



REPENT AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Volume 11:11

November 2006

A DATE WITH DESTINY

Henry Ford once said contemptuously, "History is bunk." Unfortunately this attitude seems to be prevalent today among many of our educators in the education systems of this country. There has been a concerted push to exclude compulsory Australian history units from high schools because doing so would "instill pride in young people". Heaven help us. Surely in an age when pride in one's nation and its achievements is sadly lacking this would be no bad thing. It is high time we recovered the true Aussie spirit that typified this nation from the outset and the significant role we played in world events from the First World War on. We owe our children the opportunity to learn of the heroes who fought for freedom and their heroic deeds which symbolised the indomitable Anzac spirit---and be inspired by them. Our young people need to be aware that "*lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and departing leave behind us footprints in the sands of time*". They *must* be inspired or they shall have little incentive to be an example to those generations following.

Australian History

Australian history is replete with stories of pioneers who battled against adversity, droughts, floods, fires, hard times and economic disasters to ultimately build up this country and help make it what it is today. Our young people need to honour them and the explorers who opened up this vast unknown continent in the early days of settlement and expansion of this land we proudly call home. They need to appreciate the sacrifices, bravery and achievements of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, nurses and others who gave their lives in service for their country, remembering that "greater love has no one than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends". Names of battles, such as Gallipoli, the Western Front, Tobruk, Alemein, Crete, the series of battles known as the Battle for Australia that included the bombing of Darwin and Broome and the repulsion of Japanese troops on the Kokoda Trail and the Battle of the Coral Sea, Korea and Long Tan, should be deeply impressed into their consciousness as part of a rich heritage that is theirs', and theirs alone---by the grace of God.

A Turning Point

However, there is one campaign that especially rates a detailed description because it concerned a divine appointment with the destiny of the world. It happened in 1917 and marked a turning point in God's plan for His beloved city Jerusalem which had been under the Turkish yoke for 400 years. Men of the Australian Light Horse of the Desert Mounted Corps were assigned the onerous task to take the town of Beersheba on the way to capturing Gaza and Jerusalem. It was 31 October 1917---*a date with destiny*. South-east of Gaza, Beersheba (Abraham's Well of the Oath) was the key to Jerusalem, indeed the whole war in Palestine. The wells had to be taken---and by nightfall. Against heavily fortified positions just outside the town it was a veritable suicide mission. Nevertheless, the Australian commander of the Desert Mounted Corps, Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Chauvel, ordered the charge and at 4.30pm, with sunset only twenty minutes away, 800 battle-hardened soldiers mounted their trusty "Walers", many of which had had no water for over two days, and set off across a three-mile plain in 50 degree Celsius heat. The last great cavalry charge in history was under way. With their characteristic emu plumes in their slouch hats flying in the breeze, these bronzed young Anzacs charged across the plain, shells and bullets flying all around them as the 4,500 seasoned Turkish troops entrenched outside Beersheba fired desperately at their attackers. Fearlessly they raced on until at last they were under the guns, the leading horses leaping over the trenches with their startled occupants, many of whom broke and fled in panic, then thundered on into the town of Beersheba itself followed by squadron after squadron of their

companions. By the time the sun had set the key to the Holy Land was firmly in Australian hands and the Islamic stranglehold in Palestine finally broken. General Allenby rated the charge as one of, if not *the* most magnificent in history. In fact, only 32 troopers were killed and 36 wounded while capturing 38 Turkish officers and 1200 men, 14 field guns and a large number of vehicles. The battle was indeed the Lord's!

The Spearhead

Following Beersheba the Anzacs linked up with British infantry advancing up the coast, and the Desert Mounted Corps formed a great scythe across western Palestine from the Judean hills to the sea. Then, in fulfillment of biblical prophecy as recorded in Isaiah 31:5—"As birds hovering overhead, the Lord of Hosts will shield Jerusalem; He will shield it and deliver it, He will pass over it and will rescue it", the Royal Flying Corps constantly attacked the retreating Turkish columns. After much hard fighting the Turks finally broke ranks and fled in a panic, and on Sunday, 9 December tired Turkish soldiers streamed out of Jerusalem. Two days later Allenby entered the Holy City humbly on foot. Jerusalem was captured without damage to even one sacred building, its deliverance accomplished in forty days—from the fall of Beersheba on 31 October till 9 December when the mayor surrendered the city. Throughout the entire campaign the Anzac Light Horsemen had been used by Allenby as the spearhead, time and again salvaging "unwinnable" battles and snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. In one week of battle alone they killed thousands of the enemy and captured over 10,000 prisoners for the loss of 27 killed, 105 wounded and seven missing. Glory to God!

The Battle of Armageddon

The deliverance of Jerusalem, and indeed all Palestine, opened the door to establishing a Jewish homeland there in fulfillment of biblical prophecy. In 1948 the nation of Israel was established and in 1967 the Old City of Jerusalem, together with the Temple site, came into Jewish hands again. In Zechariah chapters 12—14 the prophet describes events that will occur at the end of this age, after the Jews have re-gathered in Palestine. These chapters prophesy the final travail of Jerusalem at Armageddon and her ultimate triumph at Christ's return. At this, the final siege of Jerusalem, the Lord will pour out "the spirit of grace and supplication" upon Jerusalem and the Jewish people and bring them face to face with their true Messiah. *They will look upon the Lord Jesus Christ whom they pierced and mourn for Him as one who has lost his only son.* This spirit of repentance will touch the whole nation and the Jews will accept Christ. Meanwhile those nations that come against Jerusalem in the Battle of Armageddon will find their armies in chaos and confusion for God will intervene, smiting their soldiers with "blindness, astonishment and madness". Then at the height of the battle Christ will return and fight against those nations. He will stand upon the Mount of Olives which will be split in two by a mighty earthquake that roars through the Holy Land. So will the history of this world reach its awe-inspiring climax, as He comes back to set up His millennial kingdom on earth, and global peace breaks out. It will all happen as God planned, but keep note of the vital role of those gallant Australians who turned the course of history in that madly heroic cavalry charge at Beersheba which opened the way to the deliverance of the Holy Land. God so obviously used these young men from Down Under to help fulfil His divine plan for the return of His Son, as prophesied in His holy Word. So why should we not teach our children to be proud of our heroes as an integral part of the history of Australia and, furthermore, enabling them to understand our role in the unfolding of events so obviously divinely ordained? Why deny them the knowledge and significance of our young soldiers' pre-ordained date with destiny and the return of Jesus Christ in all His glory? Thank God that glorious event is about to explode on this planet. What a momentous time to be alive---if you're in Christ!

PRAYER

Omnipotent God, the great I AM, hallowed be Your name. Father, as Your blood covenant children abiding in the righteousness of our risen Lord, we worship You in Spirit and in truth. Sovereign Lord, thank You for the finished work of Christ on the cross empowering us to pull down the strongholds of Satan who has manipulated countless souls into unbelief, rebellion, hatred and idolatry. Abba Father, we also thank You for Your immeasurable grace bestowed upon our nation sealing our destiny by Your Spirit, that we may acknowledge JESUS CHRIST as Lord of this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit. As the Alpha and Omega we confess that You are a God of purpose, operating Your righteous kingdom by spiritual principles; that Jesus, the Son of the Most High God, is King of kings and Lord of lords; and that the Holy Spirit (within us) is the Administrator of Your Living Word, so that Your will *will* be done on earth as it is in heaven. Grant, O God, our leaders a deep desire to repent of their transgressions and have their minds renewed by the Spirit and truth of Your Word. And, Lord, transform our institutions and communities by the Spirit of faith so we may be a people who know and love the God who has sealed our destiny in Christ Jesus, for Your honour, praise and glory. Amen.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man, in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.