

APOCALYPSE? MAYBE!

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Various Rabbis and Ministers and Priests of the Judeo-Christian Religion have long taught that “Masturbation makes one crazy” (and grows hair on your palms), of course, as with all other things they teach they are totally wrong. It is clearly religion that makes people crazy!

Nowhere is this better demonstrated than by a long article in the July 20th Issue of “THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE” by Lawrence Wright (Mr. Wright is a staff writer for New Yorker). At first scanning, this article is really funny, but then as it’s meaning sinks in, it becomes terribly terrifying. Mr. Wright has written an excellently balanced article, it simply reports the facts, and the beliefs of those involved almost without any editorial comment. That is what makes it terrifying, it gives a clear and un-editorialized view of these people and their incredible beliefs.

The people it describes are, both Orthodox Jews and Fundamentalist Pentecostal Christians, totally insane. They are clearly insane if by “insanity” one means to describe someone who has completely lost touch with any vestige of reality. They are clearly insane if they are utterly devoid of any care as to the results of their action on either themselves or others. They are clearly insane if they are so totally enraptured by their fantasies that they cannot see the result of these fantasies. They are clearly insane if they are so enraptured by their fantasies that the welfare of the human race goes by the wayside in pursuit of an entirely imaginary objective. They are clearly insane if they are so enraptured by their fantasies that the destruction of the human race itself becomes their goal. In fact, that does seem to be their goal, to; as one of them puts it: “Help God with his end time plan”.

Though insane, they are hardly irrelevant, they are also a very real and pragmatic threat to the future of the human race and it’s civilizations, though there is nothing either real or pragmatic about their beliefs.

Religious fanatics are a greater danger to the future of mankind than is any “killer asteroid”, or Global Warming, or any so-called rogue nation, or nuclear armed terrorist thugs. No criminal presents a greater potential for harm than these so-called “good sincere folk”. This may sound like an overly harsh condemnation of people for simply believing in their religions, but believe me, it is not nearly harsh enough. These people seriously desire the actualization of their Biblical Myth of ‘Armageddon’; an event, which if they attain their purpose will produce a Holocaust that will make the Shoah seem like a Sunday School Picnic. They are anxiously seeking the Apocalypse, and the end of humankind will be its result.

While I wish you would all get this copy of “**NEW YORKER**” and read it for yourself, I will give a synopsis of its contents. This is an expansion of my own previous essay on this

subject called: **“CRAZY RABBIS - HOLY COW!”**. I was horrified before, I am now both horrified and terrified when I realize just how far this has gone, and how far it may yet go.

You know, I must admit that when I first saw the essay in **“WORLD PRESS IN REVIEW”** I was inclined to take it as humor, as a satire. When I realized it was serious, I wrote my response. But I must admit that deep inside there was always a hope that it WAS humor. Well the New Yorker article puts paid to that hope. Even though it sounds like a Mel Brooks movie, this is a deadly dangerous possibility.

The World Press article discussed Rabbi Yosef Elboim and his movement: The **“TNUA LECHINUN HAMIKDASH”** (Movement for the Establishment of the Temple). This is the group I talked about in my earlier essay. I remind you they are the folks who want to incarcerate 19 baby boys for some 13 years (or more all things depending) “to prevent their being defiled by coming into contact with corpses” which, of course walking on the ground, in which people are buried would do. This concentration on “purity” is due to the notion that these 19 little boys who are drawn from families claiming to be Kahanim, descendants of the original Priests of The Temple of Solomon. All things considered this lineage is highly unlikely. This is unlikely not simply due to the passage of time, but to the fact that most of these boys will be of Askenazic descent which means that they are in all likelihood descended from the Kazars a tribe from the Crimean Peninsula who converted to Judaism in the Twelfth Century of the Common Era. If they are all Sephardic, there is a slightly greater possibility that they are descended from the original Jews expelled from Palestine under Titus. In any case, all of these “Little Priests” are to sacrifice a “Red Heifer” to Jahweh and then burn it’s corpse, reducing it to ashes, which they will then mix with water to purify all the Jews and the Temple Mount itself.

What’s so bad about this you ask? After all it’s their religious belief and they’re fully entitled to believe in anything they choose. Isn’t this some kind of anti-Jewish attitude? Well to answer those questions in anything but the order they were asked, I will say this: Yes, every person is entitled to believe in anything they choose, but those beliefs must remain simply beliefs when the results of actions arising from those beliefs harm others. No one should be more cognizant of that than the Jews who were horribly afflicted by the actions of the Germans arising from the belief system inculcated by the Nazi Party.

That was called the Holocaust and unfortunately for us all, the plans of Rabbi Elboim and his colleagues will result in an even greater holocaust in which, as always, the Jews will be the greatest victims. And this is anything but an anti-Jewish attitude, it’s simply the always unpopular act of pointing out the truth to those who will not receive it. Now to answer the question “What’s so bad about what they want to do”? Well, this is what’s bad.

After the Temple Mount is “purified” these people propose to demolish the Al Aqsa Mosque which was built in the Eight Century of the common era, and even worse, to demolish the 1300 year old Mosque “The dome of The Rock “ which, to the Muslims, is the third most holy of their religious sites. It is the oldest of all Muslim Religious structures and is an irreplaceable part of Human History. It’s destruction, for any purpose whatsoever, would be an unforgivable act of vandalism. It is clear to anyone who isn’t

insane that the destruction of these Mosques would only have one result a Nuclear Holocaust in which all of the citizens of Israel and who know who else would die.

All of this is especially unforgivable as the reason the wish to demolish the mosques is to replace them with a fantasy to which the Jews have clung for centuries. Rebuilding the Temple. But unfortunately it would only be a Jewish version of Disneyland. All the people who were qualified to run that Temple, and qualified to train it's priesthood have been dead since sometime around the year 70 of the Common Era. The "crazy Rabbis" are that and only that, they are Rabbi and they are Pharisees, and they have traditions, they have myths about the Temple, but they have no knowledge other than "traditional folk myths" of what went on there.

The Kahanim claim to be the hereditary Priesthood of Israel. Even if the claim were to be valid, which I, for one, doubt, nevertheless that would not make them validly Priests after the enormous hiatus since their alleged ancestors last performed their functions almost two thousand years ago. Any Priesthood, hereditary or not, to be valid has to be continuous. A Priesthood, especially that of the Jews absolutely requires a High Priest and that person must be trained by their predecessor. Where do these Rabbis think they are going to find a "High Priest"? Have an election? That isn't how it works, and moreover, they know it.

One thing the Catholics clearly understood, and that is that inherited Priestly status is a terrible thing. A Priest must have a vocation, and that means a "TRUE VOCATION" this cannot be inherited. Priesthood is NOT a "job". Nor is not a title to be inherited. Now the method they took to avoid it, celibacy, is far too draconian and did infinitely more harm than good. But in essence, they were right about inherited priestly status. No where is this better proven than among the Hindus.

Brahmins are a hereditary Priesthood, and a more degenerate lot cannot be found. The Brahminist priesthood has absolutely polluted the pristine philosophy of the Vedas. The Hindu religion is today, a sink of ridiculous superstition, and that is because over the millennia the Brahmins have become ever more degenerate, ever more inbred, ever more ignorant.

The New Yorker article adds to the cast of characters in our real life drama, makes that cast international, and because it makes it very clear that the provision of a red heifer is only a matter of time, and a limited time at that, it has truly intensified my fears. These lunatics have the motivation, and now they have the means, to end human life on earth, or at least to change human civilization as we know it very much for the worst!

To Rabbi Elboim, we must now add The Reverend Clyde Lott, a Pentecostal Evangelist Minister, and unfortunately one of the leading breeders of cattle in the American South East. Now Pentecostals are dramatically or rather melodramatically addicted to "Armageddon", and Reverend Lott is no exception, in fact, he is worse than most in this respect.

Most fundamentalist Christians, all of whom are addicted to the word for word accuracy of the so-called “Book of Revelations”, believe that there were three requirements that had to be met to bring about the “End Times” and the return of Jesus to rule over the entire Planet for 1,000 years (sort of like Hitler’s “Thousand Year Reich”, why do crazies seem to fixate on millennial timing?).

These three “requisites” fulfill “prophesies” which this group of people believe were made over two thousand years ago by the probably eponymous Jeremiah, . Ezekiel, Isaiah, and worst of all the so-called “John” who is alleged to have produced “The Book of Revelations”. There are others as well, but they are of less notoriety

The “First requirement” is that the Nation of Israel must be re-established. This was accomplished thanks to Harry Truman and the Holocaust in 1948. The European World was so overwhelmed with truly valid guilt for permitting the Holocaust to happen that they gave, based entirely on a non-historical Biblical claim, to the Zionists; a piece of land (Palestine) that just happened to belong to it’s inhabitants, Ignoring the rights of those inhabitants (The Palestinians) and thereby assuring another holocaust to come.

The “Second Requirement” is that Jerusalem must again become an entirely Jewish city. This was made a partial reality on June 7th 1967 it is also something that the utterly contemptible “Bibi” Netanyahu and his far-right orthodox co-conspirators are desperately working to make a complete reality, come what may.

The “Last Requirement” is that the Temple of Solomon must be rebuilt, and that’s where our crazies come into the picture!

Now Revered Clyde Lott sees himself as designated by “God” to be the “righteous Gentile” who delivers the red heifer to the Jews. In other words, and I am sure he sees himself in this light, “the instrument of Armageddon”.

Another member of this cast of characters, and a principal member at that, is Rabbi Chaim Richman (formerly of Brooklyn, New York). He is the leading figure if not the primary instigator of the “Temple Institute” which is a private organization of what I can only call fundamentalist-literalist Jews, who hope, like the good Reverend Lott and Rabbi Elboim, that the end of the Human Race is near, and are totally dedicated to the re-building of the Temple. I am sure that their primary motivation is the actualization of “Armageddon”.

These people (The Temple Institute) operate what they call a museum and bookshop, but it’s really far more of a “fantasy land” very much like the “Museum of Creation Science” run by their Christian counterparts in California. The “Temple Museum” contains “scale models” and “replicas” of artifacts and items purported to be identical to those used so long ago in the Temple by the Priests and Levites. They have also carefully reproduced the “flaxen garments of the Priests”. Though this is all hardly based on what an

archaeologist would call valid evidence. What it is, however, is folk myth. It is all based on the Mishna” which is the written down record of the Jewish Oral traditions. In other words these folks are happily willing to bring about Armageddon (Nuclear Holocaust) on the basis of what is called a “Bubba-meinse” or “Grandmother Tale”!

In the New Yorker Article a “guide” in the Temple Museum is quoted as gushing: “You wake up in the morning to the sound of music from the Temple, you went to bed to the sound of music from the Temple. Any beautiful building you ever saw cannot compare with the beauty of the Temple”.

Now I have seen several carefully done “reconstructions of the Temple” all based on archaeological data and the input of architects and historians. They are all of them anything but identical, but they all make it quite clear that the primary aspect exhibited by the Temple in Jerusalem is size, it was very large. very rectangular, typically middle-eastern architecture. It is said to be a replication in stone of the goat skin tabernacle in which the ark of the covenant was kept whilst the Ibirii wandered in the desert. All of the models, despite their other disagreements, agree on one thing it was imposing but not beautiful. Only fanatics would consider it so.

The words of the “guide” prove, more clearly than anything else that these people have utterly divorced themselves from Human Reality and retreated to a world of delusion and hallucinations.

What follows is an exact quotation from the article in the New Yorker.

“The goal of the institute is not only to restore the Temple itself but to reinstate the Priestly Castes, clerical rule, and animal sacrifice that characterized the nation of Israel at the dawn of the Iron Age. To secular Israelis this sounds like a Jewish version of the Taliban. And yet the construction of a third Temple is essential to the view that many Orthodox Jews have of salvation and the coming of the Messiah. Without the Temple, there is no way to fulfill many of the religious obligations, such as ritual sacrifices, that the Torah requires. In Orthodox Theology that means that all Jews are stuck in a state of impurity, and are therefore unable to be in the presence of God. When a glass is broken at a Jewish Wedding, it is in memory of the destruction of the Temple. “The Holy Temple in Judaism is so important and primary that it can really be said that Judaism as it is practiced today is not the vehicle that God intended it to be,” Richman says. “The Prophets of Israel emphasize the fact that the Temple is really much more than just a synagogue.....The temple is actually the device through which God manifests His presence to mankind”.

There are a couple of theological, philosophical, and historical points I'd like to raise here. Firstly, is this not a trivialization of their own conception of an all powerful deity? Because their “God” was at first only their own private “god” they carried him around, imprisoned in the Ark of the Covenant, then they built the more elaborate prison of the Temple to

contain “God and constrain “him” to their service. How can “God” be omnipresent if he can only manifest to mankind via a certain building? In addition the perception that “God” is male, a “him” is not simply absurd, which it is, but also one of the most oppressive and harmful notions humanity has ever invented.

Secondly, I’d like to address the concept of “animal sacrifice”. Here I think the Orthodoxy, and the Pharisees and Sanhedrin before them are kind of “hoist on their own petard” the “petard” being the Old Testament, which would clearly seem to disapprove of animal sacrifice. Now, while it is true that in the bible, a Ram is substituted for the sacrifice of Isaac, and then, apparently in a compromise, as a symbolic sacrifice, the foreskins of all Jewish Males were “sacrificed” via circumcision, (women didn’t really count). But there is also the account of the two sacrifices that lead to Cain’s murder of Abel. Abel, the agriculturalist sacrificed his “first fruits” and the sacrifice was “accepted” by “God”. Cain, the shepherd, sacrificed (equally sincerely I might add) a sheep and it was refused” by “God”. I should think that this is an indication that animal sacrifice is not acceptable, and yet these orthodox fanatics want to re-institute the practice on the grounds that it was “traditional”. Now from the point of view of the New Testament, it was not only the “money changers’ that Christ drove from the Temple, but the “sellers of sacrificial beasts”. This is a pretty clear indication that the Christ figure was made to disapprove of such sacrifices, and in view of the rest of the mythology surrounding the Jesus figure, that would appear logical.

The next addition to our “cast of characters” is Gershon Solomon, and he is the man who wants to help “God with his end time plans”.

I have a question: **IF** THE “God” they worship is “all knowing”, “all powerful”. And “everywhere present” as the Jews, Christians, and Muslims proclaim “him” to be, why does he need help from people like Gershon Solomon? Is this not just a hair hubristic? If there is an intelligence somewhere that “created all things” and “that knows and foresees all things’ why can it not enforce it’s own dicta, why does it need deputies? If it created the universe why then should it need human assistance in ending it?

On June 7th, 1967; the Israeli Army occupied the Old City of Jerusalem. The “Victorious” Israeli soldiers triumphantly raised the Israeli flag over the Dome of the Rock (The Mosque of Omar). Two days later, General Moshe Dayan wisely and judiciously ordered it removed as he could clearly see the end result of such heedless arrogance. The Religious Jews regard that as a “betrayal” second to none in Jewish History. And that brings us back to: (Once again I quote from the New Yorker article).

“Gershon Solomon, who as a young officer was partially crippled in 1958 when an Israeli tank rolled over him during a battle on the Golan Heights, has become one of the most well-known advocates of removing the Mosques in order to rebuild the Temple right away. He recalls being on the Mount on Liberation Day in 1967 and thinking, God brought us back onto the Temple Mount to say to all the world, “Not only do I continue my relationship

with Israel, and the Jews continue to be my chosen people, but I now open up to the fulfillment of my end plans.” That is why Dayan’s order to strike the Israeli flag from the dome of the Rock came as a stunning betrayal. “I cried tears of pain and sorrow and sadness”, recalls Solomon, who thereupon founded the Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement, which is based in Jerusalem and boasts a worldwide membership of more than fifteen thousand. “I decided I had to start a Godly campaign for the re-liberation of the Temple Mount. I would give the rest of my life to correct that sinful, terrible mistake and act that was done by Moshe Dayan”

You will, I am sure, notice that at no point in that narrative did Gershon Solomon show any indication that there might be negative repercussions for all of mankind from what he wanted to do. Nor did he show even a glimmer of awareness that the Mount and the structures on it might be of primary importance to people who were not Jews or to give one moments concern that others had equal rights to that piece of real estate. Nor did he seem to care, or even to know, that he was proposing an incredible act of vandalism against a pair of historically significant structures. The Jews got tossed out of Jerusalem and Palestine in the year 70 of the common era because they rebelled against the Roman Empire and lost. They have no further political rights there. To have pretended that their religion based claims were valid was only to assure what has been 50 years of bloodshed and strife, and the promise of a true holocaust in the offing.

To continue the story, I will return to the New Yorker article:

“After the war, the Israeli Minister for Religious Affairs, Zerah Wahrhaftig, said that the Temple Mount had been the property of Israel ever since King David purchased the site from Arauna the Jebusite in 1000 B.C., but that the Jews should not take any steps to reclaim it, because only the Messiah could re-build the Third Temple. This position was endorsed by many Jews, particularly the Ultra-Orthodox, many of whom even opposed the establishment of the State of Israel. In their theology, the rebuilding of the nation, the ingathering of Jews from exile, and the re-establishment of the Temple were all matters for the Messiah to handle. For humankind to undertake such things amounted to “forcing the end”. That was the work of Satan.

There were many prominent Jews, however, who believed that they were already living in the End Times - the recapture of Jerusalem was evidence enough - and that Jews must now do their part to prepare the way for the appearance of the Messiah. Soon after the Six-Day War was over, Shlomo Goren, who later became Chief Rabbi of Israel, led a group of fifty followers onto the Mount, where they fought off Muslim Guards and Israeli Police and conducted a prayer service. A week later, the chief Rabbinate ordered that signs be placed in front of the gates saying that no Jews should set foot on the Temple Mount. The reasoning was that, because Jews are ritually impure, they might accidentally step on the place where the Holy of Holies once stood. Such desecration is punishable by death at the hand of God. This was supposed to put the Temple Mount theologically off limits -- at least until the advent of the red heifer.

Despite this proscription, there have been several serious attempts to blow up the Muslim Holy places. Both Israeli and Islamic authorities are so concerned about the intentions of Gershon Solomon and other Temple fanatics that every confrontation has the potential to rage out of control.”

The New Yorker article also says:

“Nadav Shagrai, a reporter for the Israeli Newspaper Ha’aretz, and the author of a 1995 book, “The Temple Mount Conflict”, estimates that there are about a thousand supporters of the most radical Temple Mount Movements. No doubt they are heavily infiltrated by Israeli intelligence, which has long worried that a successful strike at the mosques would spark a holy war. These activists are a feature of a larger upheaval in Israeli society, caused by a stunning rise of religious conservatism and a muscular political involvement of religious Jews in Israeli politics. “Jewish fundamentalism if the nationalist branch is mostly a product of the Six-Day War”. Emmanuel Sivan, a professor of Islamic Studies at Hebrew University, says. “The fact is that until ‘67 the national religious camp was a very moderate Zionist movement. It has turned extremist because of this apocalyptic vision”.

“Among Christians, there was a similar burst of fundamentalist fervor following the Six-Day War, and unexpected alliances were made between Evangelical Christians and Jews. Many Americans (forty-six percent, according to one poll) believe that the establishment of the nation of Israel is the fulfillment of prophecy, and this accounts in part for the unshakable support that Israel has received from the Christian right. “I know people who fell on their knees and cried out to God when they heard that Jerusalem was back in Jewish hands,” says David Parsons, who is an attorney with the International Christian Embassy, in Jerusalem. “It forced Christians to rethink their views toward Israel, toward Jerusalem, toward prophecy.” The “Embassy” is actually an organization that promotes Jewish causes and raises money for such things as helping Jews immigrate to Israel. Christians have also helped to fund some of the radical Temple activists, including Gershon Solomon.”

At this point there is something very important that I would like to interject. When a man like David Parsons uses the word “Christians” he means to say fundamentalist-literalist-Pentecostal self-identified “born again” Christians ONLY! To David Parsons and people like him Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Ruthenian, and all the “Main-Line” Protestant Churches are NOT “Christian” at all. That is what makes these people more dangerous than anything on this planet.

The New Yorker article continues:

“In Christian Theology, the holiness of the Temple was supposed to have been replaced by the Divinity of Christ. Jesus directly challenged Temple life by overthrowing the money changers tables and driving out the sellers of sacrificial animals. In doing so, he committed an offense against the status quo that may have led to his crucifixion. Many Christians

believe that the Jews killed Christ, and that God allowed the Temple to be destroyed as a judgment against them.”

“The motives behind the modern embrace of Israel by the Christian right are not always clear. In Genesis 15:18, God gives the land of Israel to the Jews, and for most fundamentalist Christians that settles the matter. But Jews also play a tragic role in Evangelical eschatology. When Jews speak of their Messiah, Evangelicals interpret that to mean the false Messiah, or the Antichrist. It is the Antichrist, Evangelicals believe, who will occupy the Third Temple. The Prophet Jeremiah foretold the tribulation, or “time of Jacob’s trouble,” by which he meant the devastation of Israel. The nation will be finished off in the apocalyptic meeting between Christ and the Antichrist at Armageddon, which is also known as Megiddo, an archeological ruin in Northern Israel. Those Jews who survive this catastrophe--only a hundred and forty-four thousand, according to some interpretations of the Scripture--will finally turn to Jesus as the true Messiah. Such refrains are frequently heard in Evangelical churches and on religious television channels, where Temple fever burns.”

Lastly; the article says: (and these quotes are merely a series of short abstracts of the entire article)

“According to Clyde Lott, the intent of many Evangelical Christians who are helping Israel today is to speed along the time when they will be raptured into Heaven, leaving behind a world in chaos and flames. “It’s very sad, but I would say the interest in the Christian world is to see the Temple rebuilt from the Antichrist perspective, for the rapture of the Church, and that’s a very selfish point of view,” Lott says, “The very people who are advocating this are the ones that are very Semitic in their feelings”. Although Evangelical theology forecasts the destruction of the Jews in the Last Days, Lott believes that the Jews are God’s Chosen People and that the Bible clearly states that God favors those who help Israel.”

Most Israelis understand the subtext of this alliance, but they are loathe to disclaim it. “Basically, we’re a doormat for them to get to their own eschatological culmination,” Rabbi Richman says, “It’s a pretty scary thing, because the whole rapture thing that is popular in some Evangelical circles, which calls for a fulfillment of the hard times for Jacob, is essentially an incitation to genocide.”

And yet, knowing this Rabbi Richman and the others happily accept the support of those who would destroy them.

Lastly; Rabbi Richman and the others believe that in a labyrinth of tunnels inside the Temple Mount there are carefully hidden; The Ark of the covenant, the original stone tables with the Ten Commandments carved upon them in “God’s own hand”, and other treasures. Of course to locate these the Mosques have to go, though I must add that Rabbi Richman at least, does not favor the destruction of the two mosques. That is

absolutely NOT true of either Gershon Solomon or Rabbi Elboim.

Now we have two really contradictory sets of questions. The first question is did any of these things ever exist? Who has seen them, and when? Are they likely to exist? Or are they merely phantasms?

The second question is this: IF these artifacts once existed, what are the chances that they still exist? If their intrinsic existence isn't a phantasm, is their continued existence a phantasm?

These are all valid questions. They are especially valid because all living things are threatened by the holocaust (Armageddon) the belief in these things can unleash. Now, as you all know, I don't for a moment believe in the Evangelical version of the Armageddon of Revelation, nor do I believe in either Christ or Antichrist, nor Gog or Magog. BUT, I do believe in the Nuclear Holocaust that would be the end result of the Jihad that the destruction of the Mosque of Omar, and the Al Aqsa Mosque would unleash.

Let's start with the first set of questions. Did any of these artifacts ever exist? Well as regards the Tablets of the Ten Commandments, I think it is a very sure thing that they exist only in myth and fantasy. I think so because Moses is an eponymous figure and in all probability is entirely fictitious. In fact, it is my opinion as a student of history, that the historicity of Moses is so slight as to be an impossibility. Now The so-called Ark of the Covenant may have existed, but it certainly doesn't date back to the expulsion of the Hyksos from Egypt as is claimed by the Jews. As to it's alleged contents, well that's simply fantasy.

It's the second questions that are more cogent. Accepting hypothetically that the "Ark of the Covenant" and the other "Temple Treasures" believed in so fervently by Rabbi Richmond and his various co-believers (and Steven Spielberg) did exist, the primary question remaining is: Do they, or rather can they, still exist? It is immensely implausible that they should do so. Why do I say this?

Solomon's Temple, for which these artifacts, if they indeed existed, must have been made was destroyed by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadrezzor. The Second Temple was rebuilt allegedly under the direction of Jeremiah who is also probably an eponymous figure, but whether or not Jeremiah was real or fictional, it was rebuilt by the small remnant of the Jews who returned from the "Babylonian Captivity". The question that must be asked at this point is: What happened to the "Temple Treasures" when the Babylonian Soldiers tore down the Temple? Everything of value found in the building was taken to Babylon, and anyone who thinks the Babylonians too obtuse to have carefully searched the labyrinth under the Temple itself, is wrong. Just as anyone who thinks that no one would have told them of the existence of these tunnels. People do many things to curry favor with conquering armies, sometimes that favor being the sparing of their lives and the lives of their family. If these items went to Babylon, they didn't come back, just as the majority of the Jews assimilated and became part of the general Babylonian population,

didn't come back.

I am fully prepared to accept the notion that the remnant of the Priesthood and Levites who returned to Jerusalem had among them craftsmen fully capable of reproducing the various items, though it is questionable as to where they got the huge quantity of Gold that is associated in legend and myth with these items.

However, when the Second temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. there is no chance that the Romans "missed" anything of value. On the arch of Titus in Rome, built to celebrate his "victory" over the Jews there is a large number of depictions of "Temple Treasures" being carried in his Triumph, most of them by captive Priests and Levites all of whom ended up as slaves. I think it really safe to say that if the Babylonians "missed" these items, the Romans could not possibly have missed them. The City of Jerusalem and the Temple had been in Roman hands for a very long time, the Romans were extremely efficient in all things, but particularly in things connected with engineering. Also, there were many Romanized Jews who collaborated quite happily with the Romans (Flavius Josephus comes instantly to mind, as does Herod Agrippa) there were no secrets connected with the Temple that the collaborators, most of whom were very high ranking Jews from among the Sanhedrin did not know, and could not have easily passed on to the Romans.

I think it is very clear that the artifacts upon which Rabbi Richman's hopes are centered, are very unlikely to exist at this time.

And so we have it, Jews and Fundamentalist Christians, all determined to bring about the "End Times" and "Armageddon" and with that, the destruction of all life on this planet.

All of this in the sincere belief in a "God" that cannot be proven to exist, a "God" that cannot even be assumed to exist! A "God" that is at best, a Hypothesis! And a very weak hypothesis at that!

This essay deals with Orthodox Jews and Pentecostal-fundamentalist Christians, but all fundamentalists of any religion are equally insane. The Taliban and the Iranian Mullahs are no better, and in fact, because as individuals they are utterly ignorant, wildly primitive, brutal, and savage, they may be worse. And while their orthodoxy is dissimilar the Hindu or Brahmanist fanatics who support the Hindu Nationalist Party which is the present Government in India, who are the heirs of the so-called Arya Samaj, are definitely worse and are responsible for the Indian orgy of self-indulgence represented by their Nuclear explosions.

I am told on very good authority that the Indian Fanatics who support the present Government of India are gathering up the radio-active sand from the totally unprotected test site (tells you something about the Indian Government's concern for its people doesn't it?) And placing them in Temples to Shiva as objects of worship. This gives on some idea of their sanity.

All these people work in the name of "God". Let's spend a little while dissecting this "God" of theirs. Of course not all of them have the "same" god, but it's an identical concept.

The religious of all faiths claim that the visible Universe (which is all the appear to believe in) was created out of chaos by "God". Their main reason for this claim is that:

Out of chaos, without volition, nothing but chaos can emerge.

With that I fully agree.

As the cosmos which we know of is fairly obviously, albeit uncertainly, ordered in all of its parts, and the world that we live in is (with my usual exception of Human societies), also relatively ordered in all of its parts; and as we possess no evidence that I know of, of any kind of chaos ordering itself, I am going to assume that the ordering of chaos is not mechanical any more than it is accidental. Therefore I am assuming some element of volition, by which I mean to say, consciously directed will, to be involved in bringing order out of chaos.

NOT "GOD"!

"An element of volition, or consciously directed will, involved in bringing order out of chaos" is not "God"!

"GOD" ISN'T!

"God" would, by definition, clearly have to be a consciousness of an ultimate and/or transcendent nature. **A consciousness which is utterly external to the process**, imposing itself and its will, upon the process.

Religious myth and legend are not, and cannot be considered to be, empirical evidence. Religious cosmologies are all fairy tales. There isn't one shred of either historical or scientific evidence of an empirical nature to either indicate or even to hint that such a "supernatural" power exists or that such a thing has ever existed!

It seems clear to me that: the existence of an already ultimate intelligence, of some "thing" which, of necessity, is external to, and therefore perhaps is also foreign to, our universal field of energy; which itself, was nevertheless so singular, which itself, possessed the unimaginably immense potency to effect, in any way, something to which it was, and perforce had to be, entirely alien and external; would therefore be a potency of such gigantic magnitude that its very existence, its very beingness; could not help but make itself completely obvious, **in a totally unavoidable way**, to all of us who are here.

IT HASN'T!

AND IT WON'T!

If there was such a "God", it seems clear that it could not hide itself. If there were, in fact, an entity extant such as the one which is described by the Priestly and Rabbinical classes; a "thing" which is not merely mindlessly ferocious and childishly petulant, but also an eternal cosmic busybody.....you bet we'd all know it was there!

BUT WE DON'T KNOW IT'S THERE! BECAUSE IT ISN'T!

The Priests and Rabbis prescribe that "leap of faith", but, "leap of faith" ("Trust Me!") is clearly the con artists credo.

We don't know anything at all about a "God". And neither do the Priests and/or Rabbis. There's no intellectually or ethically acceptable evidence of any kind!

And for this, they would happily destroy all life on this planet. What will save us from these lunatics?