

The Lion of God Is Dead, but the Lion of Judah Is Alive

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Ariel Sharon, whose first name means “lion of God,” died last weekend at age 85. He had been in a coma since January 2005, after suffering a stroke. On a trip to Israel last year we were shown Sharon’s house in the old city in Jerusalem.

One of modern Israel’s many heroes, his life was filled with adventure. Born on a farm near Tel Aviv in 1928, the son of Russian immigrants, Sharon fought in Israel’s War of Independence in 1948. In the 1950s, he headed up Unit 101, which carried out reprisals for terrorist attacks

from Jordan. In 1967, he led a tank battalion in victory over the Egyptians in the Six Day War.

As a general in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Sharon surrounded Egypt’s Third Army and led his troops over the Suez Canal. In 1981 he helped Prime Minister Menachem Begin make the decision to send fighter jets to destroy Iraq’s nuclear plant.

In 1982, as Israel’s Defense Minister, Sharon was blamed for the death of hundreds of refugees in two camps in Beirut, Lebanon, because Israel’s occupying military did not stop the carnage. He was forced to resign his position.

Sharon was a staunch defender of Israel’s right to the land, pioneering the establishment of Jewish communities on “occupied Palestinian land” which has been so fiercely condemned by the United Nations. He said, “That is the land of Israel and we are going to stay there forever” (“Ariel Sharon,” CNN, Jan. 11, 2014). But bowing to international pressure and pragmatism in 2004 he led the government to adopt the evacuation of Jews from the Gaza Strip.

His visit to the Temple Mount in 2000, when he said, “The Temple Mount is in our hands,” started the Palestinian uprising called the Second Intifada, in which some 4,000 people died.

In 2001, he was elected the 11th Prime Minister of the modern state of Israel. Ariel Sharon is one of many brave men and women at all levels of society that have led Israel from victory to victory since she announced her statehood in 1948.

Yet as we have often said, Israel is back in the land in a spiritually dead condition, and most of her most prominent leaders have been “secular Jews” who don’t believe their own Scriptures. Israel will continue to lurch from problem to problem and will continue to be under the heel of the Gentile nations until the Times of the Gentiles is completed and her Messiah returns to establish His glorious kingdom. In fact, it will get much darker before the light finally shines, because the Bible says that apostate Israel will accept the Antichrist as the peacemaker and problem solver he will appear to be when he comes on the scene. The Third Temple will be built, but it will be occupied by the Antichrist, also called “the man of sin,” who will then make the devil’s final attempt to destroy Israel. But Israel can no more be destroyed than God can be destroyed.

The lion of God is dead, but the Lion of Judah is very much alive (Genesis 49:9-10). In 2005, Rabbi Yitchak Kaduri prophesied that the Messiah would not come until after the death of Sharon, but the Messiah they are looking for today is no more the Messiah of Scripture than the one they were looking for 2,000 years ago, as we have documented in our book...

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