

Temple Mount Nut Woos Christian Fundies; Threatens Sharon and Bush

by Harley Schlanger

Regular readers of *EIR* are, by now, familiar with the bizarre alliance between so-called Jewish and Christian fundamentalists, which has become a significant strategic factor in the drive for religious war in the Middle East. In December 2000, *EIR* published a *Special Report*¹ which brought together 20 years of the highest-quality intelligence work done on the subject, to prove the case that the basis for war in the region is not religion, but the manipulation of Jews, Muslims, and Christians *from the outside*.

Those pulling the strings are a grouping of predominantly Anglo-American lunatics, typified by Henry A. Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, which is committed to maintaining a state of permanent war, as a flank against cooperation among Eurasian nations—especially Russia—embodied in the transcontinental infrastructure projects proposed by U.S. economist and Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

A recent gathering of this most unholy alliance occurred at a secret meeting in the White House on July 30, which brought together an assortment of messianic fundamentalists, of both the Jewish and Christian types. At this meeting, representatives of the groups threatened President George W. Bush, telling his liaison, Tim Goeglein, that Bush would lose a large number of votes from his base among evangelical Christians, if he did not support an all-out war by Israel to destroy the Palestinian Authority.²

Chief Kook On Tour

The pressure on Bush was escalated over the last five weeks, by the presence in the United States of Gershon Salomon, the founder of The Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement. It was Salomon's organization which attempted to provoke Muslims in Jerusalem in August, by laying the cornerstone for the construction of the Third Temple of Jerusalem, which, he insists, must be built on what is known as the Temple Mount or al-Haram al-Sharif, which includes the Dome of the Rock, one of the three most holy

sites for Islam. Salomon and his followers believe that construction of the Third Temple is the necessary precondition for the long-awaited appearance of the Messiah.

There have been numerous attempts by associates of Salomon and other Jewish terrorist groups to destroy the Dome of the Rock. Israeli police and security forces have been successful, thus far, in preventing them from blowing it up.

In his presentation given at the Jewish Community Center in Houston on Sept. 6, Salomon spoke a language unfamiliar to most American Jews. Instead, it was obvious that he was appealing to those in the audience whom he referred to as "Zionist Christians." "I can say to you," he repeated several times, "that we are approaching the End Times. . . . There is an exciting awakening of Christians. There are not only Zionist Jews, but Zionist Christians."

"My voice is the voice of God," he said, though he admitted it has not always been recognized as such. "When I was last in Houston, eight years ago, there was not much response to my Godly call. Now, the eyes and hearts are lifted to Jerusalem. The nation of Israel is doing Godly work. . . . The rebuilding of the Temple Mount is rebuilding a new future, not only for Israel, but for all mankind. The Hill in Jerusalem [Temple Mount] is the key place in the End Times," as "God dwells on that hill."

With his voice rising, Salomon spoke of a Jewish-Christian imperative for joint action, again using Old Testament references which resonate among Christian fundamentalists: "As spoken by Isaiah, all nations will return to Zion to meet God. The Messiah will come, not to any other place. He will come to Jerusalem, to the rebuilt House of God. This is common to Christians and Jews—whether it is his first, or second coming—he will come, and be an Israeli God, and speak only Hebrew."

Pandering further to the Christians present (as if his statement that the Messiah's arrival might be his *second* coming, a highly un-Jewish concept, was not enough), he said, "When he comes, Zionist Christians will then be called Israelites."

The brand of alleged Jewish eschatology preached by Salomon, with his frequent references to the imminence of the End Times, is deliberately shaped to enhance the alliance between those fanatic Jewish fundies who wish to drive the Palestinians out of Greater Israel, and the kind of Southern

1. "Who Is Sparking a Religious War in the Middle East?" (*EIR Special Report*, December 2000).

2. Anton Chaitkin, "Temple Mount Fanatics Seek To Blackmail Bush" (*EIR*, Aug. 24, 2001).



The Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Gershon Salomon, the founder of The Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement, is touring the United States, organizing fundamentalists for the “End Times.”

Christian fundamentalists who, until recently, rarely associated with Jews, unless they were wearing white sheets and hoods.

Targets: Sharon, Arafat, And Bush

There is more to this appeal, however, than an opportunistic merger between these twisted theological interpretations, as can be seen from the July 30 meeting at the White House. The alliance between these Jews and Christians is designed to provoke a never-ending religious war, which has been the intention since the British first imposed themselves, and their imperial geopolitics, on the region at the turn of the last century. This is clear from the concluding section of Salomon’s speech in Houston that night.

First, he attacked Israel’s Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who thus far has resisted the more extreme demands that he launch an all-out liquidation of Palestinians in Israel.

“One of our goals is to create a new leadership. . . . We thought Sharon will be the one. But Israel will not fulfill our task with politicians. Israel needs leadership with Biblical vision. This is the only nation [in] which its past is its future. Not a political future—Israel cannot be another nation in the world, a regular nation,” he said, demonstrating contempt for the founding vision of Israel.³ Instead, Israel must “be a holy nation, a Kingdom of Priests.”

Salomon then turned his wrath against the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, and the Oslo peace agreement they so

3. See Steven P. Meyer, “Moses Mendelssohn, David Ben-Gurion, and the Peace Process: A Lesson in Statecraft,” in *EIR Special Report* (see footnote 1).

nobly attempted to implement. Oslo “was an ungodly agreement. Israel is not Tel Aviv [the stronghold of the peace movement], but Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria [the West Bank], Gaza, Sinai, the [Syrian] Golan Heights, Trans-Jordan,” the territory of “Greater Israel,” which he and his fellow fanatics claim was given by God to the Jews, as a kind of real estate deal. “Who can give this land away, to the enemies of God? Arafat is the creation of Satan, all the other Arab nations, the hatred against Israel is given with the milk of their mothers.”

He continued: “As long as the evil, Satanic agreement [Oslo] is allowed to exist, the Temple Mount is in the hands of Satan.”

He then turned to the United States. “God created the U.S. as a new land, a new nation, he blessed you so much. . . . But your leadership is so similar to Israel,” that is, ungodly, because the United States, he ranted, has refused, thus far, to give Israel a completely free

hand to drive the Palestinians out. For Salomon, one sign of the U.S. capitulation to Satan is that its government has not yet moved its embassy to Jerusalem. How foolish, he exclaimed: “God created the U.S. for the End Times, to stand with Israel. Your embassy is still in Tel Aviv, your leaders have not recognized God!”

He then launched his final thrust, coming back to what he called the “historic importance” of the laying of the cornerstone for the Third Temple. “I tell you, my Zionist Christian brothers and sisters, that once Israel comes back to Temple Mount, the enemy will know it is over for them. The Palestinian Authority, Arafat, and the rest will disappear. . . . The Messiah will come through the Eastern Gate. . . . It will come soon, and you will see the Redemption. We are so close, I can see it, don’t fall, be strong, be a part of this event. Come to Israel, show God you trust Him. We will thank God to be born in such a generation.”

This final flourish was greeted by a chorus of “amens” from a section of the crowd, most of them Christian. As for the Jews attending, those from the sponsoring organizations, including the extremist Americans for a Safe Israel (which was prominently involved at the White House session) seemed quite pleased, but many others appeared to be less than wowed, typified by a woman seated next to me. As Salomon concluded, she woke up her snoring husband with a sharp elbow to the ribs. “Come on, honey, we’re leaving. I’ve had enough of this mesheggaass,” she said.

Unfortunately, it is precisely this mesheggaass, wielded by the alliance of these fanatics, and tolerated by too many in the U.S. Executive and Congress, which threatens to lead to an expanding war which will be deadly to Jews, Muslims, and Christians.