

Clifton News

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NEWS

Children's Easter Holiday Club

The Lord was pleased to bless again this year and a total of 82 different children came. Numbers attending during the week were Monday 61; Tuesday 63; Wednesday 61; Thursday 76.

Wednesday Seekers and the Friday Club continue to see good numbers and interest. We will be closing them for the summer holidays.

Bible Exhibition and Gospel Meetings

Johnny Black will be visiting us, Lord willing, with his Bible Exhibition this September.

We hope to have the exhibition and gospel meetings on some of the evenings from 22nd September to 3rd October. Details will be available on our web site nearer the time.

Judith Catchpole

Judith has had surgery on her right eye to correct a macular hole and is presently recovering.

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MEETINGS

THE WEEK AT CLIFTON

Lord's Day

Breaking of Bread 11.00 am

Family Service 4:00 pm

Monday

Prayer & Ministry 7:45 pm

Wednesday

Seekers Club 6:30 pm (Term time only for under 10s)

Friday

Friday Club (Term time only for 10+) 7:30 pm

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FAMILY SERVICE

July

6	Nitish Patel
13	Alastair Rodger
20	Andrew Hall
27	Alastair Rodger

August

3	Mike Surry
10	Ray Reed
17	Nitish Patel
24	Richard Catchpole
31	Alastair Rodger

September

- 7 Richard Catchpole
- 14 Phil Briercliffe
- 21 Nitish Patel
- 28 Jonathan Black + Bible Exhibition

MONDAY PRAYER & MINISTRY

July

- 7 Bible Reading
- 14 Richard McClenaghan (Missionary report meeting on Romania)
- 21 Colin Roberts, Nehemiah 1
- 28 Colin Roberts, Nehemiah 2

August

- 4 Bible Reading
- 11 Colin Roberts, Nehemiah 3
- 18 Norman Gibbons, Nehemiah 4
- 25 Bank holiday

September

- 1 Bible Reading
- 8 Nitish Patel, Church history (11)
- 15 Nitish Patel, Church history (12)
- 22 Jonathan Black + Bible Exhibition
- 29 Jonathan Black + Bible Exhibition

QUESTION BOX



At the Friday Club, we have a question box into which the young people put questions they want answered. We re-print here the answers from the Bible we have given them.

Is it possible to sin in heaven because our bodies don't come with us and it is the bodies that sin not our soul?

Our body only does what we tell it to. Our real self, our heart, our soul inside us, is what does the sinning. It uses the body as an instrument for sin or to do good. The sinful nature that we inherited from Adam is what causes us to do wrong.

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." (Matthew 15:19)

We can tell our bodies to sin but we can also use our body to do good like helping others. When unconverted, we used our bodies for sin, when we are converted, we are to use our bodies for righteousness

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." (Romans 6:12-13)

Sin cannot enter heaven. God will not allow anyone into heaven who will sin. We need to be saved from sin.

"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:27)

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." (1 John 5:18)

Only those are saved go to heaven. We do not sin in heaven anymore for God has saved us from sin. We are forgiven of all our sins but also saved from the power of sin.

When we are saved, we are no longer under sin's dominion and we do not practice sin as a habit.

If we die before the Lord Jesus returns, He will raise up our body at the resurrection. Our soul and spirit will be reunited with our bodies and we will be completely redeemed.

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." (1 Corinthians 15:50)

Our bodies however will not be like they were before but glorified and like the body of Christ. We shall be like Christ. We shall be morally pure and sinless and unable to sin.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

Nitish Patel

BIBLE TEACHING

Elisha Prophet of Water (Part 5)

By the late Charles Wigg (Tasmania)



TO THE WORK

Elisha now parted from his master, but wearing the cloak that fell from him, and now anointed with a double portion of his master's spirit, did not remain at the place of parting but returned to the bank of the Jordan. He was not to waste his time in mourning his great loss, but now, suitably equipped; he was to devote himself to the service of Jehovah, and thus to carry on his master's work. Just as the disciples were not to stand for a long time, looking up into heaven.

As he stood by the bank of Jordan, he did what he had seen his master do. As he faced those cold swift waters once again, he took that very same mantle, folded it, and smote the waters with it, at the same time calling on the mighty name of Jehovah. "Where is the Lord (Jehovah), God of Elijah". Elijah had gone, but the Mighty Jehovah was still there, and all his power was available to His servant, to enable him to carry on His work. Thus the waters parted to the one side and to the other; and Elisha went over. When seen by the sons of the prophets,

Elisha was obviously different, they were compelled to confess, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha". It would be so wonderful if we so lived and manifested the Spirit of Christ, that those with whom we come in contact could see the difference in our lives also, and testify to beholding His likeness in us.

Elisha also gained the respect, even the fear of the sons of the prophets, as they bowed themselves to the ground before him. Such greatness, suddenly thrust upon him, would have ruined men of lesser character, but not Elisha. It seems that he was deaf to the praise and flattery of men, and those who serve God today, should be also! The praise of men is at best very insincere and hollow, but it is the praise and approval of God that we should seek. We should serve God in such a way that at the end when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, we will hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" It seems that they had a faulty understanding of the character of God, and the way that He values His servants. They failed to understand the nature of God's Spirit. It is obvious that their minds were clouded with the teaching and actions of demons. Such spirits delight to lift up those that they control, to give them ecstatic experiences, and then cast them down in depression and gloom. They thought that Jehovah was like this also, and wanted to send and to search. Thinking that Elijah was suffering from horrible injuries, (the consequence of his being cast down by God), on some mountain or in some valley. But Elisha knew better, he knew the worth of God's servant, and understood how much God loved and valued him. Jehovah had provided for His servant, He had protected him when evil powers sought to kill or destroy him, and now He had taken him into His own presence.

However these men persisted, inferring that they cared more about Elijah, than Elisha did, until he felt ashamed, and agreed to their vain suggestions, and actions. But all was fruitless, as Elisha knew it would be, and when the fifty strong men returned empty handed, Elisha rebuked them, saying "Did I not say unto you, Go not".

THE FIRST MIRACLE

Elisha goes to the source of the problem. Next we read that the men of Jericho come to Elisha with a problem. They were dwelling in the place of the curse, but were glad to point out that the situation of the city was pleasant, but had to admit, that the water was bad, and the land barren, (produced no crops). We have already seen in an earlier that Jericho represents the more acceptable and pleasing aspects of the world. But we are warned by John, that the whole world, whether it be the Egyptian, the Sodom and Gomorah, the Jerusalem, or the Babylon aspects of it, all lie in the wicked one, in the very bosom of the Devil (1 John 5:19, Darby), and we are not to love it or anything in it (1 John 2:15-17).

Elisha had got the victory over Jericho (1 John 5:4-5). He had been there, but was no resident of that city. So he asked the men to bring him a new cruse, and to put salt in it. He cast this in at the source of the waters, and there proclaimed the word of God. "Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters....." There is teaching for us in his actions. The new cruse, represents the believer (2 Cor. 5:17), the salt represents the grace of God given to the believer, and the believer's presence in this world is to have a preserving and purifying effect (Matt. 5:13). The only way to change this world is to change the people in it. When there is a strong presence of believers in any place, then there is a healing of the waters. They by their godly and holy lives, have a purifying, preserving effect on the community.

One of the most corrupting things in society today is alcohol. It breaks up homes, it clothes people in rags, it makes children poor and destitute. Yet I recall hearing an account on the radio, the news on the Australian Broadcasting Commission channel. They told how that the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra had gone to the USA for a concert tour. They went to one place (it may have been Dallas Texas), booked into the hotel, and then ordered alcoholic drinks to be brought to their rooms. But the room service people informed them that there was no alcohol available in that hotel, in fact in that town.

The musicians expressed their amazement, and asked what had happened. They were told that Evangelist Billy Graham had been

having meetings in that place, and so many people were converted to Christ, that there was no longer any sale for liquor. The same thing happened in one town in Western Australia. The great problem in that place were the Aborigines. But an evangelistic team of Aborigines came from another place, they had preached the gospel to their fellow Aborigines, so many were saved that most of the hotels had to close, and the police numbers were more that halved. These are practical illustrations of what this miracle means.

DISRESPECT PUNISHED

From Jericho Elisha went back to Bethel, and while on the journey was accosted by a gang of youths. These were young men who were old enough to know better, not innocent children as some would have us believe. They hurled insults at God's prophet, and in so doing insulted the Mighty God whom he served. They had obviously heard of Elijah's translation, and they wanted to get rid of Elisha also. So they cried, mocking and insulting the prophet, "Go up thou bald head, Go up thou bald head!" Elisha looked at them, and despised their insolence, and cursed them in Jehovah's name. These youths thus brought the curse of God upon themselves. There came two she-bears out of the woods and tore forty two of them. This does not mean that they were killed, but they did suffer injury and pain. These were youths of the city of Bethel, the house of God. Let this be a warning to us, because any who dare to speak ill of, to mock or despise the servants of God, bring a curse on themselves.

.... to be continued

GOOD NEWS

THE LAKE OF FIRE

by ROBERT E. SURGENOR, Evangelist



A STEEL WORKER'S STORY

IT WAS A COLD FEBRUARY NIGHT, but less than seventy feet away was a molten, boiling, lake of fire! Behind fire-brick walls and heavy water-cooled steel doors, a 500 ton mass of seething molten steel bubbled at 2,800 degrees Fahrenheit, being fed by a tremendous flame that required 700 gallons of oil per hour. This roaring inferno was an open hearth furnace - the very heart of steel making.

A few moments before walking over to the furnace, I had experienced a brush with death. For years, God had spoken to me about my soul in a variety of ways. Two motorcycle wrecks, three near-disasters while piloting a plane, and a near-drowning in the Atlantic Ocean. But like many brought up in a Christian home, I desired not the knowledge of God's ways (Job 21:14).

Mother had objected to me going to the mills for work, but it was "big

money," and that's what counted! During my first month, I witnessed a poor fellow, his head and shoulder cut off by an overhead crane. It was a gory sight as his bloody flesh was gathered up and put into a wire basket by my father, the melter foreman. A voice seemed to say, "If that were you, Bob, where would your soul be?" I pushed the thought immediately out of my mind.

A BRUSH WITH DEATH

In the course of twenty years, three men had fallen into the pits - a fifteen-foot drop in back of the furnaces. Two were burned alive, but I survived. Mother cried, and pleaded with me to quit, but money, sin, and pleasure were my gods. Now God was speaking once again. A brush with death was nothing to laugh at, or take lightly. A swinging overhead crane hook had just narrowly missed my head and I was shaken! Fellow workers on the scene shouted in jest, "Hey, Surgenor, if that thing had hit your head, you'd be shoveling coal in hell right now!" Their laughter pierced my heart! I had heard the Bible enough to know that there's no shoveling coal in hell - just a flame that torments its victims. A steady, piercing flame on the soul! A place of no comfort, no water, and no hope! But their words of jest were like the arrows of the Almighty. They stuck, and I couldn't get rid of them.

Looking into the furnace through a wicket hole, I was preparing to draw out a sample of the molten steel for testing. As my eyes beheld the white hot roaring flame and the steel lake of fire, my soul trembled. A voice said, "**He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.**" It was a Bible verse I'd learned in Sunday School many years before, and now God was bringing it to my remembrance to awaken me (Proverbs 29:1).

After the shift, I went home from that steel mill as a young man convicted of sin, scared of going to hell, and wanting to be saved. A few days later, humbled and broken, and crying and trembling for fear of meeting God in my sins, I trusted the Lord Jesus Christ who died for me on the cross. It was my dear wife, who had been saved for only six

days, who pointed me to the Saviour.

STARTLING FACTS

Friend, I'm sure that in your lifetime, you, too, have heard the voice of God in numerous ways. What about your soul? Do you ever consider eternity? As man to man, let me mention some startling, God-given facts. **Do you know**, "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23), and heaven's door is closed? **Do you know** death does *not* end all; that there is a conscious hereafter? (Luke 16:19-31). The undertaker buries the body in the grave, but God buries the lost soul in hell, to reserve it "unto the day of judgment to be punished" (II Peter 2:9). **Do you know** there are *two* resurrections: one for the saved; one for the lost (John 5:29)? Death (the body's abode) and hell (the soul's abode) shall deliver up the dead that are in them (Revelation 20:13). With body and soul reunited, the sinner shall stand before God to be judged for his sins, to determine the severity of his punishment. **Do you know** God has prepared a lake of fire and brimstone where this punishment will be poured out upon the sinner forever? The smoke of their torment will ascend up for ever and ever, they will have no rest day nor night (Revelation 14:11; 20:10). It will be a place "where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44).

Do you know God has made a way of escape through the precious blood of Christ? Oh, fellow traveler to eternity, be honest! Be fair to yourself and face the facts! Flee to Christ, receive Him now as your Saviour and be saved from the lake of fire.

"Being now justified by His
blood, we shall be saved from
wrath through Him" (Romans 5:9).

Born September 2, 1928. Born again February 10, 1952

"Except a man be born again,
he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

CHURCH HISTORY

The Doctor

The Life of Dr D Martyn Lloyd Jones (part 2)

By Mark Beardall

Lloyd-Jones was an enthusiastic reader and he enjoyed reading books on all subjects. He was greatly affected by the works of Jonathan Edwards the great 18th Century American Puritan preacher in New England. Edwards was a very gifted man intellectually and was said to be very plain in his delivery of a sermon but he was full of the Holy Ghost and power. He had a strong devotional spirit and spent



long periods in communion with God. Lloyd-Jones said Edwards was a Calvinistic Methodist at heart. He loved church history and was especially interested in the 18th Century revival and men like George Whitfield and John Wesley. In fact the Doctor presented a television documentary on George Whitfield.

Lloyd-Jones not only enjoyed reading but he wanted others to read good books as well. Because of this he gave strong support to Ian Murray and others who set up the Banner of Truth Trust. The Banner of Truth publishes Reformed and Puritan literature. It has been said that there was a revival of the reformed faith due to the work of Lloyd-Jones and the Banner of Truth Trust. In fact many of his books were published by the Banner of Truth. He was also very supportive of the Evangelical Library.

Today, the Doctor is probably better known for his books than his preaching. Although he is the author of many books, he was not a writer but a preacher. Nearly all his books were collections of sermons and addresses that were edited for publication. Martyn

Lloyd-Jones spent many years expounding the Book of Romans on Friday nights and all these sermons are in print.

Lloyd-Jones had a good sense of humour but he was never humorous in the pulpit. He saw himself as a man standing between the sinner and hell and he could not be humorous when he knew that there were people in the meeting who could possibly go to hell.

Lloyd-Jones was keen on Gospel preaching but he disapproved of altar calls or the invitation system as he called it. The altar call was originated by the great evangelist and revivalist Charles Finney. Finney would call people to the 'anxious seat' to cry out to God in repentance. This system became weaker as others developed it over a number of years and was reduced to people merely coming forward and repeating the sinner's prayer. Lloyd Jones believed that this system caused many spurious conversions.

He was the only major London minister who refused to take part in the Billy Graham Crusade in Haringey in 1954. In 1963 Billy Graham invited the Doctor to chair the first Congress on Evangelism. In his early days Billy Graham moved in Fundamentalist circles and was given an honorary doctorate by Bob Jones University. He opposed liberalism and modernism and had a lot of Fundamentalist support. However Billy Graham began to change and in order to obtain large crowds he invited Roman Catholic and Liberal ministers to sit on the platform and even sent converts back to Roman Catholic and liberal churches. Fundamentalists had no choice but to separate from Graham and Dr John R Rice challenged Graham who was on the board of his Sword of the Lord newspaper whether he still believed in the articles of the paper. Billy Graham replied in the negative and had to resign from the board. Lloyd-Jones told Graham that he would be willing to chair the congress on condition that he gave up the invitation system and stopped inviting liberal and Roman Catholic ministers to sit on his platform. Graham refused and found someone else to chair his meeting. Lloyd-Jones recognised Graham as an honest and sincere man who preached the gospel and saw people saved but he could not take part in Graham's ecumenical compromise.

James Packer the well known evangelical Anglican was a university friend of his daughter and also a friend of the family. However, in 1966 Lloyd-Jones was invited to speak at the National Evangelical Assembly of the Evangelical Alliance. He spoke against evangelicals being part of mixed denominations. At this time many of the denominations had both liberal and evangelical ministers. He could not understand how evangelicals could remain in a denomination where there were men who denied the gospel.

He called on evangelicals to leave their mixed denominations. This greatly offended John Stott who was the chairman at that meeting. Stott used his position as chairman to publicly rebuke Lloyd-Jones saying, "I believe history is against what Dr Lloyd Jones has said ... Scripture is against him ... I hope no one will act precipitately" Stott eventually apologised and they continued to talk on a personal level but they could not join together ecclesiastically. Lloyd-Jones wanted churches that preached the gospel to fellowship together and be separate from those who denied the truth. He also parted company with James Packer. Packer was going in an ecumenical direction. Packer co-authored a book entitled *Growing into Union* with two Anglo-Catholics which advocated the ecumenical movement. Lloyd-Jones with others withdrew from the Puritan conference because there was no way these views were Puritan or evangelical.

It seems that history has proved him right. Packer went on to sign *Evangelicals and Catholics Together* and also wrote a book advocating theistic evolution. Stott became increasingly ecumenical and compromised and also denied the doctrine of eternal punishment.

After being diagnosed with cancer in 1968 Martyn Lloyd Jones retired from ministry at Westminster Chapel. He took great interest in the treatments and his sickness being a doctor and he always kept up with the latest medical journals.

He still maintained an itinerant ministry preaching around the country. He was interviewed on television by Dame Joan Bakewell. When she implied that Christianity was declining he said that he had

just recently preached to 2100 people in Glasgow “so something must be going on.”

Lloyd-Jones was instrumental in setting up the London Theological Seminary in 1977 to train men for the ministry. Many denominational seminaries were liberal and Lloyd-Jones wanted a completely evangelical college. Many Bible colleges had compromised with modernism as they sought to gain accreditation from worldly universities. Lloyd-Jones believed that they needed no accreditation from the world. In some seminaries men go in as a fundamentalist and come out as a liberal.

Lloyd-Jones became increasingly sick and spent his final years editing sermons for publication. He devoted to his family and took a special interest in each member of his family. Lloyd-Jones passed away on Sunday 1st March 1981.

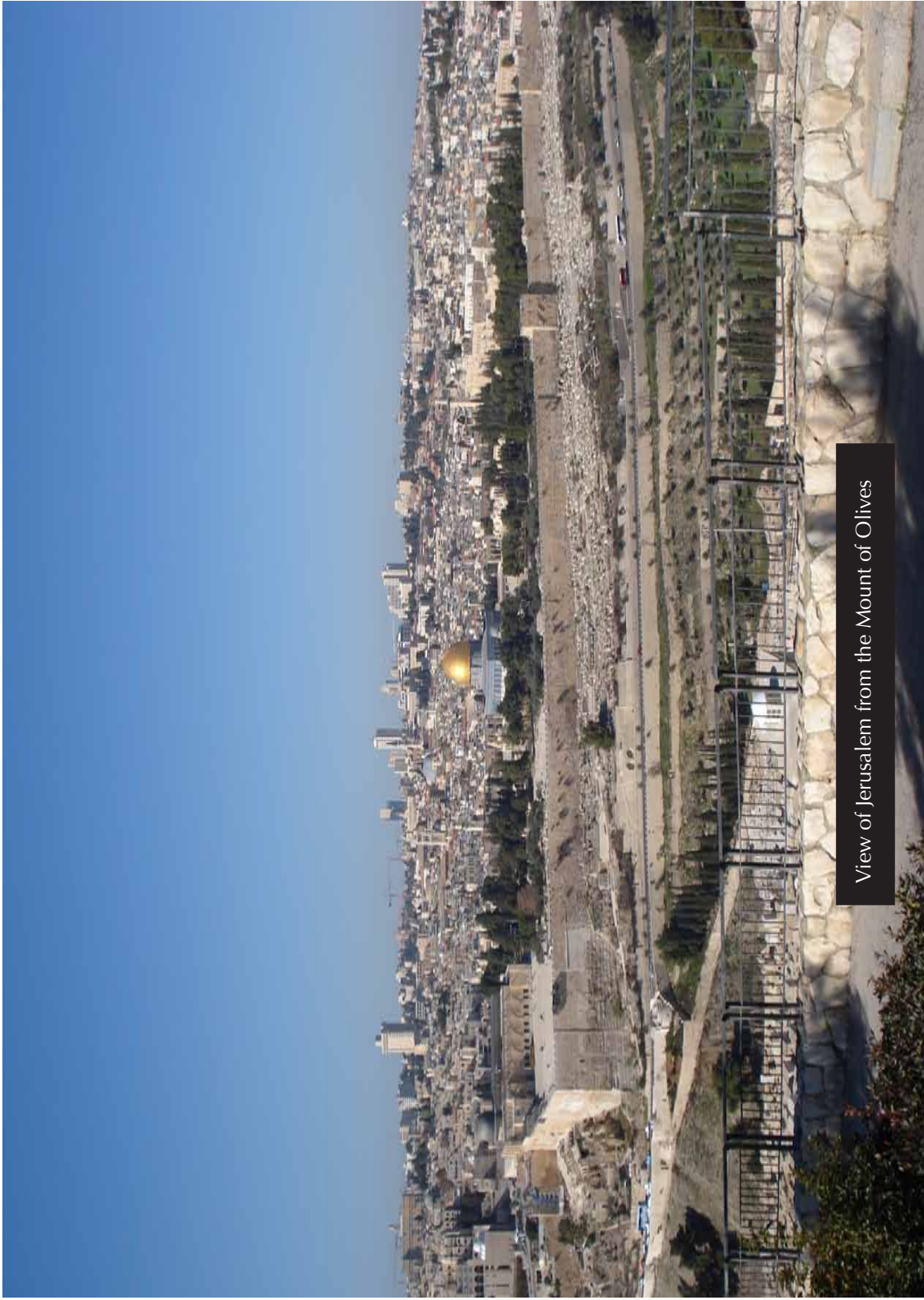
Concluded





The Kidron Valley, Jerusalem (Above) The East Gate, Jerusalem (Below)





View of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives