

Family Night Special Feature Study
What in the World is Going On?

What in the World is Going On Study Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	SUMMARY
TWO	January 21	The Crude Awakening	How has Israel become so wealthy over the last decade? Oil...Did God tell us this would happen?

Study #2 – The Crude Awakening

- **April 1, 2004 – Natural Gas, Oil Found in Dead Sea – (Jerusalem Post)**
- **May 2004 – Israel Strikes Black Gold (Arutz Sheva Newspaper)**
- **May 01, 2005 – In Israel, Oil Quest is Based on Faith (Wall Street Journal)**
- **June 13, 2005 – A Vision of Oil in the Holy Land (Newsweek)**

Israeli companies believe they have found oil

Wednesday, August 27, 2008 Israel Today Staff

Israeli energy companies Ginko and Delek Energy Systems on Tuesday won a decision by Israel's Nature and Parks Authority to drill for oil in a remote corner of a nature reserve in the Judean wilderness. Representatives for the companies said they believe the proposed drill site contains some 6.5 million barrels of oil. While that is less than the amount of oil Israel uses in a month, its market value is still a staggering \$700 million.

Israel Strikes Oil

September 10, 2008 Shofar Communications

Surrounded by the richest oil countries in the world, many would wonder why Israel has never found oil. Now they have. Ginko Oil Exploration, led by Dr. Eli Tannenbaum, has located a potentially large oil field in the Dead Sea region of Israel.

Massive Gas Reservoirs Discovered

The Jerusalem Post Sunday January 18, 2009

Three massive gas reservoirs have been discovered 80 kilometers off the Haifa coast, at the Tamar prospect, Noble Energy Inc. announced on Sunday.

2 Timothy 3:16-17(NIV)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- *What do all of these headlines and this passage of Scripture have in common? Explain.*

Oil – Black Gold: Instrument of Power

It is an understatement that mankind has a thirst for money and power. We have seen throughout the history of the world. Leaders and world powers have sought control of the world in different avenues throughout time. Leaders have tried to gain control of the world through war, money, fallout of natural disasters, and now we may be recognizing that world leaders are using another tool, oil. Oil has truly become a hot commodity on the world market and is now known as **black gold** because of its great value.

You might be prompted to ask this question: *What does oil have to do with Biblical prophecy?* The answer is that it has everything to do with prophecy. We see that the highest and richest oil reserves in the world are found in the Middle East and new reserves are now being discovered in Israel. Leaders in the Middle East will do just about anything to get control of the oil fields in Israel and that means even going to war in order to take them by force.

As mentioned in the book *What is the World is Going On* David Jeremiah quotes these facts about the global market for oil:

- Mankind's thirst for oil has passed 86 million barrels per day and is expected to rise to 98.5 million barrels a day in 2015.
- The psychological barrier of one hundred dollars a barrel was finally breached in early 2008.
- Oil prices of quintupled in the past six years.
- Middle East/Persian Gulf has about 60% of the World's known oil reserves.
- Majority of world oil supply is consumed by four entities (United States (25% of oil produced in the world), China, Japan, & Russia)

Jeremiah also goes on to point out that the top oil producing countries are as follows:

Top Oil Producing Nations

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Saudi Arabia | • United Arab Emirates |
| • Iran | • Russia, Venezuela, |
| • Iraq | • Libya |
| • Kuwait | |

Questions to Consider

- *What do you notice about these top oil producing countries?*
- *How do these observations point to the importance of oil in Biblical prophecy? Explain.*

David Jeremiah in *What in the World is Going On* points out: "Oil deposits result from the decomposition of plant and animal life now buried by eons of time. Oil is found all over the world, even under the ice in the arctic. This means that the entire world was once filled with green vegetation and animal life until a cataclysmic disaster wiped it all out. The earth's richest deposit lies under the sands of the countries east of Israel, known in former times as the area of the Garden of Eden."

- *What are the implications of this statement?*
- *What does this say about the importance of using Scripture as a road map for oil reserves?*

Oil – The Great Commodity of Israel

As we begin looking at the importance of oil in the world market, we must also ask how this great commodity can benefit the nation of Israel and in turn bring Biblical prophecy to fulfillment. The headlines that you read at the beginning of this study show that there are new oil fields that are being discovered every single year in the nation of Israel but what does that mean, how does it effect us, and why is it important for us to focus on.

Question #1 – Why is the discovery of oil so important for Israel?

Let us first begin addressing this basic question as we reflect on these new discoveries of the oil fields in Israel. In order to understand the great importance of the oil fields then we must first look at the book of Ezekiel.

- **Ezekiel 36:8-12** – ⁸ "But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. ⁹ I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, ¹⁰ and I will multiply the number of people upon you, even the whole house of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. ¹¹ I will increase the number of men and animals upon you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the LORD. ¹² I will cause people, my people Israel, to walk upon you. They will possess you, and you will be their inheritance; you will never again deprive them of their children.

Questions to Consider

- *What does God promise the nation of Israel in this text?*
- *How could these promises be carried out? Explain.*

A Biblical Roadmap Discovered

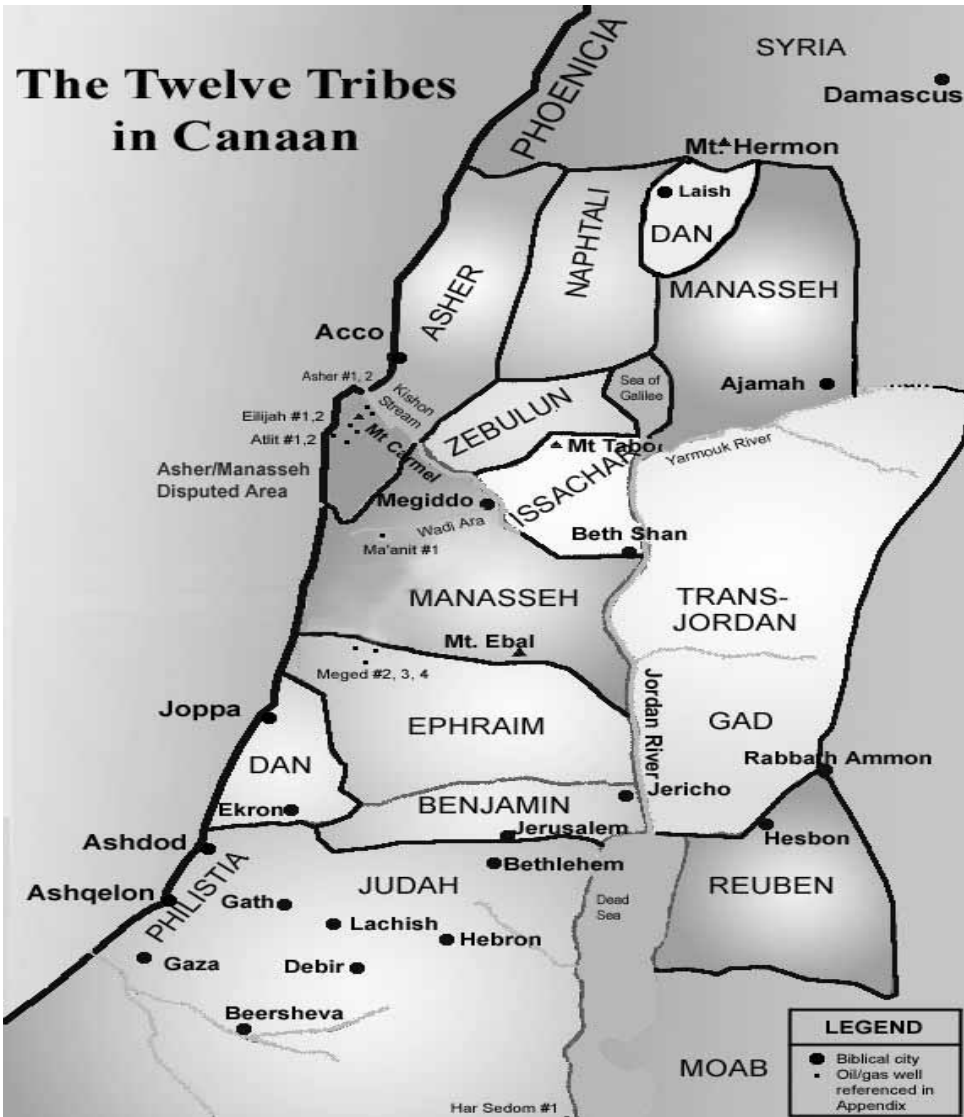
The nation of Israel has become enormously wealthy over the last six decades. She has a population of 7 million people and is home to over 6600 millionaires. In the Middle East, it has the highest GDP of all the surrounding nations and its economy is thriving. How in the world has it become so wealthy? The answer lies within men using Scripture as a roadmap to make the nation wealthy. Christian men such as the founder of Zion Oil company have used Scripture references to narrow locations to drill for oil and they have been successful in finding oil reserves.

The Zion Oil Company examined these key passages of Scripture to begin unlocking the secret Biblical Roadmap that was right before their very eyes. Read the passages below and comment.

- **Gen. 49:1** – Then Jacob called for his sons and said: "Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in the last days."
- **(Joseph Blessing) – Gen. 49:25-26** – "Because of your father's God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of the breast and womb." Your father's blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.
- **(Joseph Blessing) – Deut 33:13, 16** – ¹³About Joseph he said: "May the LORD bless his land with the precious dew from heaven above and with the deep that lie below..." ¹⁶With the best gifts of the earth and its fullness and the favor of him who dwelt in the burning bush. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.
- **Deut 33:19** – They will summon peoples to the mountain and there offer sacrifices of righteousness; they will feast on the abundance of the seas, on the treasures hidden in the sand."
- **(Blessing of Asher) – Deut 33:24** – About Asher he said: "Most blessed of sons is Asher; let him be favored by his brothers, and let him bathe his feet in oil."
- **Deut 32:12-13** – The LORD alone led him; no foreign god was with him. He made him ride on the heights of the land and fed him with the fruit of the fields. He nourished him with honey from the rock, and with oil from the flinty crag,
- **Is. 45:3** – I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.
- *What do these passages state about God's promise for the nation of Israel*
- *What do they specifically state about oil?*
 - *Term for oil means "earth oil as a product of a fruitful land or valley"*

STAGE #1 – The Joseph Blessings in both Genesis and Deuteronomy talk of the blessings coming “upon the head of Joseph and the top of the head of [Joseph].” The Hebrew word for “head” is “ROSH”. In Hebrew, when talking geographically, “ROSH” can mean the upper or higher area, thus the northern area, in the same way as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is the northern part of that state. The Hebrew word for “crown of the head” – “KODKOD” – also can have a geographical/topographical connotation meaning highest part or crest. Looking at the map, we can see that the lands of Joseph’s son Manasseh are in the northern part of the lands of Joseph, north of the lands of Ephraim, thus in the “ROSH” or “head” of the territories of Joseph. The reference to the “KODKOD” or “crown of the head” then points us to the upper or northern portions of the lands of Manasseh. But we can see from the map that the lands of Manasseh stretch all the way from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River and parts of the Tribe of Manasseh occupied lands east of the Jordan River.

Where in this wide stretch of territory do you begin searching for oil?



STAGE #2

In order to answer this question more directly then we must turn to the Blessing of Asher who “dips his foot in oil”. The word “foot” in Hebrew is “REGEL” and, again, “REGEL” also has a geographical meaning. The word means the lower or southern portion of an area, especially of an elongated territory running on a north – south axis. Again looking at the map, we see that the southern portion of the lands of Asher touch on and, indeed, extend into the western side of the lands of Manasseh.

Why are discovery of oil fields in this area so important in Biblical prophecy?

Conclusion

If we examine the importance of the discovery of the new oil fields in Israel and the use of Scripture as a roadmap then we must ask ourselves where Scripture is pointing out other areas of importance for our very lives: sin, obedience, heaven, hell, and even prophecy.

- *How do discoveries of this nature enlarge the importance of the lessons of that the Word of God teaches us for our spiritual lives and where we will spend eternity?*

