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Working with: **New**

Testament

Ministries -

Unlimited

BEWARE THE NORTH

Today's Worldnews map of the BBC shows the huge parts of Syria and Iraq already taken by the "Islamic State", i.e. by the absolutely ruthless army of young warriors from many nations - armed to the teeth with ultra modern weapons. They are ready to give their lives for the cause, even by suicide. They evict and massacre all that's in their way - all that holds a different ideology. Their self-proclaimed leader of this brand new "Caliphate" is "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi", who has announced his plans to march on Rome, Spain and New York.

In Spain there is no feverish preparation to give him a proper reception - not yet. But why Spain, you might well ask. Rome, considered by them the seat of Christianity, must, of course, be brought to its knees. An Islamist would hardly know anything of Revelation 18, but still, he sees himself as Allah's instrument to bring about what John's vision predicts.

New York, on the other hand, symbolizes everything they hate about America and the Americans. Their success in bringing down the twin-towers was only a foretaste of things to come.

So Spain...? Spain to an Islamist is Allah's country. Most of it, or parts of it, were occupied by Islam from 711 right up to 1492. The

reconquest of the country by the RC monarchs is a terrible, shameful blot on Islam's record - that stain will have to be removed.

Of course, Israel must be their prime target. No doubt Abu Bakr would love to go for Israel (the "Zionist entity"), but, for the time being, that is not feasible with the Muslim governments on its borders: Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Cairo. The Islamic State is at war with Damascus - so should they take that city so close to the Israeli border, then there would be imminent danger for Israel, which already has its hands full with Hamas and Hezbollah. For now, the "Islamic State" is on the map, where it looks like a dark thundercloud hanging over Israel in the north.

Repeatedly in the Old Testament, Israel is warned about the danger from "the north", especially in Jeremiah. Zechariah 12 gives details about the final battle for Jerusalem - the battle in which Messiah himself intervenes. Whether Abu Bakr will be there, we cannot say, but one thing is sure, sooner or later his blasphemous mouth will be stopped... It has happened to so many before him. The God of Israel will deal with him!

Jesus said: "**When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near**" (Lk.21:28).



JANET'S ANGLE

It is good that summer is slowly drawing to a close. With her heart problems, Janet feels tired very quickly, and the heat of summer makes it worse. But she is so grateful that, next to the bedroom, she now has her own bathroom with all the facilities. **Sergio**, the Argentinean, did a good job. When he had finished that and some other smaller jobs, Janet asked him to repaint three ceilings. That was because there were noticeable irregularities. To our horror, what he found was that in a number of places the beams above the ceilings had been affected by humidity. When the metal rods inside them rust, the beams start to burst. It took weeks to get the damage properly assessed and for Sergio to know how to go about treating the damaged beams, put on new roof-tiling and make it watertight. So, once that was clear, he set to work again, this time with his Bolivian helper, **Elias**.

The roof-garden, that we had inherited, used to be Janet's domain - about 30 sq. feet altogether, but then, as Janet was less and less able to look after it, that responsibility had fallen on me. So the men were now stripping the roof of its tiles, and what do you think they found? You guessed it - a number of roots had ventured underneath and were causing problems, some for quite a distance... In other words, the plants became a useful 'scapegoat', and it was decided on the spot to do completely away with the cherished garden, and just keep to a number of flowerpots instead.

The mountains of rubble, which - as by magic - kept appearing in front of the house, were created as the rubble was brought down three flights of steps, sack-on-back, sack-on-back... Then, when the last mountain had been cleared away, the new building materials formed new mountains that had to go up the same way. But eventually the roof was finished, and the ceilings could be tackled. Believe it or not, even that came to an end. What a sigh of relief! What had started in February was at last all done in August!

Through the prophet Haggai, God told the Jews that had returned from exile: **"My house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house."** Should that be applied to us? One thing that did make us very happy was the daily contact with the men. With Elias I had some very good conversations when he was off work. Humanly speaking, his life is a mess, but he is opening up to the only One who can sort him out and give him a new life. Both are now attending the meetings.

Now, this is supposed to be Janet's page, and she has hardly been mentioned yet. Of course, you are hoping, and perhaps thinking, that her problems too must have come to an end. Sorry to disappoint you... The staple is still there, near her left kidney, and so she still has to cope with the catheter. It is replaced every 2 months, and re-sterilized twice a week. All kinds of medical people keep on seeing her and a urologist told her they might operate to remove the staple in September! So we are hopeful that at least this problem may come to an end soon. Keep praying!

As I am writing, a team of seven coaches of Coaching-for-Christ is here again from Northern Ireland, working with children and teenagers by way of playing football and so gaining their interest and their hearing. They always make good use of every opportunity to get the Gospel across, sometimes to the parents at the same time. However, this week things are going to be even more special - a group of 17 youngsters are on the point of arriving, also from Northern Ireland, plus another three coaches. A tournament has been organized with four local football clubs and the champions will be carrying away a proper "cup". We are praying that all will be kept in the right perspective and that the after-meetings on the grass will be greatly used by the One who means to enter lives, transform them and use them in his service.

Michael & Julie are carrying a heavy load with the organization, logistics, translation, feeding an army, and the spiritual dimension. But all should be over on Saturday, Aug. 30. Some of you will not be receiving this on time, but if you do, your prayer will, of course, be greatly appreciated!

As has happened for many years, **Harry Dowds**, Northern Irish preacher, and his wife **Christine**, spend a few weeks here braving the August sun. How much we all enjoy the times that Harry opens the Word to us and speaks very frankly of the things that God has laid on his heart!

One of the local football-teams to be challenged is made up of Bolivians. Both **Favio** and **Elías** are involved, so we're looking forward to meeting more of them. **Elías** already got one friend, **Alex**, to come to the meetings - and his children. It will be nice to meet his wife also. Pray!

You will remember **Toñi**. Her daughter-in-law, **Amanda**, is expecting for the 4th time. She lost the other three, so we are specially praying that all might be well this time and that, above all, the Lord will gain definite commitment of their lives.

The latest of **Raquel** is that, with not finding work in England, she came back to Spain. Then here it was the same story, or worse, so back to England again. Now **Nuria**, her Mom, has given us the good news that Raquel has a job. We pray for these dear ones! May all of them be, or become, useful in the Lord's hand for HIS outreach!

Stand with us!

Jim & Janet

**NOW IN HARDCOPY AND PDF!
LET US KNOW WHICH YOU PREFER.**

- "SPURGEON ON THE LAW"
- "LIVE UP TO IT" (EPHESIANS) - *Howel Jones*
- "The City of the Cursed" - *JvH*
- "The Generation of 1914!" - *Jaymes*
- "THE RAIN OF VICTORY" - *Watchman Nee*

IN THIS ISSUE:



The Illustration



There was a man who put duck eggs under a brooding hen. Some very amusing things happened, as he related. When the ducks are hatched it is a tragedy for the hen and a comedy for the bystanders. The ducklings go where they please, utterly indifferent to the hen's frantic clucking and cackling. They do not understand the hen's language, and she does not know whether they are happy or suffering pain. They eat what she forbids and refuse what she offers. They never follow her; she is always following them trying to get them to do her bidding. They head for the nearest mud puddle and she almost has a nervous breakdown. When they become sticky with mud, they rub themselves against her to dry themselves off. It is a one-way relationship -- she is compelled to "mother" the ducks, but they never even approximate being her chicks. It is a sad situation to say the least.

It is also quite easy to see the parallel with many who call themselves "children of God". They proclaim that God is their Father, but there is little resemblance and no obedience. God is bound to be their Father, but they need not be his children. There is no interest in the things of God and they have no heart to do the things He requires. As in the former case, something is radically wrong. While many have a smattering of Bible knowledge, they simply are not children of God. They have never experienced new birth. They have not been born of God; just as the ducks were not really born of the hen...

Peter tells us that the true child of God is a "partaker of the divine nature." Is one a child of God when he cares not for the

things of the heavenly Father? One may claim to be saved but his actions and desires reveal his true nature.

Where there is no desire to meet regularly with the people of God, no interest in reading and keeping his Word, no heartfelt communication through prayer and fellowship, could God's life reside there?

"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature - old things have passed away; all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me." He also spoke of wheat and tares. The tares looked just like the wheat and it was only upon close examination that their true nature was discovered: there was no grain...

Multitudes have heard the Gospel, raised their hand, prayed a prayer and assumed that this was some magic formula for getting saved. Now, you may do these things from the heart and truly become a child of God, but it is equally possible to go through the motions and remain a child of Satan.

For hundreds of years men have tried to simulate a true cultured pearl. Many good imitations have been produced and multitudes have been fooled. But experts can now detect the real thing from a counterfeit through the use of X-rays, electro-magnets, etc. They can examine the "heart" of the pearl. Salvation is a **heart** matter. "He who believes in his heart shall be saved!" God knows every heart! He cannot be fooled. **"You must be born again!"**

Are you doing your own thing? On judgment day many will claim to belong to him, but He will say, **"I don't know you! Depart from Me!"** *Rolland Starr*