



Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An email newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in Current Events*

The Search for the Ark of the Covenant

The ark that the Lord instructed Moses to build is also known as the "Ark of the Covenant." It initially contained a pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded and the tables of the Law, or Ten Commandments. The ark was kept in the tabernacle. It was carried by Israel during their wilderness wanderings, and it was finally brought into the temple that was built by Solomon. The ark has been the subject of much interest over the years. Many remember the Indiana Jones movie that featured the ark as a focus of interest by the Nazi's who, as the movie showed, wanted to find the ark to tap into its powers for conquest.

What happened to the Ark of the Covenant? Some believe it was destroyed by the Babylonians when they conquered Jerusalem. Others speculate that the ark was taken down to Ethiopia for safe keeping toward the end of Solomon's declining reign. Today, some believe the ark is still in Jerusalem waiting to be found somewhere under the temple mount.

What is the significance of this interest in finding the Ark of the Covenant? I believe it indicates to the world that God still stirs the hearts of many that He continues to be present and active in behalf of His people Israel. The Scripture, through Ezekiel and through the testimony of the book of Acts, reveals that the glory of God has departed from Israel twice. First from the temple just prior to the destruction of Israel under Nebuchadnezzar, and second, after the departure of God's Glory in His Son, Jesus Christ, after He was rejected by Israel and ascended up from the Mount of Olives. (Ezekiel 11:23; Acts 1:9) I believe there is a desire in the hearts of many Jews for the glory of God to return. His glory will return at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Ark actually represents Jesus Christ, in His finished work of redemption and of His presence and protection of His people. As the time of the Lord's return nears, and as the hatred for the Jews and Israel grows in the world today through Islam, false Christianity and Humanism, I believe there is also a growing interest in the Ark of the Covenant.

The following interesting article shows that the Ark of the Covenant is still of great interest to Israel:

Meet the "Jewish Indiana Jones" Searching for the Lost Ark of the Covenant

By Lea Speyer January 22, 2015, 7:30 am

"David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim." (2 Samuel 6:1-23)

The Ark of the Covenant has inspired a whole sector of humanity to chase after one of the world's most treasured – and missing – items. In what is known today as the Lost Ark, the search continues for Judaism's most holy and significant artifact of religious and historical importance.

Meet Harry Moskoff, the man who is becoming known as the “Jewish Indiana Jones.” A filmmaker and researcher by hobby and an IT specialist by trade, Moskoff has spent the last 25 years of his life dedicated to uncovering the location of the Lost Ark.

“Truth of the matter is, for the last 25 years, it's been a personal hobby of mine to find the *Makom Hamikdash*, the exact location where the Jewish Temple once stood,” he told *Breaking Israel News*. Inspired by the teachings of Maimonides, Moskoff has met with world renowned rabbinical and archaeological authorities in Israel as he comes closer to finding the Lost Ark. God first commanded Moses to build the Ark of the Covenant in the Book of Exodus:

“Have them make an Ark of acacia wood – two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it...Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.” (Exodus 25:10-16)

Plated with pure gold and mounted with two golden Cherubim, the Ark was carried by the Levites as the Jewish nation wandered in the desert for 40 years. Playing a significant role in various Biblical accounts, the Ark is described as having supernatural powers. Eventually, the Ark came to rest in the First Temple, which was built by King Solomon. The Ark was placed in a special inner room known as the Holy of Holies, where the High Priest would enter once a year on Yom Kippur.



Harry Moskoff inside the cave where the Temple Scrolls were found in Qumran.
(Photo: Courtesy)

The Ark was last seen in 586 BCE when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the First Temple. What happened to the Ark remains unknown until today.

Moskoff believes that he is getting closer to finding the true location of where the Ark is buried – right under the Temple Mount itself. His “Moskoff Theory” explains that where we believe the location of the Holy of Holies is – the current location of the Dome of the Rock – is in fact wrong. Based on historical, archaeological, topographical and biblical evidence, the Moskoff Theory states (in simple terms) that when we find the true location of the Holy of Holies, the Ark of the Covenant

may very well be found in a secret chamber built directly underneath, in a room built for it by King Solomon, who foresaw the destruction of the Temple. He Designed this underground Temple room to hide and protect the Ark for future generations until the advent of the Third Temple.

“Is the Dome of the Rock the real place of the Temple? Some Jewish sages argue that God would never put any building on top of the Holy of Holies,” Moskoff explains. “The Dome of the Rock is not on the Foundation Stone, but rather the highest point on Mount Moriah.”

Moskoff explained that after researching various theories by well-known historians who claim to know the exact location of the Jewish Temples and where various features, such as the altar, stood, he

realized that “they all cancelled each other out.” “I found in one theory that some things just didn’t make sense with the original topography of the mountain. It didn’t jive,” he said. “So I went to another famous theory and found that things didn’t make sense from a scriptural perspective.”

“The game changer that made me pursue with interest the Lost Ark was a book published in 1982 called ‘In the Shadow of the Temple’ by the great Israeli archaeologist Meir Ben-Dov. That book changed my whole perspective,” Moskoff said. In his book, Ben-Dov recalls the discovery of a tunnel spoken about in Jewish scripture that was used by ritually impure priests. The tunnel is said to run directly under the Temple Mount. “The tunnel ran to the south under the Mount into a ritual bath with a fire and bathroom. This place is described in the Talmud. He (Ben-Dov) found that tunnel and it exists today, described in the exact same way,” Moskoff said.

“This tunnel was blocked up 150 years ago and it is clear that the original finders wanted it to remain closed. Over 2,000 years old, the tunnel exists in complete form. If we go through that tunnel it would lead us to the exact location of the Temple because we know from scripture where it surfaced.” “Following the tunnel would either prove or disprove the Moskoff Theory! It would tell us the exact place of the altar, Holy of Holies and the location of the Ark,” he explained. “The archaeologists were not religious and it was a huge find,” he continued. “Once I read about this find, I thought how all the other theories were not possible with the direction of the tunnel. Something clicked and I realized that what we think about the Temple Mount today is not all correct.”



Harry Moskoff with Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. (Photo: Courtesy)"

While some may roll their eyes and say Moskoff is just another adventurer out for glory, this notion is far from the truth. He is the first person to ever come close to finding the Ark in a way that makes sense.

“I’ve spoken with other archaeologists and researchers. None of them have the scriptural sources or references where the holiest and most valuable item ever in history is located,” Moskoff stated. “None of them are looking for the Ark from a true Jewish, traditional, biblical perspective combining all the sources.” “Everyone is looking in Ethiopia and other places where there are no real proofs as to the location of the Ark.”

When asked about the importance of his quest, Moskoff explained his belief that in today’s world, with the worsening geopolitical situation surrounding Jerusalem, finding the Ark would “validate and strengthen the Jewish connection and rights to Jerusalem.” “I discovered that when talking about the Ark, you can’t not talk about what is happening in Israel today. Every day, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount are in the headlines. By discovering the Ark and even other Temple related artifacts, we can have an effect on the validation of the Jewish connection to Jerusalem,” he said.

Moskoff has become one of the world’s foremost experts on the Ark of the Covenant. Explaining in further detail the “Moskoff Theory,” Judaism’s Indiana Jones published “The A.R.K. Report” and an accompanying documentary which further features how Moskoff is reaching new levels of understanding about the Lost Ark. Backed by a historical *and* biblical understanding, Moskoff is narrowing the gap between an important part of Jewish history and modern times. “The idea is to raise awareness and inspire people. This is just the beginning for Israel,” he said.

“In the big picture of Jewish history, things are speaking up and coming to a close. We can’t deny it. Things are happening now to the Jewish people and I want to tell people, show people, that there is a great and holy future for Israel.” (Read more at <http://www.breakingisraelnews.com>)

Is Russia Behind Islamic Terror?

Keep an eye on Russia and Iran in the future as we watch both of these countries draw closer together. Both of these countries have world conquest in mind. Pictures have just surfaced through Israeli news of a new giant Iranian ICBM believed capable of reaching the U.S. I believe that much of the Islamic terrorism in the world today is both directly and indirectly backed by Russia, who, like Iran, and Islam as a whole has Israel in their crosshairs. Russia, Iran and Islam in general have common interests and are tied together by their mutual lust for world domination fueled by a common hatred for the God of the Bible, for the cross of Christ and for Israel. Ezekiel 38 and 39 predicts a future war against Israel that will be carried out by Russia and Iran, along with other Islamic nations. (See prophecyinperspective.com, Newsletter, Vol. 30, "**Can a Leopard Change its Spots?**") At any time in the near future, Russia, Iran and other Islamic nations may carry out an attack against Israel to secure both its wealth and the death of millions of Jews. (See my book, **Fearless Faith**, A Study of the Precepts and Prophecies of Ezekiel, pp. 203-212)

On the subject of Russian involvement with Islamic terror, I have included a portion of an important and well written article from *Business Insider*.

Russia And Iran Just Got Even Closer

Elena Holodny and Michael B Kelley Jan. 20, 2015, 8:59 AM



Iranian media Russian defense minister Sergei Shoigu, left, with his Iranian counterpart, defense minister Hossein Dehghan

Russia and Iran are aligning more and more.

In Tehran on Tuesday, Russian defense minister Sergei Shoigu and his Iranian counterpart, defense minister Hossein Dehghan, signed an agreement on "military cooperation" between the two countries, according to the state-controlled news agency TASS.

"The signing of the intergovernmental agreement on military cooperation today became a significant step in the strengthening of these relations," Shoigu said afterward. "The theoretical basis of cooperation in the military sphere has been established."

Shoigu noted that the thinking of Russia and Iran regarding the situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan was "closer or coincides." He also noted that during the meeting both sides stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to combat international terrorism and drug trafficking.

"We consider the reduction of tension in the region our responsibility and one of our top priorities," Shoigu said. Cooperation between the two countries is clearest in Syria, where planes from Moscow and Tehran have consistently arrived in Damascus with weapons and supplies for the Assad regime.

The foreign arm of the Iran Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah has been running the Assad regime's campaign against secular and Islamist rebels in Syria. The Iran-backed government in Damascus continues to rain barrel bombs on civilian areas while Tehran sends fighters from multiple countries to bolster Assad.

Over the course of the four-year Syrian conflict, Russia has provided Assad's regime with supplies including guns, grenades, tank parts, fighter jets, advanced anti-ship cruise missiles, long-range air defense missiles, military officers as advisers, diplomatic cover, and lots of cash.

"Emphasis was placed on the need for cooperation between Russia and Iran in the joint struggle with the intervention of outside forces in the region," Dehghan said. "The situation in the region and in the world required that a powerful Russia and a powerful Iran jointly promote the strengthening of international security and regional stability."



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani during a summit of Caspian Sea regional leaders in the southern city of Astrakhan, on Sept. 29.

Russia is planning on building nuclear reactors for Iran, even while Moscow works with Western powers on negotiating a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program. The two countries also reportedly inked a five-year deal that included "closer ties in the oil and gas sector, construction and rebuilding of generating capacity, development of power supply network infrastructure, machinery, consumer goods, and agriculture."

The two defense ministers also discussed "activities of mutual interest," including the expansion of delegations, the holding of staff talks, participation in exercises as observers, the training of military personnel, and the exchange of experience in peacekeeping and counterterrorism, TASS reports.

"We have agreed to expand the practice of visits of warships in Russian and Iranian ports," Shoigu added. (Additionally, Russian warships also are being seen docked in Havana Cuba). (<http://www.businessinsider.com/russia-iran-signed-military-cooperation-2015-1>)

The World Desperately Needs Prophetic Interpreters of God's Word in These Desperate Times

World events are certainly shaping up to indicate that we are in the last days. We do not know how long it will be before the Lord raptures His church to heaven and then the Great Tribulation will begin. Unfortunately, ignorance of Bible prophecy among Christians keeps people in the dark as to why world events are shaping up the way they are.

Many, especially among Christian leaders in America today, do not particularly care about the return of the Lord. Some use the excuse that it has been two thousand years and Jesus has not returned yet. Actually, the

prophecies of the coming of the Messiah to the earth have been given in Scripture many centuries before the birth of Jesus. God has waited so long because: **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."** (2 Peter 3:9) And, besides, time has actually been relatively brief from God's perspective. (2 Peter 3:8)

Yet today there are growing numbers who scoff at the idea that the Lord will come back to Rapture the church, and then, at least seven years after, return to the earth. (See, prophecyinperspective.com, Newsletter, **"The Vital Doctrine of the Pretribulational Rapture,"** Vol. 36)

The presence of scoffers is a clear indicator that we are in the last days as Peter states: **"Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'"** (What has become of the predictions of Jesus' return?) They say that things have been pretty much the same since the beginning (2 Peter 3: 1-7). Yet, the interest that believers have in the coming of the Lord indicates a real love for the Lord and trust in the truthfulness of God through His Word, the Bible. Don't forget that the promise of the Lord's return is given in the Bible for Christians to be faithful to live for the Lord, to witness for Him and to be encouraged through trials that God is truly in control. Will you be faithful to study Bible prophecy and to be ready for the Lord's coming? The true interpreters of world events are those who believe the Lord is unfolding His prophetic plan. As Christians, we have an important stewardship in the world today to interpret world events and situations, especially as they relate to God's promises to Israel, and to encourage the lost to come to know Jesus Christ by faith as their personal Savior and soon coming Bridegroom!

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As usual, if you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your name and email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his books: "Good News From a Far Country", A study in the book of Daniel [\$15-
SORRY - THIS BOOK IS SOLD OUT - Reprints coming soon]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10];
"Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him. **Dr. Downing's newest book, "Fearless Faith, A Study in the Prophecies and Precepts of Ezekiel " is available to those taking his study class, "Fearless Faith." For time and location of this class, contact Dr. Downing thru his website or direct email.**

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