

[Part one can be read in the October/November issue of Oklahoma Woman Magazine](#)

## Judgements or Coincidences? Part II

by Curtis Moore

In the October/November issue of Oklahoma Woman magazine we began our look into the American disasters which had occurred in close proximity to the efforts of the American government to divide the land of Israel. We are asking the readers to draw their own conclusions. Are these disasters just coincidental freaks of nature, or are they judgements poured down by an Almighty God? Briefly, in Part I we looked at the following...

- The first President Bush was the driving force behind the Madrid peace conference, designed to lead to a settlement of the Israel-Palestine dispute. On October 30, 1991 as the Madrid conference was beginning, the “Perfect Storm” pounded the New England coast. The President’s home in Kennebunkport, Maine suffered severe damage from a storm system described as a “set of meteorological circumstances that come together every 50-100 years.”
- Round six of the Madrid peace conference, hosted by President Bush, was officially opened in Washington D.C. on August 24, 1992. That very day the State of Florida experienced massive destruction inflicted by Hurricane Andrew; the 4<sup>th</sup> most severe storm to ever hit the United States, causing over \$30 billion in damages.
- President Clinton, successor to the elder President Bush, hosted the signing of the historical peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians on September 13, 1993. This peace accord had been secretly worked out from April – August, 1993. This same 5-month period produced “The Great Flood of 1993” which damaged or destroyed some 50,000 homes. The final price tag reached \$15 billion, making it one of the most expensive natural disasters in United States history.
- On January 16, 2004, just a scant four months after the signing of the peace accord, President Clinton met with Syrian leader Assad. This meeting was so successful that two days later Israeli Prime Minister Rabin warned his countrymen they should be ready to pay “a painful price” for peace with Syria, meaning a return of the Golan Heights to Syria. On January 17, 2004, the day between Clinton’s meeting with Assad and Rabin’s warning to his citizenry, a powerful 6.7 earthquake hit near Northridge, California (only 20 miles from L.A.). The earthquake killed 57 people, injured 9,000 more, with resulting damages exceeding \$25 billion. At that time, the Northridge Earthquake became the second worst natural disaster to ever strike the U.S. trailing only Hurricane Andrew.

George W. Bush began his presidency by steering clear of the Middle East conflict, and allowing the Israeli leadership to stand firm. He quickly developed a reputation among some Middle East leaders as being a lightweight on the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. President Bush was quite supportive of the Israeli position, including the

belief that peace would not come until after the Palestinians ended their terror attacks against Israel.

In Mid-August, 2001 Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah watched President Bush's live news conference from Crawford, Texas. Abdullah had recently seen an Israeli soldier place his boot on the face of an elderly Palestinian woman. Remembering that image, Abdullah became incensed as he heard President Bush complain the Palestinians had once again undermined the peace process with violence. Bush explained for the peace process to go forward, "Mr. Arafat (must) put 100% effort into... stopping the terrorist activity." He further stated "... the Israelis will not negotiate under terror threat. Simple as that!"

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah had a message relayed to President Bush essentially stating they were through with the United States. The two countries had each benefited from a mutually-dependent relationship. The U.S. would provide the oil-rich Saudi Arabian government with any military assistance it might require, and Saudi Arabia would provide the oil-dependent United States with a steady supply of reasonably priced oil. Those days appeared to be over! Abdullah had told Bush that each would go their own way in the Middle East. (By this time Saudi Arabia was providing the U.S. with over 50% of its oil.)

President Bush responded in a manner totally unexpected by Abdullah, or any other Middle Eastern leader. The response, in the form of a letter, so impressed Abdullah he shared it with the heads of other Arab nations. He also summoned PLO leader Arafat to Riyadh to read it personally. The president stated: ***I firmly believe the Palestinian people have a right to self-determination and to live peacefully and securely in their own state, in their own homeland, just as the Israelis have the right to live peacefully and safely in their own state.*** An article in the *Washington Post* reported on September 7, 2001, U.S. officials indicating an eagerness to implement the new policy immediately. The plans were for President Bush, and possibly Secretary of State Colin Powell, to formally call for a Palestinian state. The announcement would come during a big roll-out planned for the week of September 10.

September 11 would, at least temporarily, derail the formal announcement. Every American of sufficient age remembers where they were the morning of 9/11. Nineteen hijackers, fifteen of whom were Saudis, hijacked four planes crashing two into the Twin Towers in New York City, and one into the Pentagon. The fourth plane was crashed into a field in Pennsylvania thanks to the heroic efforts of the passengers. Over 3,000 American died that day, and America found itself firmly implanted in the "War on Terror."

The changing political climate would bring other players to the Middle East table. The driving force behind Israel – Palestinian negotiations would no longer be just the United States. A new group would be formed. The Middle East Quartet, as they came to be known, included the United States, European Union, Russia, and the United Nations. This Quartet formally launched the "road map" to peace plan on April 30, 2003.

At 10:00 AM on April 30, 2003, President George W. Bush “spoke of a day when two states, Israel and Palestine, will live side by side in peace and security.” That same day saw the beginning of the worst tornado outbreak in U.S. history. It would eventually total 562 tornadoes, from April 30 through the 4<sup>th</sup> week of May, including the May 3 tornadoes which ravaged parts of Oklahoma. Weather experts have described this period as “the worst weather in U.S. history.” Besides the tornadoes, there were 1,587 hail storms and 740 reports of wind damage.

The other primary player in the Quartet at this time was the European Union. Their first venture into the Middle East affairs was also met with merciless disaster. As the storms in the U.S. subsided, a powerful heat wave gripped most of the European countries. Some parts of Europe experienced their hottest temperatures in 250 years, and also a horrible drought. The unusually warm, dry weather began in June and climaxed in mid-August. The severe weather not only destroyed crops and devastated economies, it left a staggering death toll! In France alone, 14,802 people died from the extreme heat. France had no contingency plan because they had never experienced such a heat wave before. Undertakers had to utilize a refrigerated warehouse on the outskirts of Paris. Their own facilities were simply insufficient.

Italy lost nearly 3,000 people; Germany 7,000; Portugal 4,000; the United Kingdom 2,000. Some estimates have put the death toll as high as 52,000 Europeans, making it one of the greatest climate-related disasters in recorded Western history.

The first major success by the Quartet was the transfer of the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians. At midnight, August 15, 2005, armed Israeli security forces began removing, forcibly if necessary, the Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip. Eight days later Israeli officials declared the removal of Jews from Gaza officially complete. That same day, tropical depression twelve was noticed by the National Weather Service for the first time. The next day it strengthened to a tropical storm and received the name Katrina.

Katrina would make landfall as a Category 3 storm near the Mississippi/Louisiana border, and would become the most expensive natural disaster in world history costing over \$100 billion. More than 1,000,000 people were removed from their homes, many would never return.

The transfer of Gaza to the Palestinians never brought the Jewish people the peace it desired. Gaza was used as a launching pad for increased artillery strikes against Israel. The peace process pushed by the Quartet appeared to be dead. However, the road map process was restarted in large part by the efforts of George W. Bush and Tony Blair, who had just recently stepped down as Prime Minister of Great Britain. The week of July 23, 2007, Tony Blair began his first trip to the Middle East as envoy for the Quartet. Blair’s efforts were rewarded as he was able to take the peace process global. Forty-five countries and organizations attended the Annapolis conference on November 27, 2007, designed to get Israel to trade land for peace.

As Tony Blair renewed the road map to peace, much of the world took notice and got involved. The week of July 23, 2007 would make history for other reasons. The bank to bank overnight borrowing system is the lifeblood for the global banking community. Banks would often borrow money from other banks overnight. Such lending was virtually worry-free and historically carried interest between 6/100ths of 1 percent and 8/100ths of 1 percent. On July 26 the rate jumped over 50% to 13/100ths of a percent. Over the course of several days the rate continued to rise reaching the unheard of rate of 48/100ths of a percent on August 10. By September, 2007 the rate reached 94/100ths of a percent, an eleven-fold increase over its previous average. By September, 2008 both bank-to-bank and bank-to-consumer lending were almost nonexistent. The money markets were completely broken down.

The United States monetary system and that of the entire world narrowly averted destruction. The effects of this crisis are still dominating the United States and global economies. The downward freefall all began from an extraordinary increase in bank-to bank lending rates which began on July 27, 2007. How extraordinary were these events? They have been calculated to only occur one day out of every 2,482,000 days, or one day every 6,800 years.

These stories are all matters of public record. Efforts by the governments of the United States, and others, to divide the land of Israel have been closely followed with devastating results. Coincidences or Judgements? ... I leave it to each reader to decide.

*My deepest thanks to David Brennan and his book **The Israel Omen** for providing all information utilized in these articles.*