

# RELIGION

## A L T E R N A T I V E S

### The Final Battle

BY MARGARET ISAACS

In the Holy Land the blood feud continues between the decedents of Ishmael and Isaac, the sons of Abraham. This feud is ages old, and this hatred between brothers will lead us to armageddon, the final battle. God Loved Ishmael as much as he Loved Isaac, and gave his descendants much more than he gave Isaac's descendants. Not only do the Arabs hate Israel, they also hate Arab Christians. They fight over Jerusalem, but through all the hate, Jerusalem remains God's City.

Friday is the Arab day of worship; Saturday is the Jewish day of worship; And Sunday is the Christian day of worship. All these serve and worship God; Yet the feud goes on, sometimes hidden, but still there; Christians against Jews; Jews against Christians; Arabs against Christians. Muslim Arabs seeing Israel not as a

threat, but as non-existent in the eyes of God. And the battle between good and evil continues without ceasing.

Christians in America are in a battle also, for Satan works on all fronts, never sleeping, advancing on all frontiers, reaping his un-holy harvest for a Little while. Fellow Christians, we are too complacent; to tolerant of the evil among us. Weak and ineffective, we pour cups of water on raging infernos. We cry, moan and Lament the deaths of Saints. We proclaim the end is coming; but our weak worship and our selfish service to mankind never changes. We are afraid to stand on God's Word; Afraid to speak out against evil on every hand. Afraid to confront evil in our homes, our Churches, our jobs, in all walks of our lives; yet we expect the forgiveness of God and his saving grace.

Our names are written all through the Church History; The offices we've

held; The programs we've headed; The money we've raised to aid the Church and the Pastor; but...is our name written in the Book of Life? If we do not boldly condemn evil anywhere we find it; "We are not the servants of God, but have another master" controlling our minds and maintaining a stronghold in our bodies. For if we are not for God, we are against him. We cannot serve two masters, for we will hate the one and love the other.

Oh, for a Church who commits to perfection in the Lord; To a breaking down of strongholds of evil; A Church boldly recognizes and identify to the world the works of the devil; A Church committed to the Love of God among our own Church Family; A Church who recognizes the snakes in our bosom and speaks boldly against all forms of evil, allowing God, through our prayers to change

the hearts of the sinners in our congregation.

Oh, we attend services faithfully; Listening avidly to the speaker, who boasts that he is "called of God"; and of how many people he has baptized; How many programs he has initiated; How many people follow him while he declares that he is the "head" of the Church; He boasts of how well he is educated and how much he deserves to Lead the Church and be paid accordingly, setting his on compensation amounts. His picture adorns the wall of the Sanctuary and the people honor and worship him. We are each "called" to serve according to the Will of God, and Christ is our only "head". The people fail to read and study the Word of God to determine if God's requirements have been met by those who call themselves his servants. These types of strongholds were established long

ago by Satan and are hard to dislodge and destroy; Because of the ignorance of God's Holy Word among the people. Another Stronghold: If you are not a friend of someone in a high position in the Church...you will never find the opportunity to use your gifts of the Spirit. Satan has all avenues covered with prideful, envious, self-important, self-appointed saints, ready to shoot down those who stand for right and righteousness. This stronghold is also of long standing in the Church, and will take a level of Christianity not yet attained by most members, in order to be destroyed.

Oh, for a Church committed to a faithful un-ending declaration of the Gospel of Christ; To a dependence on the Holy Spirit as the given of the power of God to overcome all the works of the devil; To a committed, sober, watchful, wise, set-apart

Church of Christ-followers, awaiting his appearance in the clouds. For he will return, as he has promised; and for all we do suffer in these bodies, as we break down Satan's strongholds; for whatever is done unto us, God's people, "I Will Repay, Saith The Lord"; Thus It is Written And So It Will Be Done; Never fail to remember that hell exists. From the first level of heaven, hell is there. The road to hell is wide without stop lights; No taboos, full speed ahead, damn the pitfalls. On this road to hell, there are no noble actions, no noble men and no noble women. There are no freedoms...only the "freedom of fantasy" exists on this road to hell. But know ye well that The Christ is the victor, the King of Kings, the Destroyer of Evil; He is the winner of the final battle; For Thus It Is Written In The Word Of God. Amen.

### Drug Free Marshals On Parade



Marching for the second year in the Junior Rose Festival Parade were the Drug Free Marshals, kids who have sworn to uphold the seven point Drug Free Marshal Pledge to tackle head-on the problems of street drugs.

Active in more than 15 countries around the world, the Drug Free Marshals visit youth groups, celebrities, government officials, sports heroes, police officers and others, deputizing them with the Marshal Pledge and presenting their official

Marshal-star badges.

Originally formed by the Church of Scientology in 1993 as part of its international anti-drug crusade, the Drug Free Marshals is now an international grass-roots movement.

### Black Churches Endangered Historic Places

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the congressionally chartered non-profit preservation organization, announced today that it has placed the black churches of the South at the top of its 1996 list of the nation's most endangered historic sites, and has made public a series of steps it will take to assist in the rebuilding of historic churches ravaged by recent fires.

Each year the National Trust issues its list of 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, meant to represent different kinds of threats to different kinds of historic properties all over America. This year, according to National Trust President Richard Moe, they are breaking precedent by adding a 12th listing "because of the urgency to mobilize support for some of the most important historic structures, as well as some of the most important com-

munity institutions in America."

"Some of these churches are significant historic buildings," Moe said, "but more than that, they are the heart and soul of the communities in which they are located. The individual and collective memory of the African-American community is rooted in its churches. They are the repository of the culture and the history of Black America. The National Trust is prepared to help the congregations as they rebuild."

The three steps the Trust is taking to assist in the recovery efforts include:

- 1) making loan funds available to historic churches that have been destroyed or damaged;
- 2) participating in a fundraising campaign announced last week by the National Council of Churches; and
- 3) providing technical assistance

to congregations through its Southern Regional Office in Charleston, S.C., and Southwest Field Office in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Ever since we began the list of endangered sites," Moe said, "we have seen threats from demolition, neglect, underfunding, forces of nature, inappropriate development and sprawl, but never, until now, from arson. It is a malicious and cowardly crime under any circumstances, but even more reprehensible and outrageous when aimed against these churches. These institutions, in many ways, represent the best of America; the fires that are destroying them represent the worst. The fires must stop and the churches must be rebuilt. We hope that Americans of all faiths, of all races and in all parts of the country will join us in this critical effort."

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This is, honestly, a fantastically successful diet. If it weren't, the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team wouldn't be permitted to use it! Right? So, give yourself the same break the U.S. Ski Team gets. Lose weight the scientific, proven way. Even if you've tried all the other diets, you owe it to yourself to try the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet. That is, if you really do want to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. Order today! Tear this out as a reminder.

\*Send only \$8.95 (\$9.60 in Calif.)-add .50 cents RUSH service to: American Institute, 7343 El Camino Real, Suite 206, Atascadero, CA 93422. Don't order unless you expect to lose 20 pounds in two weeks! Because that's what the Ski Team Diet will do. ©1995

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