:

The first and foremost of these considerations is undoubtedly the religious associations of ideas and events, with the city prevailing among both Jews and Christians. Indeed, the fact that Jerusalem was already important to the two monotheistic faiths from earlier times, and the fact that Islam considered itself as the last of the revelations... made it legitimate for Islam to absorb and identify with former beliefs obtained there. Jerusalem could not be ignored. The Temple area, which had been abandoned after the destruction of the second Temple and turned into the municipal dung center as a deliberate policy of the Byzantines, offered an ideal space to establish the monuments of the new rulers. Moreover, the very fact that some of the preexisting Byzantine buildings remained in Jerusalem and could provoke admiration, or even-

tually jealousy, required a Muslim response.¹⁰

This provides us with a motive for the building of the Dome of the Rock just 60 years after the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem. Historical explanations range from a competition with a rival caliph in Mecca to an attempt to replace the *Ka'aba* and divert the *hajj* (Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca) to Jerusalem.¹¹ Gershon Salomon, an expert in Oriental history, argues:

The Dome of the Rock was built in an attempt by the ruler of the northern, Omayyad part of the Islamic Empire to prevent their people from going to Mecca, which was part of the southern, Abbasid part of the empire, and returning with Abbasid sympathies while the two parts of the empire were at war. However, when the Abbasid ruler died, the people continued to go to Mecca, and the Dome became almost unknown in the Islamic world.¹²

One would think from modern Muslims that as the third holiest

place in Islam, the Dome of the Rock would have been erected immediately after the Caliph 'Umar recovered the location of the Night Journey. However, early Muslim sources reveal that such was never in 'Umar's mind. Instead, the Dome of the Rock was designed as a shrine or monument to what had previously existed at the site—"the House of Suleiman" (Temple of Solomon). What's more, caliph 'Abd al-Malik's motive for erecting the shrine may have been political propaganda rather than religious reverence. Islam lacked an established culture and monumental architecture to rival that of centuries-old Byzantine Christianity. This was especially true in Jerusalem, where from the time of Constantine, magnificent churches, basilicas, and monasteries had been erected to the glory of Christ.

However, the splendor of the Christian churches that filled Jerusalem, which were built in close proximity to the Temple Mount,

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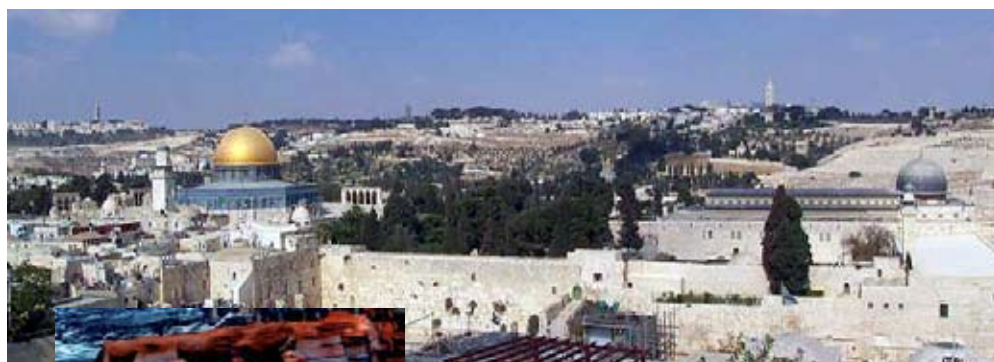
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called for a response from second-generation Muslims who had grown up as conquerors. Indeed, the polemical aspect of the Dome of the Rock can be seen to some degree in its Byzantine architecture, but especially in the many Qur'anic inscriptions decorating its walls, which clearly were intended to counter Christian doctrines. This was important to Muslims because although Jesus is regarded as a prophet in Islam, the impressive Christian structures throughout Jerusalem magnified Jesus' *divinity*, which is *shirk* ("heresy") in Islam.

Furthermore, for much of the Muslim period, Jews and Christians were made the object of scorn and derision. For example, during the reign of Caliph Harun al-Rashid (a.d. 786-809), Jews and Christians were stripped of any religious rights and forced to wear colored badges to identify their inferior status. Christians had to wear blue badges and Jews had to wear yellow ones (note that this practice of having Jews wear yellow badges was later brought back during the Holocaust). The Muslims did not want Jews or Christians (who were inferior *dhimmis*) to gain respectability because of their association with a superior architecture or religious history, which would be a grave offense to Allah and his true prophet.

In time, the "need" to prove superiority through prominent Arab structures and attract visitors to Jerusalem may have precipitated the circulation of the stories about Jerusalem being the place of final resurrection and of Muhammad's Night Journey. This is consistent with the rich collection of Islamic folklore and tradition that emerged in response to the Jewish and Christian history associated with the sacred places the Muslims had occupied. Since there was nothing to compare with or explain the significance of this history in

the Qur'an, such connections had to be invented over time. This has occurred for most all of the antiquity sites in and around the Temple Mount.¹⁴ That this is the case with the account of Muhammad's Night Journey is obvious from the fact that the name of Jerusalem (the supposed location in later tradition) is not mentioned in the Qur'an. If it was 'Abd al-Malik who built the mosque (some say Caliph Walid built it between a.d. 705-715), he probably used this story to justify his propagandistic campaign and because he needed a mosque to match the beauty of the Dome of the Rock.

The fact that Muslims were attempting to counter Jewish and Christian traditions in Jerusalem is evident by the fact that both the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque were built over the ruins of either synagogues or Byzantine churches.

The evidence we have considered up to now reveals that there is no historical basis for the Muslim claim that Jerusalem and the Temple Mount are Islamic holy places. It was not until a.d. 1187, when the Crusaders were finally dislodged by Saladin, that Jerusalem was said to be the third holiest place in Islam (after Mecca and Medina). What's more, even Arabs once recognized Jerusalem's significance to the Jewish people. For example, the Arab geographer Yakut wrote in A.D. 1225 that "the city of Jerusalem was holy to Jews and Christians, as it has been for 3,000 and 2,000 years respectively," and noted that "Mecca was holy to Muslims"¹⁵ (emphasis added). This distinction was affirmed again a few decades after Yakut, when one of the most orthodox Islamic thinkers, Taqi a-Din, attempted to purify Islam from foreign influences and came out openly against the idea that Jerusalem or the Temple Mount had any sanctity in Islam.¹⁶

While Islam has multiple holy

places, by contrast, the Temple Mount is the one and only holy place in Judaism, and is backed by at least 3,000 years of recorded history. And despite the fact that Muslims have dominated the Temple Mount for 1,300 years, Jews have continued to direct their daily prayers toward it and to look forward to the day when the Temple can be rebuilt. An example of this can be seen in a thirteenth-century statement by the Jewish sage Nahmanides in a letter to his son:

What shall I say of this land...the more holy the place, the greater the desolation. Jerusalem is the most desolate of all...there are about two thousand inhabitants...but there are no Jews....People regularly come to Jerusalem, men and women from Damascus and from Aleppo and from all parts of the country, to see the Temple and weep over it. And may He who deemed us worthy to see Jerusalem in her ruins, grant us to see her rebuilt and restored....

Muslim clerics in fact know of the historical claim Jews have to the Temple Mount. Even though their modern historians rewrite history to teach that nothing occupied the site before the beginning of Islam, the Qur'an speaks not only of the Jewish Temple, but of a Jewish return to it. In *Night Journey* 8 we read this: "We sent against you [Israel] our servants to discountenance you, and to enter the Temple, as they entered it the first time, and to destroy utterly that they ascended to. Perchance your Lord will have mercy upon you; but if you return, we shall return...." Some have said that it was because the Muslims knew these facts and believed that the Jews would return to the Temple Mount to rebuild that the Jordanians were able to abandon the Temple Mount without a major conflict in 1967. Furthermore, the early Muslim conquerors of Jerusalem knew that the Persian King

Kursau II, who held the city from a.d. 614-629, had captured it with the help of 25,000 Jews from the Galilee, and, as a reward, had given them permission to rebuild their Temple on the Temple Mount. Although Kursau later reneged on his pledge to his Jewish allies in order to make peace with the Byzantines, still, all this happened just 25 years before Caliph 'Umar rode into Jerusalem and onto the Temple Mount! What's especially amazing is that confirmation of the existence of the Temple and its identification with the place of the Muslim *Haram al-Sharif* comes from no less an authority than the Supreme Muslim Council in Jerusalem itself!

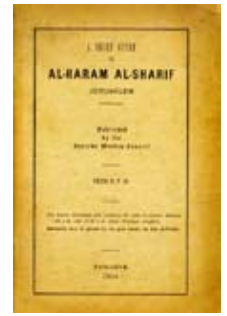
Back in 1930, long before there was a State of Israel or Muslims cared about any political associations with the Temple Mount, this Muslim entity, appointed by the British Government during the Mandate period, issued a nine-page English

language guidebook entitled *A Brief Guide to al-Haram al-Sharif*. This authoritative guide to Muslim holy places states, "This site is one of the oldest in the world. Its sanctity dates from the earliest times. Its identity with the site of Solomon's Temple is beyond dispute." Now, this is not the only reference to the Temple in this booklet, but this statement alone is sufficient to show that until Muslims resisted the creation of the Jewish state in 1948 (and until they lost the site to Israeli control in 1967), the very body that said the Temple's association with the *Haram* was "beyond dispute" now *denies* that very fact! As a result we must be very careful to search out the truth of any Palestinian statement about the Temple mount.

(Excerpted from: *Unholy War, America, Israel, and Radical Islam* by Randall Price. See book for footnotes) 🌐

Available Resource:

An exact museum level reproduction of the 1924, 16 page guide to the Temple Mount (al-Haram al-Sharif) originally produced by the Supreme Muslim Council over the Temple Mount during that time period that includes the statement that the Temple Mount **was** the site of Solomon's Temple, which is denied today by the Palestinian Authority and Muslim Clerics.



**Temple Mount Guide—
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We hope friends of World of the Bible are receiving this newsletter because they support the stated objective of “Bringing the World of the Bible to the Word of the Church” through Dr. Price’s biblical and scholarly insight on prophecy, the Middle East conflict, and archaeological work. Because of this, we would like to share the way to help this ministry do the most we can to continue reaching this objective.

There are obviously no envelopes with this E-Newsletter and there is usually a smaller response to internet communication for whatever reasons. Because of this please take a moment right now to prayerfully consider a tax-deductible gift. Even a small gift from a majority on our newsletter list would go a long way in supporting this ministry to keep people aware of the prophetic Word in relation to the world of the Bible and support WBM’s activities in archaeological research in defense of the Bible. Please be as generous as you can at this time.

Every gift of \$50 or more until Sept. 15 will receive in appreciation a “I Stand with Israel” T-shirt and 3 of Randall’s books (*Searching for the Original Bible*, *Searching for the Ark of the Covenant*, and *Battle for the Last Days Temple* when you donate at: www.worldofthebible.com/donate.htm). For \$75 or more we will send Randall’s definitive 732 page book on the Jewish Temples, *The Coming Last Days Temple* in addition to the T-shirt and three other books.

Blessings!

Ken Stanford, WBM



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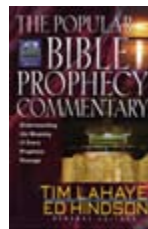
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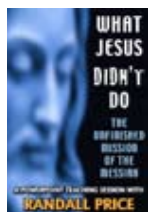
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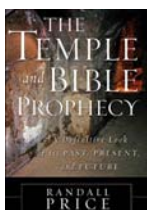
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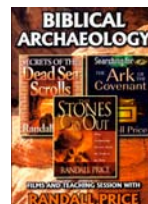
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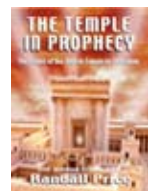
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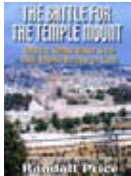
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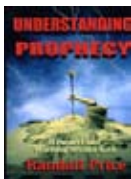
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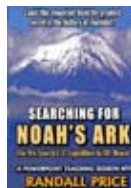
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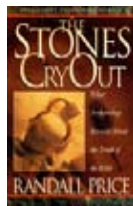
Searching for Noah's Ark



In 2009 the Ark Search LLC Expedition searched for further evidence of Noah's Ark on Mt. Ararat and may have found indication of something being under the ice near the top of

the mountain. This is the presentation of why the expedition is important, what has been done to date, and how the further search will proceed in the summer of 2010.

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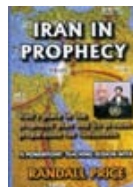
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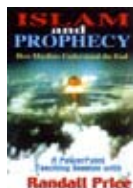


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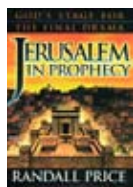
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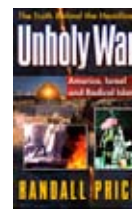
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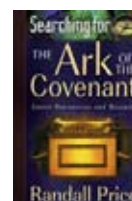
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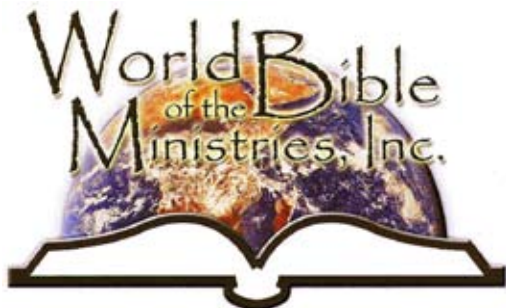
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