

The Great Rescue

PART 2: God Moves a Mountain

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The Great Rescue is a series of stories that lead up to and include the Second Coming of Christ.

The Global United Nations (GUN) armed forces surrounding Jerusalem were suffering heavy casualties in house to house, street fighting in Jerusalem. The Israeli Defense Forces, having learned of the reinforcements from Babylon, were expecting another major offensive against the city at any time. Most of the people were hiding in the north end of the city. The IDF were fighting bravely but knew they could not hold out against another attack, which would undoubtedly come from the east with the occupying forces of Antichrist, and from the south with the reinforcements from Babylon. IDF command assumed the recent lull in the fighting was just the calm before the storm. They had to find out when and how the enemy would attack.

During this lull, an Israeli Special Forces recon team, made up of five of the best fighters still alive, was dispatched to infiltrate the headquarters of the enemy forces and find out when their offensive would begin. The GUN command headquarters was in a monastery at the base of the Mount of Olives, just west of the old temple mount. The Special Forces team was led by Sergeant Eli Jones, better known as Sarge. Sarge was a short stocky man built like a tank. Of Jewish descent, Sarge was born in the U. S. and moved to Israel with his family when he was a 17-year-old. He joined the Israeli Defense Forces at 18 and saw his first action in the war with Russia and Iran seven years earlier. Sarge had been wounded in battle several times and had received the Medal of Valor in the war with Russia.

Corporal Joe Klinginstine, a man of small stature, was born and raised in Israel. Kling was the team sniper. With over 150 confirmed kills, “Kling” was a highly valued member of the recon team. He helped keep everyone else alive. Corporal Pete Jenners, a quite slender man of African-American decent, had been Kling’s spotter for the last year. Pete, better known as “Preacher” had served with honor as a Navy Seal before the rapture seven years earlier. Pete’s dad was a preacher who had vanished with thousands of others in the rapture. Pete, who had rebelled against his father, turned to Christ and took up his dad’s mantle. After several years of preaching to a spiritually blind nation, Preacher decided to return to what he knew best, fighting. He left the U.S. to join the IDF and fight against the evil which had taken over most of the world.

Ballistics expert, Corporal Jacob Epstein, also a natural born Israeli, better known as “Boomer,” just liked to blow things up. Boomer’s job on this mission was to create a diversion by blowing up the ammo dump near the GUN front headquarters.

Last, but certainly not least, was Sergeant Ben Hurtles, better known as “Hurt.” Hurt was a big guy, 6’ 3” and 230 pounds of pure muscle. He played linebacker in the NFL before it was outlawed. Hurt carried a 50-caliber machine gun and ammo that usually required a two-man team. Friends could just imagine how he got his nickname. His favorite line before a game or a mission was “Let’s put some Hurt on ‘em!”

No one mentioned it, but all knew they might not return from this mission. At 0100, the team in full battle gear disappeared into the darkness. Their plan was to move in as close to the GUN compound as possible and wait for orders to advance inside the compound.

The team made their way undetected to an abandoned bombed-out bunker about two clicks south of the GUN command post. The men moved in and settled down to go over plans and wait for the order to proceed.

“Kling, you and Preacher will take up position on the west side of the monastery about 200 yards up the mount,” instructed Sarge. “From there you should be able to see Hurt and me as we approach the monastery from the south entrance. At the same time, protect Boomer’s approach to the ammo dump and, if necessary, take out the guards there. Boomer has to get to the ammo dump or the plan won’t work. You will probably encounter guards. Can you take them out without making too much of a ruckus?”

“No problem, Sarge,” answered Kling. “And Boomer, don’t worry about anything. It’ll be like taking a Sunday stroll through the park.”

Sarge continued, “Boomer, you will detonate at exactly 0400. As soon as the explosion draws the guards’ attention, Hurt and I will move into the command office and get the documents. Hurt, you’ve got my back. You’ve got to hold them off until I can find the attack orders and radio the info back to headquarters.”

“Take all the time you need, Sarge. No one is coming through this 50-cal.” Said Hurt.

Sarge added, “We’ll meet back here. Any questions?”

“Just one,” asked Preacher. “May we pray for God’s mighty hand to deliver us in battle?”

Sarge quickly snapped back, “The only hand that’s going deliver you tonight is the one you put on the trigger of your weapon.”

“Hang on, Sarge,” responded Kling. “Didn’t you hear the Rabbi’s talk and prayer yesterday? He reminded us that Jehovah God has miraculously delivered our people many times on the battlefield. He said Zechariah and other prophets prophesied that Jesus would return when

the nation turned to Him. The rabbis and the Prime Minister all say that we must call on Jesus, Jehovah God, to come to our rescue.”

“Yes,” chimed in Hurt. Even the evangelists chosen by God say that Jesus, the Messiah will rescue us soon and establish His Kingdom on the earth. What do you think Boomer?”

Boomer, who didn't like to talk about his faith, responded like he was just waiting for his turn to speak. “I've been a Christ-follower since my sister was raptured seven years ago. She told me it was going to happen, and I didn't believe her. She also told me He was coming back for His kingdom. I may be slow but I'm not stupid. I do believe that Jesus is coming back, but right now all that matters is that we accomplish our mission.”

“Now that makes sense,” said Sarge, speaking of the mission, not on what might happen.

As the men were checking their weapons and praying silently, the next hour went by quickly without much being said.

At 0300 the order came from headquarters to proceed with the mission.

As everyone was scrambling to their feet, Sarge said, “Well Preacher, if you're going to pray, get on with it and make it short.”

Everyone looked up at Sarge as if to verify who it was that just issued the order to pray.

Preacher was not about to miss the opportunity, so he bowed his head along with the other warriors in that dark bunker. Preacher began to pray, “Blessed be your name O LORD, you are King over all the earth, you alone are worthy to receive honor and glory. Come quickly Lord Jesus. Amen.”

All the men including Sarge responded by adding an “Amen.”

0310 hours

“Move out!” commanded Sarge.

Without another word they silently moved out of the bunker to their designated positions.

0335 hours

Kling, Preacher and Boomer made it to their position on the slope of the mount above the monastery. Preacher and Kling took out a sleeping guard while Boomer stood watch. Kling and Preacher made their way to the roof top of a two-story storage building. Boomer moved north about 100 meters toward the ammo dump and hid between two parked trucks. The next 50 meters across open ground to the ammo dump would not be so easy. There was just one small problem. Boomer did not realize there were two GUN soldiers sleeping in one of the trucks. They caught Boomer completely off guard. Preacher was watching the whole thing unfold. Kling was swinging into position to take out the two troopers.

Meanwhile, Sarge and Hurt were hunkered down near the monastery waiting for Boomer to detonate the needed diversion.

“Hurt, you really believe that stuff about Jesus being the Messiah and rescuing our people?” asked Sarge.

“Absolutely” responded Hurt. “The rabbis and the evangelists all preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. Each of us must put our faith in Jesus, the Savior and King. That’s the only way to prepare for His return and the Kingdom.”

“I want to believe that” said Sarge. “I am so tired of fighting our enemies as well as fighting God. I needed someone to blame for all this mess and God was convenient. Do you think God will forgive me?”

“Absolutely!” answered Hurt. “Just stop trusting in yourself and put your trust in Jesus Christ.”

To be continued.