

# Apocalypse Now ( Revelation Revisited)

Session 2 / Wednesday

## THE ISRAEL FACTOR

1 This is how the issue of Israel began:

2

3 Genesis 11:27-32

4 Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran;  
5 and Haran begat Lot. [28] And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his  
6 nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. [29] And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the  
7 name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the  
8 daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. [30] But Sarai was  
9 barren; she had no child. [31] And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of  
10 Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they  
11 went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and  
12 they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. [32] And the days of Terah were two  
13 hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

14 Genesis 12:1-9

15 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy  
16 kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: [2] And I  
17 will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and  
18 thou shalt be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that  
19 curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. [4] So Abram  
20 departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram  
21 was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. [5] And Abram took  
22 Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had  
23 gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into  
24 the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

25 [6] And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain  
26 of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. [7] And the Lord appeared unto  
27 Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar  
28 unto the Lord, who appeared unto him. [8] And he removed from thence unto a  
29 mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and  
30 ai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the  
31 name of the Lord. [9] And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

32

33 From before creation, God had a plan which would result in the redemption of humanity.  
34 He chose a certain man who lived in Ur of Chaldea (Iraq), a man of devoted faith in God.  
35 From this man would come a family (Jews) who would be a chosen nation of God. This



1 family would know, each and keep the ways of the Lord. Genesis 18:19 *For I know*  
2 *him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall*  
3 *keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon*  
4 *Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

5  
6 From this family would come a chosen nation of people who would be distinct from other  
7 nations and be carriers of the revelation and blessing of God. From this nation would  
8 come the promised offspring of the woman, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

9 LIFE IN THE SPIRIT STUDY BIBLE / P 26 / ZONDERVAN PUBL.

### 10 The Three Earthly Great Promises God Made To Abraham

- 11 1. God promised Abraham and his progeny (the Jews) a land.
- 12 2. God promised Abraham that his descendants would always be a great nation.
- 13 3. God promised Abraham that his family would bless the nations of the world.

14  
15 But let's take a look at something else God promised that invariably gets overlooked:

16  
17  
18  
19 Rev. 7:4-8

20 **And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an**  
21 **hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. [5] Of**  
22 **the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed**  
23 **twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. [6] Of the tribe of**  
24 **Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve**  
25 **thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. [7] Of the tribe of**  
26 **Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve**  
27 **thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. [8] Of the tribe of**  
28 **Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve**  
29 **thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.**

30  
31 This prophecy foretells a major evangelism move around the world during the Tribulation  
32 period, led by 144,000 Jews, protected by God Himself. Because of what they have  
33 personally witnessed of God's protective hand on Israel when the land is attacked by an  
34 amalgamation of nations bent on Israel's annihilation, they turn to God. God will put a  
35 seal or mark on them to protect them from the vicious attacks of Antichrist. This could  
36 well be the greatest number of persons saved in human history as a result of the Jews.

### 37 38 Supersessionism – the Replacement Theology Heresy

39  
40 This is the heresy, being propagated by many in leading ecclesiastical roles, that God is  
41 done with the Jewish people, that because of their basic rejection of Jesus as Messiah God



1 There is a place called Masada. It stands near the south-eastern end of the Dead Sea.  
2 All around and about this incredible rock, as Shelley wrote of Ozymandius, the lone and  
3 level sands stretch far away.

4  
5 That Israeli-Moabite megalomaniac, Herod, known as the Great for his building prowess,  
6 had his engineers devise a magnificent fortress palace on top of this 1300 foot high bluff.  
7 His fears for survival had been aroused by the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC and  
8 the ambitious cunning of Cleopatra to the south. Therefore he devised this incredible  
9 military shangri-la.

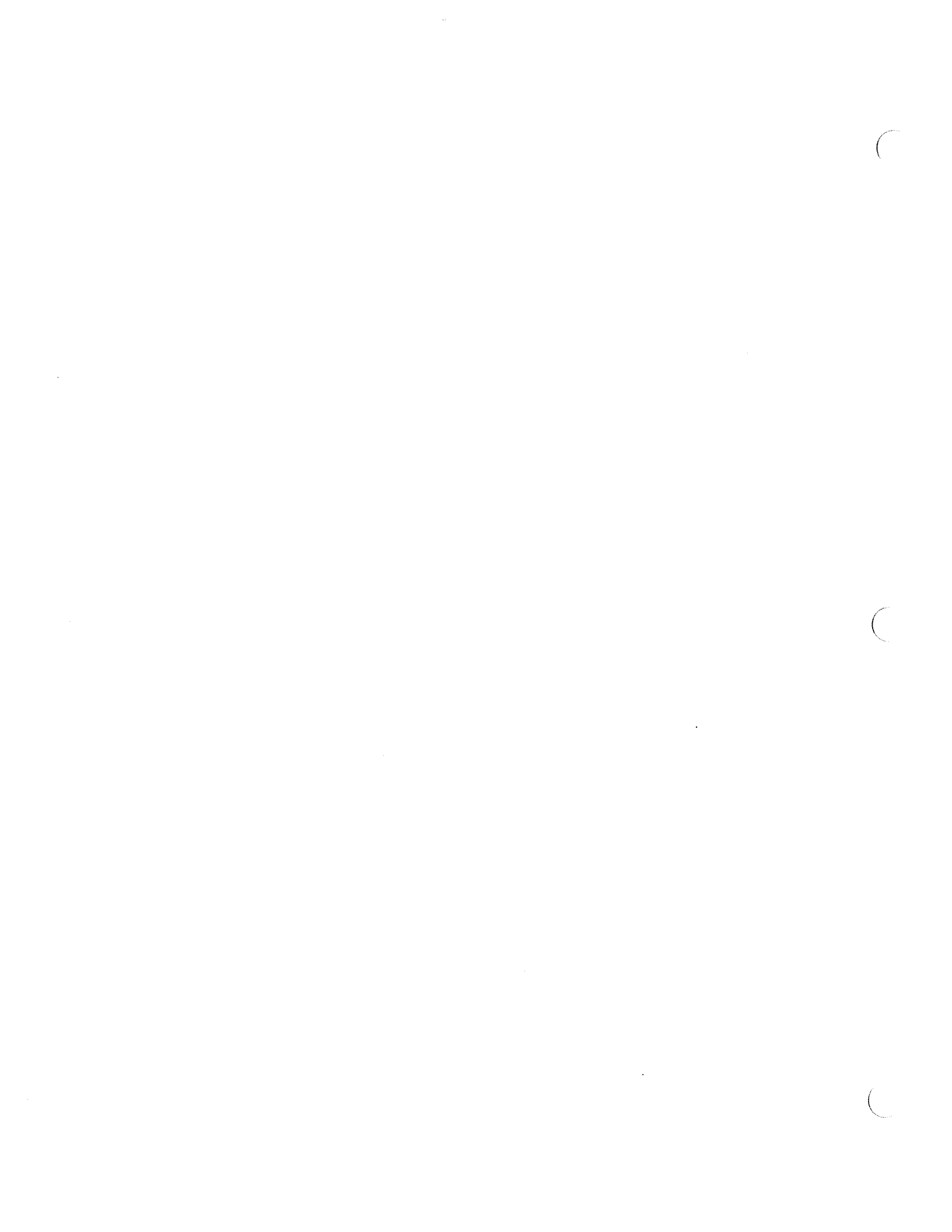
10  
11 Buildings that still stand ... elaborate palaces with gleaming mosaic floors and artistic  
12 plastered walls....saunas and Roman baths....the world's first synagogue....colossal  
13 cisterns carved from the heart of the mountain that held enough water for swimming  
14 pools, human thirst needs and even gardening on top of the bluff (despite only several  
15 inches of rainfall annually).

16  
17 But the old fox didn't see much of his fortress in the sky for one day, as all men, he died.  
18 I stood at his graveside on his Herodian palace just east of Bethlehem and later ran my  
19 hand over the lid of his marble coffin in the Israeli museum. And Masada became a  
20 near-forgotten outpost in the Judean wilderness.

21  
22 But in 70 AD, Roman General Titus brought his legions to Palestine to once and for all  
23 subdue the stubborn Jews who rebelled at Roman authority. His main thrust was at  
24 Jerusalem, where the iron machines bore forward, creaking and groaning with power.  
25 Nothing the Jews could do prevented the devastating siege and the inevitable crunching  
26 force of Rome from triumphing.

27  
28 But during the siege, nearly a thousand zealots, some 260 warriors, their wives and  
29 children, escaped the carnage in the Holy City and found sanctuary on top of Masada.  
30 Once Jerusalem was in smoking ruins, Titus left for Rome where he was crowned  
31 Emperor, and he placed his armies under General Flavius Silva. Once again, Roman  
32 might was turned against the Hebrews, but this time the target was Masada.

33  
34 Masada proved to be a different story from Jerusalem, however. No normal military  
35 conquest could be achieved there for a handful of brave men on top of the mountain could  
36 hold off all the Romans below. I actually climbed up the sheer snake path to the top of  
37 Masada some 20 years ago. There is no way an army of any kind could ever launch an  
38 attack by climbing Masada. So finally Silva ordered a great ramp to be constructed from  
39 the desert floor to the western summit of Masada. It was constructed of dirt, sand,  
40 gravel - and blood. Within a year the ramp was completed, becoming a veritable road



1 right into the fortress.

2  
3 That night, perhaps the strangest meeting ever held in recorded history was attended  
4 within the fortress walls on top of Masada. It was conducted by Ben Eliezar, the leader  
5 of the Jews. In his speech, he reminded the people that they had always lived free. But,  
6 he said, when the sun rises in the morning all the savagery of Rome would come rushing  
7 up the ramp and there was no force to stop it. By this time tomorrow, he predicted, all  
8 of us will have been sold into slavery unless - unless we commit mass suicide and die as  
9 free people.

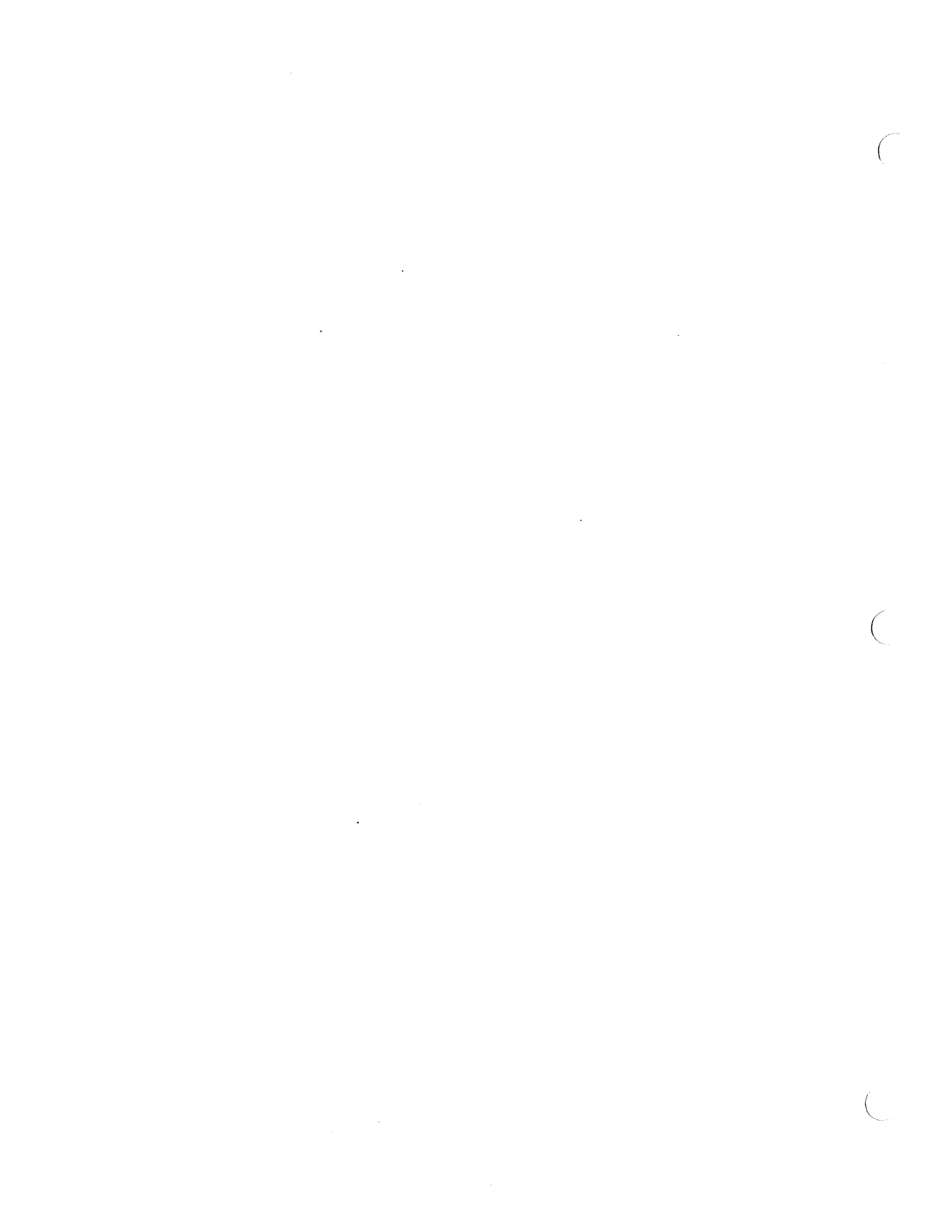
10  
11 The next morning, as the sun rose into the sterile sky, the Romans stormed the citadel for  
12 the final time and crushed through the defenses as if they were made of straw. But inside  
13 the fortress, they stopped to behold the most blood-chilling sight any Roman had ever  
14 seen. There, laid out across the plateau, were the Hebrew warriors, their wives and  
15 children, all dead by their own hand - and forever free at last. Each man had killed his  
16 family. When they finished their macabre task, they formed in groups of ten with a  
17 leader in each group taking the lives of the other nine. And one was chosen then to  
18 complete the killing of the others and finally turning the knife on his own throat. As the  
19 Romans made their descent down the ramp, they knew there was no victory that day for  
20 anyone.

21  
22 Today as we stand on top of Masada, we hear Israelis tell the story. We watch the  
23 nation's military leaders get their commissions. And the day always ends with the  
24 piercing cry from each one, **MASADA WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!** When  
25 pressed for the reason for Israel's survival in our lifetime, former prime minister Gold  
26 Meier said simply, "It is the spirit of Masada!" Anyone who believes the Israelis will  
27 surrender to the whims of the UN, Iran or any other human power has not been to Israel  
28 and has no clue to the Jewish resolve to survive.

29  
30 Picture of Masada taken from the north, looking down on Herod's three-tiered palace,  
31 found on last page of these notes.

32 Jerusalem

33  
34 The Lord willing, in several months I will be back in the Holy City along with Darlene  
35 and 100 "pilgrims" whom I will escort throughout the land. There are no words to  
36 adequately convey my love of this city! I have walked its streets, photographed it  
37 countless times and flown over it by helicopter. I have preached there, sung there,  
38 lectured there, slept and eaten there - it's home to me! As days progress, the city of  
39 Jerusalem will become more and more paramount in the news. **SATAN WILL DO**  
40 **EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO DIVIDE THE CITY** and unfortunately our





1 government will do the same.

3 Are you aware that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and yet our embassy is NOT  
4 THERE! Our embassy is in Tel Aviv. That would be like nations of the world putting  
5 their embassies in Richmond or Chicago. Washington D.C. is our capital and the world's  
6 nations respect that. Washington D.C. is where they place their embassies. But not in  
7 Israel. Because of oil interests (which are rapidly fading!) our politicians continue to  
8 refuse to put our embassies where they belong - in Jerusalem! Politicians many times  
9 promise to change that if they are elected; but the pressures from the Middle East seem to  
10 thwart them every time. You may find consulates in Jerusalem, but not embassies.  
11 There seems to be some inner understanding that Jerusalem belongs to God and that  
12 frightens non-God-fearing leaders.

13  
14 Why is Jerusalem so important? Because during the Millennium, when Jesus is king  
15 over all the earth for 1,000 years, Jerusalem will be the world capital. Satan wants to  
16 thwart that reality! So when you read or hear in the news media the conflict over  
17 Jerusalem you will understand the reason why. Jerusalem is sacred to the heart of God.  
18 It was there that His only begotten Son bled and died for the redemption of the world.

19  
20 **BUT DIDN'T ISRAEL SIN? DOES GOD STILL HONOR HIS PROMISE?**

21  
22 Some teach (and many leaders believe) that any commitment by God to Abraham was  
23 conditional and depended upon the Jews strict adherence to the divine commands. They  
24 contend that if Jews did not live by the Word that God would chastise them by abrogating  
25 His commitment, that He would set aside His covenant found in Genesis.

26  
27 We read in the books of I and II Kings and I and II Chronicles of the idolatry committed  
28 by the people of Israel. They set up idols from strange lands (much as America is doing  
29 as multitudes flock to our nation who worship everything and everyone BUT God). As a  
30 result of that straying, God delivered the Jews into the hands first of all of the Assyrians  
31 and then the Babylonians (under King Nebuchadnezzar). Those were the exile years.  
32 And yet God restored the people once again to "the land" and Jerusalem became greater  
33 than ever.

34  
35 Jesus was rejected by the Jewish leaders. John 19:15 **But they cried out, Away with**  
36 **him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King?**  
37 **The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.** Forty years later the  
38 Romans descended on Jerusalem and utterly destroyed it. Luke 21:24 **And they shall**  
39 **fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and**  
40 **Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be**

(

(

(

1 fulfilled.

3 Just as Jesus prophesied, the awful destruction of Jerusalem came to pass. Nero, the  
4 Emperor of Rome, was fed up with the Middle East and sent his ablest general Vespasian  
5 to take command of the Syrian army and destroy Israel. The Roman legions descended  
6 on Galilee and piece by piece tore it apart and finally arrived in Jerusalem under the  
7 command of Titus (Vespasian had been brought back to Rome to be crowned emperor  
8 upon the death of Nero).

9  
10 *With a force of 80,000 fighting men, Titus made his appearance before the city of*  
11 *Jerusalem in February of 70 A.D. fully expecting to quickly force the city into submission.*  
12 *He had brought with him a larger number of battering machines than had been used in*  
13 *the warfare of that time and was acquainted by Josephus the future historian.*

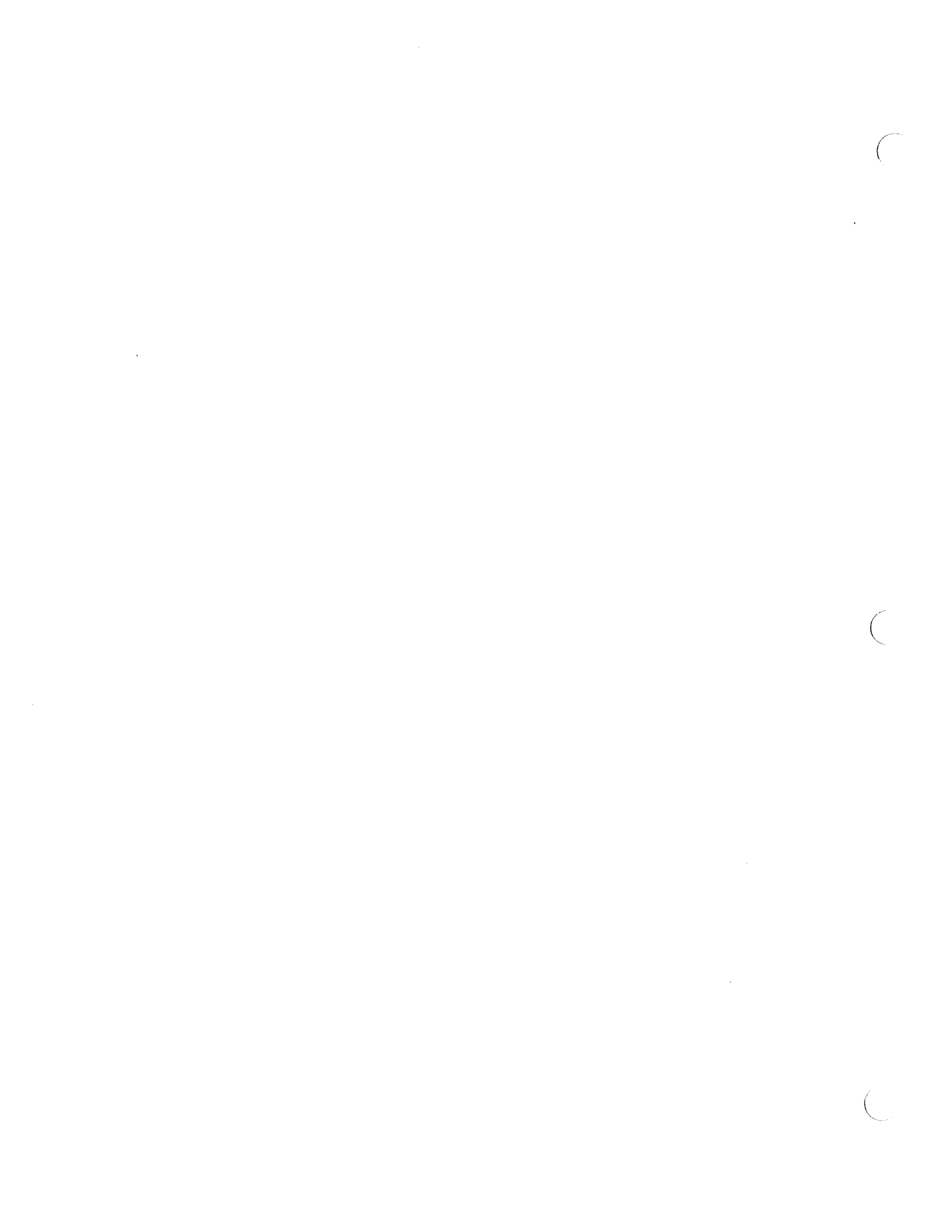
14  
15 *Many Jews came to assist in the defense of Jerusalem while still others came as pilgrims.*  
16 *When they found themselves within the city (walls) they were obliged to take sides with*  
17 *other factions inside Jerusalem. Riots and assassinations were frequent while the most*  
18 *powerful legions in the world waited at the gates.*

19  
20 *A few days before the passover, Titus took six hundred horsemen and rode around*  
21 *Jerusalem to survey the situation. The Jews attacked him with darts, javelins and*  
22 *arrows. He managed to escape with a slight wound. Still Jews continued to come to*  
23 *celebrate the passover. Whether they knew or had any presentiment of the fate which*  
24 *waited them no one can know. They continued to gather until six hundred thousand were*  
25 *crowded within the city.*

26  
27 *Titus then appeared with his legions, hopeful to negotiate a surrender. The Jews refused.*  
28 *Now the siege began in earnest. The groves and gardens to the north (including*  
29 *Gethsemane) were destroyed. The besiegers then drew nearer, encamped on three sides*  
30 *of the city and raised their battering rams against the outer wall. The operations were*  
31 *begun by the Romans during passover when Titus believed the Jews would not fight.*

32  
33 *The besieged threw massive stones and poured boiling oil upon the heads of their*  
34 *assailants and even seized the ponderous missiles that were hurled into the city and*  
35 *hurled them back as tools of destruction.*

36  
37 *The historian Josephus pled with the Jews to surrender, but his pleas only increased their*  
38 *anger. Titus crucified as many as 500 Jewish prisoners each day and cut off the hands of*  
39 *others and sent them back into the city. Yet there were no signs of surrender.*  
40



1 *Titus settled down to a long siege. Famine stalked Jerusalem. Houses and streets were*  
2 *filled with unburied corpses. Daily sacrifices ceased for there were no more animals.*  
3 *Distinction between the rich and poor ceased. Money lost its value for it could not*  
4 *purchase bread. People fought desperately in the streets over the most loathesome and*  
5 *disbusting food, a handful of straw, a piece of leather, or offal thrown to the dogs.*  
6

7 *The doom of the city was inevitable. The Romans now breached the walls into the city.*  
8 *A Roman seized a burning fire brand and flung into the golden window of the temple.*  
9 *The fire blazed up, catching the wooden beams of the sanctuary. The Roman soldiers,*  
10 *now besides themselves with fury, plunged into the city killing everyone they could reach.*  
11 *Titus, unable to control his legions penetrated into the Holy of Holies. The shouts of*  
12 *victory, the shrieks of despair and fierce hissing of flames, making the very earth tremble*  
13 *and air vibrate, rose in one hideous din which reached the mountain heights of Judea.*  
14

15 *The temple was burnt to the ground, leaving only a few smouldering ruins rising like*  
16 *gigantic ghosts from the ashes. Titus ordered the immediate execution of any remaining*  
17 *temple priests. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, all resistance ended. The walls of the Holy City were*  
18 *entirely leveled. More than one million lives were lost. Jerusalem was left a heap of*  
19 *ruins.*  
20

21 THE ABOVE MATERIAL WAS GLEANED FROM THE WRITINGS OF G. FREDERICK OWEN, PUBLISHED  
22 BY BERMAN'S PUBLISHING IN THE BOOK ABRAHAM TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.  
23

24 For those who would discount prophecy, we remember that Jesus predicted the disaster of  
25 Jerusalem very clearly forty years before it happened: Matthew 24:1-2

26 **And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him**  
27 **for to shew him the buildings of the temple. [2] And Jesus said unto them, See ye not**  
28 **all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon**  
29 **another, that shall not be thrown down.**  
30

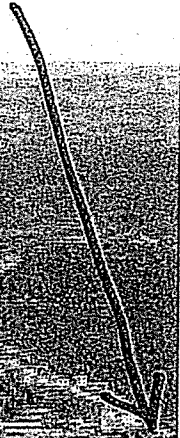
31 All the Biblical prophecies are true. From them in furtherance of this study we learn of  
32 those things "yet to come."  
33  
34  
35



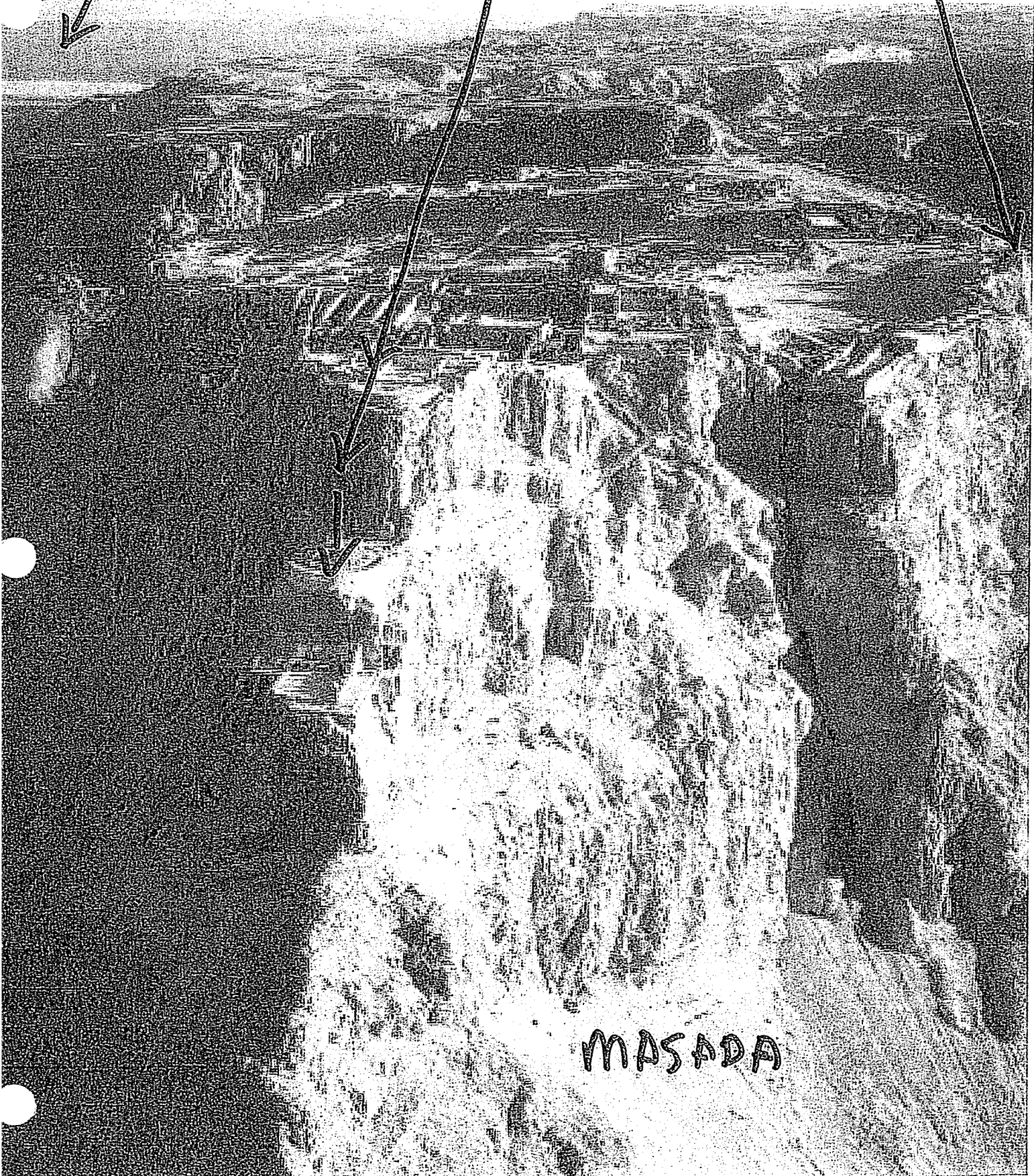
Dead Sea

HEROD'S  
PALACE

RAMP



MASADA



2

C

C