

Chapter 4 *The Two Witnesses* by Bill Perkins

Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. Malachi 4:5

For the first time in the history of modern Israel, she was at peace with her sworn enemies. The national excitement of the guaranteed peace was enough to begin moving the tiny country past the post-rapture fears associated with the Russian/Iranian invasion, decimation of the United States and subsequent massacre of her enemies the Arabs. "Shalom, shalom!" was being shouted from the lips of every citizen. (Ezek. 13:9, 10)

Then, seemingly on cue, two men showed up out of nowhere on the Mount of Olives creating quite a stir in Jerusalem. One claimed to be Elijah, returning as prophesied in the Old Testament scripture in Malachi, and the other claimed to be John from the New Testament. This immediately raised a red-flag alert within the Ultra-Orthodox Jews.

The Jews had been patiently waiting for Elijah to return to earth after his departure in a fiery chariot over 2800 years earlier. Every year at Passover, Jewish families in each home had set an extra place-setting at the table for Elijah. And every year, just before eating, they sent their children to the door to see if Elijah might be there. (2 Kgs. 2:11; Mal. 4:5)

So this reported return of Elijah and the appearance of John was incredible news to everyone in Israel, but it was of greatest concern to the the Ultra-Orthodox Jews. These highly religious men, exempt from having to join the work force or the military, devoted their entire lives to studying the Torah.

And they were a force to be reckoned with. They fathered large families, averaging 5 or 6 kids per couple, and although they only comprised about 10% of the total population, they powerfully influenced Israel's political coalitions and therefore elections.

But more importantly, they were also the self-proclaimed watchdogs for false prophets. With their extensive knowledge of scripture, they were quick to spot and expose impostors. Through the years scores of false prophets claiming to be Elijah or the Messiah had fallen under their scrutiny and been properly dismissed.

But Elijah and John sure *looked* like ancient prophets. They were dressed in what could only be described

as linen sackcloth, much like what the Old Testament prophets wore as a symbol of the office of Prophet when they preached repentance. (Rev. 11:3, Mal. 4:5, Mat. 3:1)

They appeared to be older men, albeit quite fit, as they took up residence at the southern tip of the Mount of Olives overlooking the over one million tombs on the western side. The view of the Temple Mount from that area was mesmerizing.

So when news of the two men claiming to be Elijah and John spread through Jerusalem, the Ultra-Orthodox immediately began making plans to confront them. Always ready to expose impostors, the Ultra-Orthodox decided to pay them a visit to dispel the rumors that Elijah had returned.

The Ultra-Orthodox leaders, as always, were dressed in their traditional and unique head-to-toe black suits and hats. Arriving at the top of the Mount of Olives, the group of about 50 wove their way to the area the men in question were occupying.

Following at the end of the "Black Hat" procession were two representatives from the Prime Minister's office, dressed in well-manicured

suits, presumably to also figure out who these men actually were. Members of Israeli Defense Force (IDF) were also scattered around the area but appeared not to be interfering with the confrontation.

"*Shalom!*" the head of the Ultras spoke as he approached the two shaggily-dressed men.

"*Shalom!*" the two men responded in unison as they scanned the group, peering deeply into each pair of eyes. "What do you want from us?" one of the two men asked.

"It is said that one of you claims to be Elijah the Prophet," the leader of the Ultras responded. "What are your credentials? What proof do you have of who you are?"

The slightly smaller of the two men answered first, "I am Elijah. I come fulfilling the testimony of Malachi that I would return to earth. I am sent by God to proclaim the name of Jesus the Messiah and to call all of Abraham's offspring back to the Promised Land from around the world."



View from the Mount of Olives to Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

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Mount of Olives



Rome

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- 20-Oct Depart USA
- 21-Oct Arrive Israel, overnight Tel Aviv.
- 22-Oct Mediterranean Coast: Caesarea, Aqueducts, Mt. Carmel, Valley of Armageddon, Nazareth, Cana, Mt. Arbel. Overnight Galilee.
- 23-Oct Galilee: Sea of Galilee boat ride and Bible study, Ancient Boat, walk Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Golan Heights, Baptisms in the Jordan River. Overnight Galilee.
- 24-Oct Dead Sea: Bet Shen, lunch at Qumran, Dead Sea Swim. Overnight Jerusalem.
- 25-Oct Jerusalem: Temple Mount, Wailing Wall, Southern Steps, Jewish Quarter, Pools of Bethesda, Bethlehem overlook.
- 26-Oct Jerusalem: Mount of Olives, Palm Sunday Road, Garden of Gethsemane, Caiphas House, Antonia Fortress, Via Dolorosa, Golgotha, Empty Tomb.
- 27-Oct Fly home or travel to Rome to begin cruise.

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE ITINERARY

- 25 Oct Depart USA.
- 26 Oct Arrive Rome.
- 27-Oct AM: Rome tour, PM: Board ship.
- 28-Oct Sicily.
- 29-Oct At-Sea: Free Day/Optional fun Bible studies.
- 30-Oct Athens & Corinth, Greece.
- 31-Oct Ephesus, Turkey.
- 1-Nov Crete, Greece.
- 2-Nov At-Sea: Free Day//Optional fun Bible studies.
- 3-Nov Disembark in Rome, visit the Vatican.
- 4-Nov Fly home or continue on to *Taste of Italy* option.

TASTE OF ITALY POST-CRUISE OPTION

- 4-Nov Travel to historic Florence.
- 5-Nov Leaning Tower of Pisa, Michelangelo's The David.
- 6-Nov Travel through Tuscany via train to Venice.
- 7-Nov The picturesque canals of Venice.
- 8-Nov Travel home.

- DEPARTURE DAY OPTIONS
- RETURN OPTIONS

October-November 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Oct 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Depart USA ●	Arrive Tel Aviv	Med. Coast	Galilee	Dead Sea	Jerusalem ●	Jerusalem
					Depart USA	Arrive Rome
27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
Fly Home or to Rome ●						
Visit Rome Board Cruise Ship	Sicily	At Sea	Athens & Corinth, Greece	Ephesus, Turkey	Crete, Greece	At Sea
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Disembark Ship / Visit Vatican	Travel Home ● Or					
	<i>Taste of Italy</i> Travel to Florence	Florence/ Pisa	Train ride to Venice	Venice	Travel Home ●	

Sign me up for the trip of a lifetime

Biblelands Cruise 2013

Registration



- Oct 20-27 ☐ **Israel** \$3,395 *Prices are per person, dbl occ and includes roundtrip airfare from NYC, site entrance fees, bus, driver, guide, all meals (including lunches), Israeli guide, and transfers. Not included: air/fuel taxes, tips and meals while traveling.*
- Oct 26-Nov 4 ☐ **Biblelands Cruise** \$2,995 *Prices are per person, dbl occ in standard inside cabin and include airfare from NYC, two nights in Rome, Rome tours to Colosseum, Ancient Rome, Vatican Square, St Peter's Cathedral, transfers to and from Rome airport, shipboard entertainment, meals on ship, Compass meeting/touring credentials and tour notebook. Not included port taxes, optional shore excursions and meals while traveling.*
- Oct 20-Nov 4 ☐ **Israel + Cruise** \$4,695 *See details for Biblelands Cruise and Israel above. Includes airfare from Israel to Rome and transfers.*
- Oct 25-Nov 8 ☐ **Cruise + Taste of Italy** \$4,595 *See Biblelands Cruise details above. Taste of Italy includes two nights in Florence and two nights in Venice on the island, transportation to Florence, transportation to Pisa, train ride from Florence to Venice, entrance fees to Michelangelo's David, transfers, round trip airfare from NYC to Israel to Rome and returning to New York from Venice. Not included, meals in Venice, lunches in Italy.*
- Oct 20-Nov 8 ☐ **Israel + Cruise + Taste of Italy** \$5,995 *See details for Israel, Biblelands Cruise and Taste of Italy above.*

ISRAEL

BIBLELANDS CRUISE

TASTE OF ITALY

Optional Stateroom Upgrades *Check below to upgrade your stateroom, we will add it to your statement.*

- ☐ **Outside stateroom** with window + \$399 pp ☐ **Superior stateroom** with balcony + \$995 pp ☐ **Grand Suite** with balcony + \$2,995 pp

Optional: ☐ **Single room** (no roommate): Israel + \$800 • Cruise + \$600 inside/\$900 outside/\$1500 balcony/\$3900 suite • Italy + \$700

☐ **Trip Insurance** (Recommended). We'll mail you a quote & coverages for you to approve. You're billed only when you accept.

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Choose your options above and fax, email, or postal mail this registration to Compass.
You will receive a statement confirming registration details, balance and payment due dates.

Deposit per person: Israel only - \$500; Cruise only - \$500; Israel + Cruise - \$750
 Cruise + Italy - \$750; Israel + Cruise + Taste of Italy - \$1000

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X _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

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☐ Passport has been applied for (please call with info as soon as it is received).

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