

SUBJECT 1: "THE EZEKIEL FILE" (Christian Prophecy Group)

SELECTIONS No. 43

DATE: 2.11.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (HEBREW P.M. MAPAM) NEWS ITEM

(to 8.11.78)

HEADING: "VISIT OF THE PEOPLE OF 'MISSION (SHLIHUT) TO AMERICA'"

QUOTE : A group of 240 Christian tourists from the U.S.A. which has taken upon itself a special mission connected with the fulfilment of the vision of the prophet Ezekiel arrived in Israel on the 31st October in order to present to the Israeli public the principles of its faith. Among other things, the representatives of the movement which is called "Mission to America" plans to hold a world premiere showing of what is called "The Ezekiel File", which describes by means of the multimedia method Jewish history, with a special emphasis on the vision of the prophet Ezekiel. The movement maintains that the prophet foresaw 2500 years ago the things which are taking place before our very eyes in these days, including the peace which is anticipated soon in our region. The leader of the movement is the preacher Hilton Sutton who is a well-known figure today in America. The movement has expanded very much in recent years, and the number of its members is about four to five million persons. Among its members are prominent public figures, including governors, members of Congress, the sister of the President of the U.S.A., Mrs. Stapleton-Carter, and others. The group will spend 2 days in Israel.

END

DATE: 5.11.78 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND.) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE MOVEMENT 'MISSION TO AMERICA' FORESEES REALIZATION OF PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL"

QUOTE : A relatively new religious movement in the U.S.A. bearing the name of "Mission to America" claims that the prophecy of Ezekiel of some 2,500 years ago concerning the destiny of the Jewish people is being realized in these days. The views of the movement were explained at a press conference which was held on Friday at Beit Sokolow in Tel-Aviv on the occasion of the visit now being made by 180 adherents of the movement.

At the press conference the leader of the movement, the clergyman Hilton Sutton, stated that his movement believes also in the right of the people of Israel to its land, according to the promise of the LORD to Abraham recorded in the Book of Genesis, from the Euphrates to the Nile, without changes as a result of any political negotiations. He added that it is worthwhile warning Israel ceaselessly that "out of the north evil shall come" (the reference is to the Soviet Union), and on the other hand, to bring to the attention of the American public the belief in the right of Israel to its land.

"Mission to America" will organize many groups of American tourists who identify with Israel, not as it was in the past alone, but also as it is today. The climax of the visit of the present group will come with the screening of the world premiere of a multimedia film which was prepared in the course of 18 months, and which describes the developments surrounding the fulfilment of the prophecy of Ezekiel. END ARTICLE

DATE: 5.11.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (HEB PM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "REALIZATION OF THE PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL"

QUOTE : A new religious movement in the U.S.A. bearing the name of "Mission to America" claims that the prophecy of Ezekiel some 2500 years ago concerning the destiny of the Jewish people is being realized in these days. The views of the movement were explained at a press conference (as above)....(NB: Reference to "from Euphrates to Nile" deleted)

The film portrays the return of the people of Israel to its land after the time of Exile which the prophet Ezekiel had prophesied, and the development of the State of Israel today and its flourishing. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 5.11.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE VISION OF PEACE OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL"

BYLINE : Reuven Leib ( PHOTO INSET: Hilton Sutton "The Bible in the Spirit of our Days")

QUOTE + "The Ezekiel File" is the name of an audio-visual production which describes Jewish history by means of the multimedia method, with emphasis on the prophet Ezekiel's vision. The world premiere screening of this production will take place this evening at the Hotel Diplomat in Jerusalem. This historic showing will represent a group of 240 members of the American-Christian movement "Mission to America", which has taken upon itself a special mission which is connected with the fulfilment of the vision of the prophet Ezekiel in our own days. The fulfilment of prophecy, according to believers of the movement, finds expression in the conclusion of peace in the Middle East. According to this belief, God appointed Ezekiel as a watchman to warn, on the one hand, and as a monitor of the fulfilment of prophecy, on the other hand. The movement maintains that the prophet Ezekiel foresaw already 2500 years ago what is taking place before our very eyes in these days, including the anticipated peace soon to come in our region.

The movement now numbers about five million believers. Among its members are members of Congress, governors, and the sister of <sup>The U.S.</sup> President, Ruth Stapleton-Carter, who recently visited Israel. The uniqueness of the movement is that its members pray with special devotion, and believe in the direct link between the believer and his Creator. With respect to the style of prayer and the enthusiasm in its exercise, they are reminiscent somewhat of our Hassidic movement.

The leader of the movement is the preacher, Hilton Sutton, who is at the head of the group which has arrived in Israel. Sutton, who is married to Joanne Goodson, and is the father of two daughters, is the offspring of a distinguished family of clergymen. Its genealogical tree reveals that one member of this family in the 11th Century was the Archbishop of Canterbury. Hilton Sutton was ordained to the ministry in 1952, and since that time has served as an itinerant clergyman and is a popular speaker throughout the U.S.A. His interpretation of the Bible in the spirit of our days has captivated many hearts and aroused much interest in the "Book of Books". During the course of the last 20 years Sutton has shown much interest in Israel, which he views as a "thermometer for the entire world." In his opinion, it is in the Bible that the key to the solution of the Mideast dispute lies, as well as the peace which is imminent. It is in this spirit that Sutton's movement has produced the audio-visual production, "The Ezekiel File." END ARTICLE

DATE: 6.11.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE PROPHET EZEKIEL IN A MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION"

BYLINE : DAVAR Correspondent in Jerusalem.

QUOTE : The world premiere showing of the multimedia production which describes the principles of the faith of members of the Christian movement "Mission to America", and which is based on the prophecies of Ezekiel, was screened last night in Jerusalem at the Hotel Diplomat in the presence of public figures, Members of Knesset, and 180 followers of the movement who are now in Israel. The film, entitled "EZEKIEL FILE", is based entirely on the words of the prophet, and it maintains that 2500 years ago Ezekiel prophesied about the ~~times~~<sup>tread</sup> of peace being heard in our region in these very days.

The movement, which is headed by the clergyman Hilton Sutton, is warning Israel of the Russian danger, and has taken upon itself a mission to the American people, the main point of which is to persuade them of the right of Israel to exist in accordance with the promise detailed in the Bible. The production was prepared in the course of one year and a half, and a great amount of money was invested in it. For about a half-hour thousands of pictures are flashed on to 18 giant screens which are joined together. Before the showing, a special gold medal was bestowed on the Prime Minister, M. Begin, by way of his advisor, Harry Horowitz, on which his image was imprinted, and on the reverse side there appears a passage from the words of the prophet Ezekiel. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 7.11.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (AM HEB MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "VISION OF THE DRY BONES--ON FILM: 'BEGIN'S CONCESSIONS ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE'"

BYLINE: Gabriel Stern, Al Hamishmar Correspondent.

QUOTE : There took place last night at the Diplomat Hotel in the capital the world premiere of the very impressive film "The File of the Prophet Ezekiel" which describes in 28 minutes the fulfilment of the vision of the resurrection of the Dry Bones (meaning the Holocaust-stricken Jewish people) through the Zionist revival and the State of Israel, with Israel withstanding the northern "Gog" (Read: The Soviet Union and its allies). Present were 180 members of "The Mission to America", an American-Protestant, pro-Zionist movement, which numbers some four million supporters, headed up by the clergyman Hilton Sutton of Houston, Texas. Also present were about the same number of Israelis who spent a good while together with their hosts around the tables.

Sutton took the occasion to award a gold medallion to the Prime Minister, Menahem Begin, whom he designated as "the watchman of the House of Israel" (Ezekiel 3:17), while noting that he was not the only one (watchman), but he was "Number One", along with the rest of the members of the Government and Knesset. The decoration was received on behalf of Begin who is now abroad by Harry Horowitz, his advisor for foreign liaison. Sutton commented that it had been decided to honour Begin even before he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

"At first I said 'Nay' to Begin's signing of the Camp David agreements, inasmuch as it constituted a yielding on the boundaries of the divine promise to Abraham, but following additional study of the Bible I observed that Jacob had also yielded part of his rights to the Land to his brother Esau for the sake of advancing peace," the leader of the "Mission to America" movement said. He also promised the full support of the movement to Israel, especially in the matter of Jerusalem.

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Greetings were brought in the name of the Jerusalem Municipality by Issachar Ben-Yaacov, the General Consul of Israel in Houston, Yitzhak Lear, and also by Walter Eitan, speaking on behalf of the Israel Council for Foreign Affairs. In the cultural portion of the program, in addition to several other guests, the dancing troupe of the municipality of ~~Richard Letzler~~ ~~Richard Bannaport~~ was the master of ceremonies for the evening.

DATE: 8.11.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) NEWS ARTICLE ENL ARTICLE

HEADING: "MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT FROM U.S.A. WILL PRESENT RELIGIOUS PRODUCTION IN ISRAEL"

PHOTO INSET: "The Preacher Milton Sutton"

QUOTE: A group of 180 members of a Christian religious movement from the U.S.A. headed up by the preacher Hilton Sutton, which has taken upon itself a mission which is connected with the fulfilment of the vision of the prophet Ezekiel, is visiting Israel.

At a press conference which took place on Friday in Beit Sokolow in Tel-Aviv, Hilton Sutton related that the movement was founded in 1971, and its name is "Mission to America." According to him, the members of the movement have a strong empathy towards Israel, and feel they have a bond to her, and their desire is to aid Israel. According to their belief, God is fulfilling in these days that which is intimated in the vision of the prophet Ezekiel. The fulfilment of the prophecy is finding expression, among other things, in the conclusion of peace in the Mideast. God appointed the prophet Ezekiel to warn Israel, on the one hand, and to watch over the fulfilment of the prophecy, on the other hand.

Members of the movement have come to Israel, among other things, in order to present to the public a production entitled "Ezekiel File", a multimedia spectacle produced in the course of a year and a half, and which describes Jewish history with special emphasis on the vision of the prophet Ezekiel. This production will be screened this evening at the Hotel Diplomat in Jerusalem in a world premiere showing.

The Christian movement "Mission to America" has expanded in recent years, and the number of its members is 4-5 millions of members, with followers numbered among prominent public figures, among them governors, members of Congress, the sister of the U.S.A. president, Ruth Stapleton-Carter, and others. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 8.11.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH AM IND) "POSTSCRIPTS" FEATURE

QUOTE: "The Blood-Red phalances of Bolshevik military might move inexorably across the fair Land of Israel. The recently revived homeland of the Jewish people is doomed. But there is an earthquake, and the invading hordes are struck down to the last man. Israel is spared. This is vividly portrayed in a 30-minute audio movie-slide version of the visions of Ezekiel, prepared for showing to audiences in the U.S. by Mission to America. This organization, whose members, mainly in Texas, believe fervently in the destiny of the people and State of Israel, gave a dinner at Jerusalem's Diplomat Hotel recently to premiere "The Ezekiel File." The occasion was used for the presentation of a special WATCHMAN of ISRAEL medallion to P.M. Menahem Begin by Mission to America board chairman Hilton Sutton, eloquent interpreter of the Book of Ezekiel in modern times. The medallion was accepted on behalf of the premier by his advisor on information, Harry Hurwitz. N.D.G.

SUBJECT 2: THE BRANHAMITES OF NATANYA

DATE: 3.11.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEB PM IND) WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT FEATURE

HEADING: "SABBATH GENTILES NATANYA-STYLE" BYLINE: Hannah Peer

PHOTOS: (1) Shirtey & Noel Johnson and daughters, wandering from land to land by order of the pastor, "Brother Green", deputy of the deceased prophet (2) Noel Johnson at the factory laboratory (3) Steve Ditchmiller in the Laboratory (4) Shabbat Goyim in the Ultra-Orthodox neighbourhood of Kiryat Zanz of Netanya...model neighbour relations.

EXCERPTS: Baby "Charity" is only 6 weeks old, the youngest of the "sabras" of the "Christian" sect living with her parents in the ultra-orthodox Jewish neighbourhood Kiryat Zanz in Netanya. The Sabbath Gentiles of the Hassidim of the rabbinical leader from Klausenberg are liked and accepted among all the residents of the area. Within the religious quarter two families Johnson and nearby the family Ritchmiller live. Noel and Shirley Johnson have six daughters....he is 34 years old, Shirley 26, living in the quarter three years already. When they arrived in Israel, they were the parents of Sarah (8), Lana (6) and Irene (5). In Israel were born Nilly (3), Grace (2) and Charity. The five older girls chatter away fluently in Hebrew. The parents have learned a little Hebrew but prefer to speak in English. When Nilly was born, she was named for the boat on which they arrived. "But Nilly is also the name of a movement of revolt by virtue of which the State of Israel exists," adds father Noel in exuberance at the name. Members of the sect of "The Christians" attribute great significance to the name bestowed on a child at birth. They believe that every name embodies the character of the child and puts its stamp on all his life.

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The names of the children are chosen with great care, and taken from the Old Testament (Tenach) or from the New Testament. Sometimes other names are given, but with a positive signification.... The sect of "The Christians" (with the article) is one of the youngest among Christian sects, and was founded in the 1930s by the prophet William Branham. Notwithstanding the youth of the sect in terms of years, its customs are based only on those of the Old and New Testaments. Most of the customs practiced by Christians in various eras are not valid for the members of "The Christians."

Shirly and Noel Johnson live cooperatively financially, culturally, and in religion, with the rest of the members of the sect in Israel who live in Netanya and in Jerusalem. "We are a kibbutz in every sense," relates Noel. Every member conveys his wages to "Brother" Quentin who serves as a secretary of the "kibbutz" in Israel. He divides the money among the families according to need. A forum of all the families and their children decides on priorities for purchases. Sect members, whose food is humble, wear modest clothing and <sup>use</sup> minimal furnishings, use most of their income for air fares since they wander from country to country at the command of the pastor, "Brother" Green, the deputy (or successor) to the deceased prophet.

In contrast to the generality of Christians, the sect members do not believe in the Holy Trinity. For them there is but one God, Elohim. Many of their customs are reminiscent of the customs of Jewish Orthodoxy. The women are strict about modest dress even on hot days, and they sew their own clothes and those of their children with their own hands. Their married women do not work outside the home....makeup and cosmetics are forbidden even to mention. "In the Bible there was Jezebel who painted her eyes with colour, and what was her end? The dogs tore her flesh for prey," sect members say in giving the reason for their opposition to cosmetics. In their conservative and ~~and~~ humble lifestyle the sect members call to mind the sectarians of the Judean Desert as well as the first Christians. Once a month they gather together and each one washes the feet of his neighbour as Jesus was wont to do in his way.

Sharon (33) and Steve (35) Richmiller are Americans of German extraction who arrived in Israel a year ago. With them were their children Shelley (15) and Gary (12). Steve served in the American Air Force with the rank of Top Sergeant (Medic). In the course of military service the family moved from Minnesota to Georgia, Dakota, Illinois and to Germany. In Germany they became acquainted with an American family, through whom they came in contact with the sect of "The Christians," and through the pastor forsook all...home, work, friends, kin, and began to wander about the world. Sharon was a saleslady. Now she takes care of the household and prepares her daughter Shelly, age 15, for family life. Shelly has worked in Israel (since unmarried girls are permitted to work) as a voluntary nurse in the Laniado Hospital (a religious hospital in Kiryat Zanz). She enjoyed her work in the maternity division. Now she is learning from her mother cookery, house cleaning and sewing, and reads the Holy Scriptures.

When they arrived in Israel a year ago, Steve worked as a packer in a packing plant. In Netanya he returned to his military vocation, and began to work as a male nurse in the Intensive Care Department. Now he is working in the Internal Medicine Dept of the <sup>Laniado</sup> Hospital. Steve is not simply a "Sabbath Gentile" (one who performs tasks on the Sabbath forbidden to Sabbath-observant Jews TRANS). For cleaning work and kindling fire the hospital employs an Arab and a Druze. Steve performs all the tasks of a Sabbath Gentile from a medical standpoint. He transfers instruments, bathes male patients, switches on and off electrical appliances and operates medical apparatus. Steve performs urgent examinations which cannot be deferred to a weekday. "He is outstanding," Hanna Yaacobovitz testifies concerning him. She is the Chief Nurse in the Internal Medicine Dept, and she notes: "He appears whenever we call on him, day or night, Sabbath or Holiday, he does the work willingly."

Noel Johnson works at the hospital as Manager of the Medical Laboratory (Haematology and Chemistry). He too, like Steve, learned his profession in the U.S. Army. Upon joining the sect 13 years ago he abandoned the Army and wandered about the world at the command of the pastor. He arrived in Israel after spending time in Switzerland. In the course of his peregrinations he engaged in various occupations...builder, gardener, cleaning worker, and more. In Netanya he was employed as a night watchman in the hospital and as a cleaning worker in the "mikva" (ritualarium) of the quarter. Now he must leave the country and return to Tucson, Arizona, in accordance with the instructions of the leader. He is now engaged in transferring the laboratory to the new management. "He will be sorely lacking," the laboratory workers declare.... "I hope that I will stay in Tucson for a short time, and they will permit ~~to~~ to return to Netanya. The people here are wonderful, and I've become very attached to them," he adds.

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Sect members do not recognize the paragraph "Vocation". In every country their vocation changes in accordance with the need, and they do everything with love, willingness, and enthusiasm. They do not despise any kind of work since they have been appointed to help the children of God wherever they are. In Israel they are particularly happy to serve "the Israelis, for in addition to their being children of God, they are also the Chosen People living in the promised land."

Sect children do not study in any Government school in Israel or in the United States. In Israel all the children have been assembled in a classroom of one of the Jerusalem families....and from the age of 7 to 15 they study with "Sister" Ilana. She is a young woman of 20 who upon her arrival in Israel worked in the Hotel Galei Zanz in Netanya. From hotel clientele she has learned Yiddish, Hebrew and German. During the past year she left the hotel and gathered all the children to teach them reading, writing and English and Hebrew, as well as the Holy Scriptures, history, geography, and mathematics....Three months ago Ilana returned to Tucson, Arizona, where the pastor lives, and which is a main centre of the community. Now the children are back with their parents who are trying to teach them as far as they are able. When they return to the U.S., the children will study at a private school of the sect in the church at Tucson. The schoolteachers are church teachers with a Government license for teaching. At age 15 formal studies conclude. The girls continue their studies at home in preparation for married life, while the boys go out to work, with a trade being learnt on the job.

Elial Johnson, a sect member, arrived in Israel without technical education. At El-Al he succeeded at being integrated as an electronics technician thanks to his aptitude and his swift hands. A year ago he left Israel and returned to the U.S.A. Today he is an expert electronics technician in the American Air Force.

Radio, TV, cinema, newspapers all belong to the deductions of Satan. There is an absolute prohibition on the viewing of films, but there is no prohibition on listening to the news on the radio or to reading news in the newspaper....In every household of the sect members in Israel or in other lands there are tape cassettes for listening to the words of the prophet Branham....

"Brother" Reinhold and "Sister" Doris Johnson have not compelled their older children and married children to join the sect, which they themselves joined after listening to the words of the prophet. Doris is a native of England and Reinhold of the U.S.A., the son of Scandinavian immigrants....They are not called "Grandpa" or "Grandma" by the children of the sect, but "Brother" and "Sister". Since their grandchildren are also called "brethren" and "sisters", there develops a social and family equality wherein the grandfather is the "brother" of his son and grandson. By this comradely fraternity they fulfil the request of the prophet "Brother Branham: "If you love <sup>me</sup> me all me your brother."

Among sect members there is no family coercion. A grown young man is permitted to leave his parents and the sect and to choose his way outside the sect. There is no organization nor enrolment of members, no missionizing, no religious ceremonies, and no order of prayers. Everyone prays to God as he wishes: "We speak to Him as children with their father."

The women of the sect never cut their hair...relying on the words of the New Testament: "A woman's hair is her glory." Men are permitted to cut their hair. Couples observe carefully moral standards. Adultery is inconceivable, there are no divorces because marriages are for life and death....The young people of the sect are permitted to decide whom they will wed with the consent of the parents. There is no fixed age for marriage. Shirley was married when she was 16. After betrothal the couple are not permitted to be together by themselves except under adult supervision. The women bear their children at home...and <sup>(SECT MEMBERS)</sup> have no contact with medications, doctors, hospitals despite the fact that many of the members work in hospitals....

In Israel they behave like Jews in all things. In the kitchen they have utensils for dairy foods and a set for meats. There is no swine flesh on their tables. The Feast of Booths and the Feast of Passover is observed according to all their ordinances. For the children born in Israel there is a circumcision ceremony when the infant is eight days old. "We have many things in common with the Jews, much more than we have with the Christians," the sect members declare. "We love Israel and its citizens more than any of the countries in which we have stayed." But soon all the families of the sect will be leaving Israel. Despite the fact that the sect members have no special place of residence in the world which they can call home, they are hoping that after a short stay in the U.S.A. they will be sent back to Israel, because they have a feeling that this is their home. END ART.