

Valley of Decision

"I will gather all the nations, and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat"

DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER

The book of Joel describes the last days through three major events which will take place in the Church, in Israel, and in the Nations.

Firstly, the prophet Joel saw that before the "great and terrible day of the Lord", God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. It would be a final sweep of revival when "all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved." The last 100 years has indeed seen this being fulfilled in a powerful way. God's Spirit has been and still is moving mightily around the world.

Secondly, he saw that the last days would be days when God would "restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem..." (Joel 3:1). Every visitor to the Holy Land can see this being fulfilled in front of his own eyes. Zion is not only being restored, but Israel has established itself as a nation to be reckoned with in the Middle East, a fact that many are reluctant to admit.

Joel foresees a global outpouring of God's Spirit, the restoration of Israel and a time of judgment on the nations.

Thirdly, in the midst of a global outpouring of His Spirit and the restoration of Israel, the prophet saw this era would culminate with a time of judgment on all nations.

"For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations, and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land." (Joel 3:1-2)

After He has freely offered His grace to all humanity, and after He has demonstrated His sovereign rule over world affairs by restoring Israel, God finally summons the nations to the valley of Jehoshaphat, the place of final judgment. The main criteria for His verdict will be how the nations treated Israel and the Jews. Joel thus calls it the "valley of decision" and sees "multitudes" in it (Joel 3:14). Not that God would arbitrarily judge the nations; rather the nations themselves have determined their own fate by their efforts to divide His land and to sell out Israel for their own gain.

Late last year, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad reminded us of this very truth. He insisted that US President Barack Obama must make a choice between Israel and Iran.

"The support of both Israel and Iran can't go hand in hand," Ahmadinejad told a

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The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem



The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in 1980 as an act of comfort and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in their claim to Jerusalem.

Today, the Christian Embassy stands at the forefront of a growing mainstream movement of Christians worldwide who share a love and concern for Israel and an understanding of the biblical significance of the modern ingathering of Jews to the land of their forefathers.

From our headquarters in Jerusalem and through our branches and representatives in over 80 nations, we seek to challenge the Church to take up its scriptural responsibilities towards the Jewish people, to remind Israel of the wonderful promises made to her in the Bible, and to be a source of practical assistance to all the people of the Land of Israel.

The ICEJ's United States Branch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with offices in Washington, D.C. and in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We are a non-denominational faith ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends.

We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response card to make your donation to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.



Please mail all donations to:

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Or make your tax-deductible gift online:

www.icejusa.org



“YET WHO KNOWS WHETHER YOU HAVE COME TO THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS” (ESTHER 4:14)



FOR SUCH A

TIME

AS THIS...



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM (REGISTRATION: \$10)

WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH
1921 NEW SALEM HWY, MURFREESBORO, TN



Discerning the TIMES

*Be like the sons of Issachar
“who had understanding of
the times, to know what
Israel ought to do...”
1 CHRONICLES 12:32*

Saturday, January 23rd
9:00am - 12:30pm

Trinity Assembly of God •
2122 W. Joppa Rd • Lutherville, MD.

Saturday, January 30th
9:00am - 12:30pm

New Testament Baptist Church
6601 NW 167th St • Miami , FL.



Saturday, February 6th
9:00am - 12:30pm

Without Walls Central • 777 Carpenter's Way
Lakeland, FL. 33809



Speakers include: Rev. Malcolm Hedding, Susan Michael,
Rev. John Small & Rev. Larry Booth

Cost \$10 per person.

Register online: www.icejusa.org/events or call: (615) 895-9830

Malcolm Hedding will also be speaking at the following Sunday services:

Sunday, January 31st

New Testament Baptist Church
6601 NW 167th St • Miami , FL.

Sunday, February 7th

Our Father's House • 535 Cassia Blvd
Satellite Beach • FL. 32937

...and YOUR place in what God is doing today.



Numbering our Days

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” Psalm 90:12

SUSAN MICHAEL

The beginning of wisdom is acknowledging God's sovereignty over our finite world.

One way that man's finite mind comprehends the greatness of God is in acknowledging He is eternal and that He resides outside of our concept of time. As Psalm 90: 2 says "from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

But as Job, while we acknowledge that God controls time, we question why He is not intervening in our situation when we think that He should (Job 24:1). The disciples also had many questions about God's timing and when He would fulfill His promises.

It is very interesting that when the disciples asked Jesus about the timing of Israel's restoration He answered that the seasons and times were God's and His followers were on a "need to know" basis! In other words, Israel's restoration was for a future time and all the disciples needed to be concerned with was the current time. God was birthing the church in their day, and so Jesus spoke to them about receiving the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:7,8).

As we seek to discern or understand the times in which we live we have to be careful not to be interested just for the sake of knowledge. No, we are to be as the "Sons of Isaacar" and discern the times so that we know what *we* are to do (1 Chronicles 12:32). Our goal should be service and obedience.

Also, we can never truly be wise unless we are first humble. When we acknowledge God's greatness, and our finiteness, only then do we recognize our need for His wisdom which He will then give generously. That is why the Psalmist said "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

Wespendourwholelifegainingknowledge, but we need wisdom and understanding in order to filter the information properly

and know what actions to take or decisions to make. It is God who gives wisdom and understanding in order that we will know how to live out our lives in service to Him.

This is the sequence of the 90th Psalm. After the psalmist declares God's ownership of eternity and recognizes that our days are numbered, he then acknowledges the need for wisdom, and ends with a prayer that the work of our hands would be established.

Acknowledging God's sovereignty over our finite world is the beginning of wisdom. But wisdom is not the goal. God gives wisdom and understanding that we might fulfill His calling on our lives. This is the point at which we become a part of God's eternal plan laid before the foundation of the world. What a magnificent God we serve! 🌍





ICEJ Educational Tools



Many people are concerned about the times in which we live because the world seems to be changing so quickly around us.

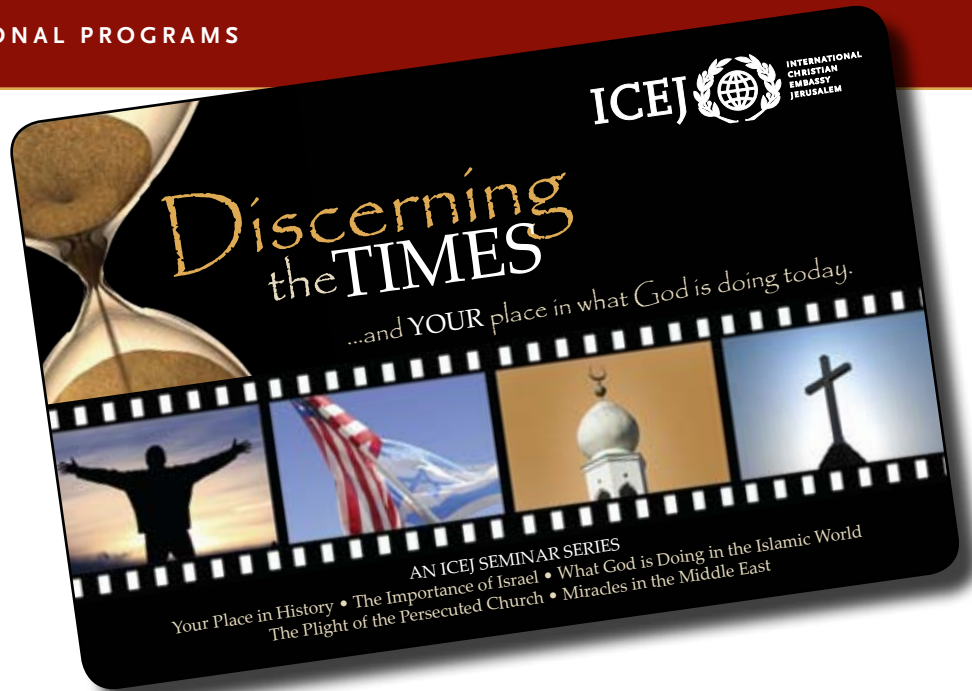
This is why the ICEJ has developed educational programs that help us understand our place in history and how we are *making* history today. This is not the time to cower in fear or confusion, but to pinpoint the purpose of God and to flow with it. Whatever the times in which we live, whatever the difficulty of our day, we are called to action.

This special ICEJ supplement is designed to introduce you to a series of educational tools that are already impacting churches and changing lives. These include:

- The *Small Group Study* version of Malcolm Hedding's 'Foundational Teaching Series'- a thorough, yet accessible, 5-part treatment of the scriptural significance of Israel available in CD, DVD or book format from our website (www.icejusa.org) and now formatted for small group study. This 12-week curriculum is designed for home groups Sunday school classes alike.

- Our half-day *Teaching Seminars* which have been well received by a wide variety of church communities. *Discerning the Times*, the first of these, gives the big picture of God at work through history and in our world today, while a new series of seminars on anti-Semitism, Islam, and Israel not only educate on these vital issues but motivate the participants to hear the heart of God and to get involved!

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Discerning the Times

Discerning the Times examines the historic days in which we live and the major shift that is occurring as Christians around the world learn to relate with love and understanding to the Jewish people. This unique one-day seminar event also looks at the widening confrontation between Islam and the Judeo-Christian world, a struggle that is centered upon the reborn nation of Israel. The Church is called to “be like the sons of Isachaar” to “understand the times” in which we live. This event will not only inform and inspire you, but will equip those in your local church community to do just that.

Understanding Israel

The return of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland after 2,000 years of exile is an unprecedented event in human history. Yet it was an event clearly promised in the pages of scripture. More than 60 years after Israel's modern rebirth there is a global propaganda campaign seeking to rewrite history and delegitimize Israel. This seminar provides the facts about Israel's history, existence and biblical hope that will prepare you to answer the difficult questions about this unique nation's enduring significance in our day.





For Such a Time as This

When World War II ended and the full horror of Hitler’s ‘Final Solution’ became known, the world made the vow: “Never Again.” In little over 60 years, anti-Semitism is once again on the rise across Europe, the Middle East and even here in the US. Featuring compelling use of drama, narrative and video, *For Such a Time as This* explores the historical, political and spiritual implications of the Holocaust and underscores the importance of raising up a generation to stand with the Jewish people today.

Islam in America

The past decade has forced the US to come to terms with Islam in like never before. The events of 9/11 and conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have deeply impacted our perspective even as the influence of Islam has been rising in neighborhoods across the nation. While clearly warning about the beliefs and dangers of Islam, this seminar is designed to help Christians tap into the heart of God for the lost and to recognize the remarkable mission field opening up here at home.



>> EDUCATIONAL TOOLS

- A powerful team of *ICEJ Speakers* who are able to bring these seminars to your local church community in addition to speaking at any other events or meetings you may be planning.

Please help us bring these dynamic teaching tools and speaking teams to your church and community.

To book a meeting or to order extra copies of this supplement to show your friends or Pastor just call our office at (615)895-9830.

We want to help you be like the sons of Isachaar who “understood the times and what Israel ought to do” because we believe you were born “for such a time as this.”

In His Most Glorious Service,

Susan Michael
ICEJ USA Director



Rev. Malcolm Hedding’s Foundational Teaching Series is now available in a small group study format.

To order call (615) 895-9830



Speaker Profiles



Susan Michael was earning her masters in Jerusalem when the ICEJ was formed in 1980. She now serves as US Director, is a member of the ministry's international board and a frequent speaker to both Jewish and Christian audiences on Evangelical-Jewish relations, Islam and Middle Eastern affairs.



Malcolm Hedding has a profound ability to teach and impart truth concerning God's heart for the nation and people of Israel. He is a church-planter, astute theologian and one of the most articulate speakers on the scriptural basis for Christian support of Israel today. He currently serves as ICEJ Executive Director.

Ron Cantrell is an ordained minister, author and speaker who lived with his wife and family in Israel for more than 20 years. Through his teaching ministry *Shalom Shalom Jerusalem* he continues to encourage Christians around the world to actively support the State of Israel. He and his wife Carol are now based in California.



Carol Cantrell is a singer, songwriter, and worship leader who has been involved in numerous international conferences, TV and musical recording projects in Israel. Through *Zion's Song*, her ministry of Hebraic praise and worship, Carol seeks to inspire support for the Jewish people and the State of Israel.



Larry Booth has served as a pastor in Satellite Beach FL. for the past 16 years. He has a heart for Israel, revival, prayer and unity in the body of Christ. Larry has led many trips to Israel and has also served as a church planter in Costa Rica, Colombia and in multi-ethnic ministries in Florida.



John Small is an ordained minister through the Assemblies of God and is currently Pastor of Cornerstone Assembly in Palm Bay, Florida. He has a deep understanding of Israel, has served as the ICEJ's Church Liaison and spoken on behalf of the ministry for a number of years.

Carrie Burns is the creative services director and morning show host for Great News Radio in East-Central Illinois. She earned her doctorate in education with a focus on history, discrimination and anti-Semitism and has an inspiring, yet devotional approach to these important issues of faith.



Susie Sandager is known for her powerful one-woman drama of the life of Corrie ten Boom and, together with her husband John, founded *Sandager Presentations* in an effort to inspire understanding and friendship between Christians and Jews through drama, education and biblical teaching.



Mike Mott and his family have recently returned from serving 13 years in Israel, most recently as production manager of the ICEJ's *Front Page Jerusalem* radio program. Mike has spoken in a number of different nations about the church's biblical responsibility to love and support the nation of Israel.



JoAnn Magnuson has been involved in Jewish-Christian relations for over 30 years, participating in numerous dialogue programs, and church-based educational events. In that time JoAnn has led more than 60 tours to Israel and served as co-ordinator for the Presbyterian Committee to End Divestment Now.

Michael Hines is a graduate of Oxford University and a former UK political adviser. He spent 5 years covering the Middle East conflict as editor of the ICEJ daily News service in Jerusalem and now serves as the ICEJ's US Media Director. Michael lives with his wife Bonni and their 4 children in Murfreesboro, TN.



Daryl Hedding first served as an accountant for the ICEJ's Jerusalem headquarters in 1998, having spent several years in Israel as a teenager. In 2002 he re-located to Washington D.C. to become the ministry's US Financial Controller. He and his Finnish wife Katja have 2 children and now reside in Murfreesboro, TN.



Projecting the Kingdom of God
in a challenging and broken world...

MINISTERS AND PASTORS CONFERENCE AND HOLY LAND TOUR

Hosted by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

July 2nd - 9th, 2010

Prices: US \$1399.00*

The ICEJ welcomes Ministers** from around the world to take part in a specialized eight day tour and conference in Israel under the focused theme of "Projecting the Kingdom of God in a challenging and broken world."

If you are a Church Leader and would like to be part of this conference, please contact Nancy Fager from the ICEJ-USA headquarters at: nancy.fager@icejusa.org

*Airfare Not Included (Price Of Conference & Accomodation Only: US \$890.00) **Please Note: This tour is for Pastors, Ministers and Church Leaders ONLY

For more information about the conference and registration details please go to:

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gathering of the 57-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference. "No change is made unless great choices are made... We will clasp any hand that is extended sincerely toward us, but changes should be made in practice."

The Iranian president has already decided to walk on a path which will lead to judgment for himself and his country. What's more, he unashamedly urges America and all nations to follow him to disaster. How ironic that he, of all people, should issue this challenge to the world to enter the "valley of decision."

A few days earlier, German Chancellor Angela Merkel had chosen a very different tone. Having the honour to address the US Congress, the daughter of a Protestant pastor declared: "Whoever attacks Israel attacks us." She received a long standing ovation, evidencing that, at least for now, America and some European states are still determined to stand by Israel.

Even so, the truth is that for decades the Arab oil powers have been able to manipulate most nations, including Western democracies, into immoral and unwise decisions when it comes to Israel. The formula is simple! With half the votes in the 113-member Non-Aligned Movement, the Arab/Muslim bloc is able to control the majority of seats at the United Nations, and they have exploited that power to repeatedly pass slanderous anti-Israel resolutions.

We saw this in operation recently when the UN Human Rights Council voted to endorse the noxious Goldstone report, which accuses Israel of committing "war crimes" in the Gaza fighting last winter. Days later the UN General Assembly accepted the same report by a typically wide margin – including many countries with very large Christian populations.

This is the challenge facing Israel's Christian friends worldwide in the new year. We need to become better advocates in some of these key nations, to encourage them to break free of the grip of Arab/Muslim domination and stand for truth and morality. In coming months, we plan to work with our national branches worldwide to bring our concerns to high-level government leaders, even presidents and prime ministers.

The world is entering the valley of decision. It is a decision that will bring blessing or judgment to our nations 🌍

Dr. Jürgen Bühler serves as ICEJ International Director in Jerusalem

Warm Homes for Christmas

For over 25 years, the Yad b'Yad (Hand in Hand) Association has helped thousands of young children from poverty stricken families in Israel by offering 'Warm Home' pre-schools located across the country. These special centers provide love, warmth, education and a hot meal. Screened by the welfare services, most of the children come from violent backgrounds at home, on the streets, and in their schools.

With your generous support, ICEJ has partnered with Yad b'Yad by giving over US\$ 15,000 to help provide books, equipment and food for the children cared for in the 'Warm Homes.'

"These at-risk kids usually do not get meat or hot meals at home. Families have very limited resources so we provided sorely needed funds for games, teaching tools and food," said ICEJ AID director Nicole Yoder.

At the Warm Homes, abused children are cared for after normal school hours and receive training in computers. Yad b'Yad also runs a 24-hour emergency hot-line which answers some 20,000 distress calls each year, while its volunteers deliver food baskets to some 400 needy families every month.



In most of the Warm Homes, the children come from single parent families. About 90% are stay-at-home mothers who often collect bottles off the streets for an income. Many families live in cramped one-room apartments. Drug use and prostitution pose huge risks to the children. The fathers are seldom seen.

Young Michelle's father was deported when her mother was six months pregnant. Yonatan's father was taken away by police several times, leaving the young boy scared of every knock on the door. Yaela is the daughter of a Filipino worker and Israeli father who is a drug addict and in jail. Mikawey is the son of refugee parents from Darfur. He was found alone by a social welfare worker while his parents were wondering the streets looking for food and work.

"To our Christian friends around the world, the children in the 'Warm Homes' wish to bless you at the Christmas holiday... Your donation gives light, joy, love and a better future for our children," said Yad b'Yad founder Shelly Hoshen. 🌍

