

Camplighter LAMB & LION MINISTRIES a Non-Denominational Christian Media Ministry MAY/JUNE 2022

ALL EYES ON

DRY BONES RISING | WILL ISRAEL SURVIVE? | SHAUVOT | SEND ME A JEW

Lamplighter | May-June 2022 A bi-monthly publication produced by Lamb & Lion Ministries

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FROM THE EDITOR

TIM MOORE
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Where were you on November 22nd, 1963? September 11th, 2001?

Those dates mark events that stand out in America's consciousness—events so impactful that they are indelibly stamped on our collective memory.

What about May 14th, 1948? Or June 7th, 1967? Those dates are tied to events that occurred half a world away but reflect the resurrection of an ancient prophetic promise to the Jewish people. God promised that even as He disciplined His chosen people, He would protect and preserve them. He promised that He would regather them back from the four corners of the earth to the land He gave them and that He would reestablish them as one nation on the mountains of Israel.

All that happened within the past century.

Does your heart resonate with praise for God that He has allowed us to witness prophecies coming to pass within our lifetimes? Jesus told His disciples, "Blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it" (Matthew 13:16-17).

This edition of the *Lamplighter* will call your attention to what is arguably the most dramatic and exciting Sign of the Times pointing to Jesus' soon return: the resurrected nation of Israel. As foreseen by Ezekiel, the dry bones made a great rattling sound as they gathered back together beginning at the turn of the 20th century. As muscle and flesh was added to the skeletal frames, they finally stood up and claimed their ancient homeland.

In the decades since that pivotal moment, Israel has come under siege on multiple occasions. Wars, terrorist attacks, and hate-fueled intifadas have come and gone. Political pressure has waxed and waned. Allies and friends have been fickle and unreliable. But the Zionist nation—built around God's own Mount Zion—remains. It will continue to remain because God has promised that it would.

David Reagan has told the account of meeting a man who stated that he wished he could have lived in biblical times. To quote Dave's emphatic response, "You do! You do live in biblical times! Open your eyes and see!!"

The Israeli national anthem is titled Hatikva—The Hope. The little girl on the cover of this edition represents the hope God has kept alive in Jewish hearts and the fulfillment of His ancient promises in the modern era.

As you read the pages ahead, we hope your eyes are opened to all God has been doing among the Jewish people. And we hope that your ears will perk up, ready to hear the shout that our Bridegroom is coming! \$\Phi\$

Zim Moore



ISRAEL IN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

DRY BONES RISING

TIM MOORE

For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land.

Ezekiel 36:24

esus is the focal point of the entire Bible. The Old Testament prophets pointed to His humble first advent and saw glimpses of His glorious second coming. Second only to the Messiah, the prophets were also focused on Israel—the apple of God's eye (Zechariah 2:8).

Seventy-four years ago, the world witnessed the rebirth of a nation thought to be long-dead. Overcoming 2000 years of Roman-imposed diaspora, the Jewish hope of regathering in their own Promised Land came to fruition. This hope—uttered every Passover as the prayerful, "next year in Jerusalem"—did not spring merely from the wishful hearts of dispersed Jews. It echoed the prophetic promise of God repeated throughout the Old Testament.

The dispersal of the Jews was so complete, their persecution and oppression so incessant, and their existence so resented by the Gentile world, that any prophecy for their regathering seemed too far-fetched to be taken literally. And so, spurred toward anti-Semitism by misguided leaders and ignoring the clear teaching of Scripture, even the Church eliminated the Jewish people from its understanding of God's plan for humanity. That is not to say that every Christian expressed anti-Semitism or embraced Replacement Theology, but the overwhelming majority of the Church did so—to its great discredit.

But God's promises are "Yes, and Amen." (2 Corinthians 1:20). And so, His promise to Abraham and his genetic descendants remains in effect to this day. Not because the Jews are deserving of blessing; not because they were or are a mighty nation

or a numerous people; not because they have merited God's special providence. He made that point abundantly clear in Ezekiel 37:22-28, right before He led Ezekiel out to a valley full of dry bones.

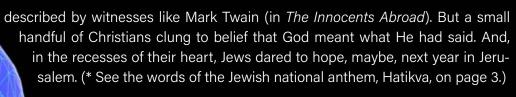
CAN THESE BONES LIVE?

I've long considered how I would have answered God's question had He spoken to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" (Ezekiel 37:3). With 2 engineering degrees and steeped in modern rational thought (let alone a smattering of biological and medical learning), I would have answered, "No way! They're dead, dried up, and disjointed." But Ezekiel demonstrated far more wisdom in his recognition of God's unlimited power. He responded, "O, Lord God, You know."

God did know. He knew that regardless of outward appearance and beyond human comprehension those dead bones would come to life based on the utterance of a prophetic word. Just like the centurion who recognized Jesus' authority to send word by another and have His commands obeyed, God's authority could be pronounced through Ezekiel's deliverance of that prophetic word. As Ezekiel spoke, those bones rattled and rolled together—rocking Ezekiel's world. And that was just the preview of a greater fulfilment to come!

God explicitly said that the dry bones represented the whole house of Israel. He knew that a point would come when they would say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off" (Ezekiel 37:11). But God promised to open their graves, regather them as His beloved people, and restore them to the land of Israel.

For almost 19 centuries, the thought of Jews returning to the God-forsaken Land of Israel seemed beyond belief—to Gentile and Jew alike. And make no mistake, the Land was forsaken. God's curse lingered on the Land throughout the millennia of the Jewish exile—as foretold in Ezekiel 33:28-29 and



HOPE MADE TRUE

In the late 1800s, God motivated Christian Zionists and Jewish dreamers to dare to aspire for the establishment of a Jewish nation in the Land of Israel. The idea did not inspire mass enthusiasm. Too many Christians remained uncaring about the fate of the Jewish people and were generally hostile to them, given the undercurrent of anti-Semitism flowing through the Church. Jews had acclimated to live in places like Germany and Poland and Russia, and saw no need to uproot once again to stream back to a desolate wasteland on the western shore of the Mediterranean Sea. And, while not yet incited toward rabid hatred of Jews, the Muslim world was generally antagonistic toward the Jews.

> The events of the early 20th Century set the stage for Ezekiel's prophecy to be fulfilled.

Great Britain's government expressed its intention to support the establishment of a Jewish State through the Balfour Declaration—largely because of official gratitude toward the Jewish scientist who was instrumental in the Allied victory in World War I. (That man, Chaim Weizmann, would later become the first president of Israel.) And, upon actually winning the war, Great Britain was given mandatory authority over the area known at the time as Palestine—the degrading name given to the Land of Israel by the Romans in the first century AD.

> While the wheels of geo-politics were turning, the Jews were being motivated to leave their homes and make aliyah (a Hebrew word for immigration that means, "going up") to Israel. Simply put, those who survived the Holocaust in Europe realized that no degree of assimilation could guarantee their security

in Gentile nations. Many thousands of them determined to go home to Eretz Yisrael—the Land of Israel.

Following a political drama in the newly-formed United Nations, the Jews of Palestine were given international sanction to declare a state. So, on May 14th, 1948, the modern state of Israel was born. As soon as David Ben Gurion declared Israeli independence, five Arab armies launched an all-out attack, declaring their intention to annihilate the Jews. Miraculously, the fledgling Jewish state repelled those numerically superior forces and established a ragged but defensible border.

The dry bones had come out of their graves and stood up in their own land, Israel-just as God promised in Ezekiel 37:11-13.

AFFLICTED, BUT NOT CRUSHED

The next eight years brought almost constant terrorist activity. Israel repeatedly engaged in open conflict with its neighbors, only to emerge victorious time and time again. Embarrassed by an unending string of defeats, Arab leaders decided to antagonize as they awaited another opportunity to attack.

By the 1960s, a populist general rose to power in Egypt. President Gamiel Nassar fanned the flames of Arab nationalism and declared himself the head of the United Arab Republic. He rallied restless Arabs throughout the Middle East with his impassioned hatred for the "Zionist entity" to his north. He boasted and blustered until he was able to secure military alliances with Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan-effectively surrounding Israel.

A RENEWED THREAT TO ISRAEL

In early 1967, Nassar repeatedly broadcast his intention to destroy Israel. Some historians claim that his vitriolic speeches were meant simply to arouse and inspire the "Arab street." Whether through intention or blundering, Nassar propelled his United Arab Republic toward war. On May 16th, Nassar ordered the UN Emergency Force (stationed in Sinai to ensure Arab-Israeli compliance with a UN-brokered 1956 cease-fire) to withdraw. In a cowardly act of diplomatic capitulation, UN Secretary General U Thant acquiesced to this demand immediately.

On May 22nd, Nassar blockaded the Strait of Tiran—



Egyptian Propaganda Cartoon from 1967

Israel's only access to the Red Sea and the conduit for all of its oil. The world has long recognized such an aggression as a "casus belli"-a justification for war-but Western nations, including the United States, urged Israel to restrain itself. Making matters worse, Nassar mobilized his forces and staged them in the Sinai, substantiating his stated intention to march north through the heart of Israel.

Israel responded by mobilizing its reserves—an action guaranteed to cripple its own economy within short order. Some in Israel's notoriously divided government wanted to wait for Western relief from the mounting pressure, while others argued that the nation could be annihilated while the West dithered. With the survival of Israel and its millions of citizens at risk, Israeli leaders authorized a daring plan to control the ensuing battle-Operation Moked ("Focus").

MODERN-DAY GIDEONS



On June 5th, waves of Israeli Air Force planes launched toward Egyptleaving only 12 aircraft in reserve to defend the skies over Eretz Israel. Following carefully crafted attack plans based on painstaking intelligence, the Israelis caught the Egyptian Air Force by total surprise. Within a mat-

ter of hours, over 300 Egyptian aircraft were destroyed, versus only 19 Israeli planes.

Facing a military disaster, Nassar goaded his Arab allies into joining the fray. Syria, Jordan, and then Iraq

attacked Israel—leading to devastating counterblows by the Israeli Air Force. In short order, the Israel victory in the air turned into a rout on the ground.

This landmark war lasted six days and is remarkable still today for its brevity. It ended when the Arab nations finally admitted their humiliating defeat and begged the United Nations to impose a ceasefire. Although known as the Six-Day War, an Indian Air Force eyewitness later testified, "The war was actually won by Israel in the first four hours of Monday, June 5th, 1967."

"THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM IS IN OUR HANDS"

From a prophetic perspective, the Six-Day War was significant. That war demonstrated the power of Zechariah's prophetic word:

In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:6

No military analyst would have anticipated the incredible victory the Jewish nation achieved over its numerically superior foes. But God had promised that once regathered to the Land of Israel, the Jewish people would never again be uprooted.

The other significant prophetic event occurred in the



Israeli Paratroopers at the Western Wall



Shlomo Goren at the Western Wall

final hours of the war. With a ceasefire looming, Israel's political and military leaders authorized IDF paratroopers to rush into Old Jerusalem and reclaim Israel's ancient capital from the Jordanian occupiers. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan expressed the miraculous fulfillment of Jewish hopes and dreams when he announced, "The Old City of Jerusalem is in our hands." IDF Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren also understood the prophetic significance of the moment. He rushed to join his paratroopers at the Western Wall, blew a shofar, and said, "I proclaim to you the beginning of the Messianic Age."

DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PROMISES

Since 1948, Israel has had to fight massed conventional armies, waves of Palestinian terrorists, international scorn and condemnation, and Satanic movements like "Boycott, Divest, and Sanction" (ever popular on American college campuses). Israel's ongoing victories against its hate-inspired foes demonstrate God's faithfulness to His promises. As recorded in Amos 9:15:

"I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out of their land which I have given them," says the LORD your God.

Students of Bible prophecy know God promised that Israel would return to its ancient homeland, reestablish itself as a nation, and never again be removed. We also know that when Jews once again occupy Jerusalem, the King of kings is poised to return at any moment.

The air campaign that launched the Six-Day War fifty-five years ago was called "Operation Moked" (Focus). As Christians, our focus is ever and always on Jesus Christ. With Bible prophecy in mind, Peter also encourages us:

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming.

1 Peter 1:13

Just like Operation Moked caught the Egypt Air Force unprepared 50 years ago, Jesus' arrival will come as a total surprise to those who are unaware, unprepared, and unalert. Make sure that you are ready when the trumpet sounds! ❖

ISRAEL IN NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY

THE WITHERED FIG

TIM MOORE

I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first season.

Hosea 9:10

he regathering of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel is prophesied repeatedly in the Old Testament. In the New Testament. Jesus offered another clue to the timing of the end of the age when He mysteriously cursed a hapless tree. What was the Lord communicating—to His surprised disciples and to us-by His seemingly uncharacteristic action?

A NATION CURSED AND CASTASIDE

When Jesus walked throughout the Promised Land 2000 years ago, Israel was already past its prime. The golden era under David and Solomon had come and gone. Divided into Israel and Judah, the Jews had been conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians and carted off into exile. Fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, Cyrus had encouraged Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Waves of exiles returned from the east, repopulating the Land-even as Samaritans and others now shared the territory once known as Israel.

Then came Alexander and his generals, followed by Rome and its legions. To the Caesars, the Jews of Judea were a bothersome population in a backwater territory who were frustratingly insistent on maintaining their own religion. Convictional Jews longed for the Messiah. Zealous Jews sought a military leader to throw off Rome's yoke. None of them were expecting the Anointed One to lay down His life on a cross.

While He ministered, Jesus consistently challenged the expectations of His disciples and His followers. He showed them that God is not pleased by sanctimonious religiosity, but with repentance and obedience. Through His death, He offered the innocent blood needed to ensure that God's wrath would pass over anyone who put their faith in Him.

Jesus' message was clearly for the Jews first, even as He demonstrated a willingness to bless Gentiles as well. However, His love for individual Jews was matched by impatience with the Jews as a collective whole. That is why He offered His disciples a dramatic object lesson by cursing a hapless fig tree on His way to cleanse the temple of money-changers.

Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, "No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you" (Matthew 21:19).

That fig tree, found barren of figs even though it was not the season for figs, withered dramatically at Jesus' command.



CASTASIDE, BUT **NOT FORSAKEN**

We are sometimes convinced that Jesus was meek and mild to the point of being a wimp. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus balanced unfathomable power with absolute control. He did not lash out in rash anger or wring His hands in the face of evil. With a word He stilled a storm, healed broken bodies, and restored life. He described the judgment that would fall upon Jerusalem and the Jews in general, because most of them refused to accept Him in their time of visitation. Symbolized by a fig tree, the nation that bore little fruit would itself be cursed to wither for a season.

Approximately 40 years after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, Rome's 10th Legion put

TREE IS BLOOMING!

down a Jewish insurrection with an iron boot, destroying the temple in the process. Those Jews who were not slaughtered in Judea were driven out of the Land.

For the next 1800 years, Jews became known as outcasts and vagabonds. They were persecuted and ostracized. They were forcibly converted and then accused of heresy. Inquisitions, pogroms, and edicts kept them down and out in most of the places they dared to try to live. Lacking much fruit in the season of His first Advent, the Jewish nation was cut off and cast aside for almost 2 millennia. The lesson of Luke 13:6-9 was applied to God's own chosen people.

But that is not the end of the story.



Tel Aviv in 1909



Tel Aviv Today

During the long centuries of the Diaspora—the Jewish dispersal among the nations—as the Jews were afflicted and oppressed, the Land became barren. Although in the fullness of time, God prepared both the people and the Land to realize the prophetic promises.

In the late 1800s, a few impassioned Zionists were advocating for a Jewish state. However, most Jews believed they were accepted by the societies in which they lived. The Jewish emphasis on academic study and financial prowess made them excellent students, musicians, businessmen, artists, doctors, scientists, and citizens. In spite of lurking antisemitism and episodic persecution, most Jews were content to pursue quiet lives in places like Germany, Poland, France, and Russia. All that would change in the 20th Century.

PREPARING THE LAND FOR THE PEOPLE

Lest we get ahead of our story, it is important to realize that just as fertile soil is required for a healthy fig tree, the Land had to be prepared for the people before the Diaspora could return.

Over the centuries following Rome's expulsion of the Jews in 70 AD, the Promised Land fell under a curse. Known as Palestine (the Lati-

"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: as soon as its branch has become tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near; so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

Matthew 24:32-33

nized version of the name given to the Holy Land by the Romans), it was controlled by a succession of foreign powers—including Christian crusaders and Islamic caliphates. By the 15th century, the Ottoman Empire obliterated the 1000-year Christian Byzantine Empire and began to rule Palestine with a heavy hand.

God's curse lingered on the Land throughout the millennia of the Jewish exile—as foretold in Ezekiel 33:28-29. And make no mistake, the Land was forsaken—denuded of vegetation, deprived of people, and largely devoid of life. In 1869, Mark Twain documented the cursed status of the Holy Land in his book, *The Innocents Abroad*. He rightfully understood that God's hand of judgment had fallen on His own Promised Land.

But when Europe was consumed by war early in the 20th Century, the "sick man" Ottoman Empire sided with Germany. It chose poorly. In the aftermath of the war, the victorious allies divided the Ottoman territory among themselves. Thus, France came to oversee Lebanon and Syria, and the British acquired a mandate to govern Palestine and Trans-Jordan. For the first time in almost 2 millennia, the Jewish Seder prayer, "Next year in Jerusalem," seemed like more than a throw-away sentiment.

Once the land was wrested from its Ottoman occupiers and a commitment had been given to support Jewish aspirations, reestablishment of Israel would have seemed to be a fait accompli. But Jewish motivation was not yet sufficient to emigrate to a Middle East wasteland.

The horror of the Nazi Holocaust changed Jewish hearts and minds. Jews realized that away from their Promised Land they would always be homeless. So, by the thousands (and eventually millions) they streamed back to Eretz Israel—the Land of Israel.

The fig tree branch was becoming tender and beginning to put out leaves.

NOW LEARN THIS LESSON FROM THE FIG TREE

In the week between the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday and His crucifixion, Jesus spoke much about Israel's rejection (Matthew 21:28-44), the shift of the Gospel to the Gentiles (Matthew 22:1-14), and the judgment about to fall on Israel (Matthew 23:13-39). He also responded when the disciples asked Him, "Tell us, when will these

things (the destruction of the temple) happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3).

We have extensively addressed the discourse that follows in Matthew 24. But the lesson of the fig tree offers a key to understanding the timing of the end. Jesus said, "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door" (Matthew 24:32-33).



There are many signs contained in the proceeding 27 verses. But Jesus specifically pointed His disciples back to the dramatic lesson of the fig tree from earlier in the same week. The fig tree that was cursed for failing to bear fruit for the Messiah would be restored. And, along with all the other signs of the times, that crucial sign tells those with eyes to see that He is near.

EVIDENCE RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES

Ask the average Christian to describe a present-day fulfillment of Bible prophecy and they'll probably look at you funny. The idea that God is actively bringing His ancient promises to pass before our very eyes is something they probably haven't considered.

But over the past 100 years, the amazement of Habakkuk 1:5 is once again appropriate: "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days—you would not believe if you were told."

That was the way the Lord described His plan to raise

up the Chaldeans to sweep across the Jewish nation. Habakkuk was appalled at the horror of such a judgment and registered his complaint before the Lord. God reiterated the finality of His declaration, saying, "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay" (Habakkuk 2:3).

In the case of the most important prophetic sign of all, the evidence is right before our eyes. The withered tree that did not bear fruit when Jesus was here 2000 years ago has become tender and put forth new branches. We know that He is coming soon.

I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU

Throughout the Old Testament, God offered glimpses of His plans—His Gospel plan, His plan to discipline yet protect and preserve Israel, and His plan to bring all of human history to a close. Scoffers have dismissed the relevance of His plans for ages because God has tarried. But those of us who put our faith in Christ are given understanding when we "read and heed" (in the language of Revelation 1:3 and 22:7) His prophetic Word.

In his beautiful song, "It is Well With My Soul," Horatio Spafford wrote, "And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight..." Some of the glorious promises of Bible prophecy still await fulfillment. Others are being fulfilled before our very eyes. We can bear witness to God's faithfulness by pointing to the promises He is keeping right now. That is also why we take pilgrims to Israel: to bear witness to what God is doing in our own day and age.

LETTHE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO

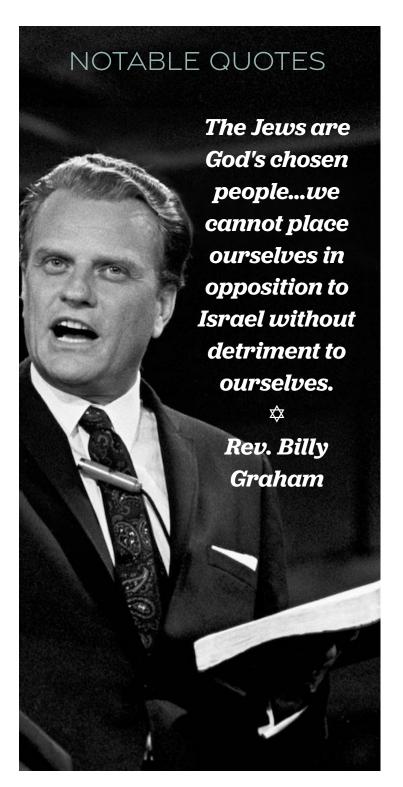
Take a moment and read Psalm 107.

In light of the Diaspora (the scattering of the Jews) for almost 2000 years, see if that Psalm does not describe the Jewish regathering "from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south" (v. 3). One day Jewish eyes will be opened en masse to see the Messiah. Until then, you and I have a great privilege. We are among the redeemed mentioned in verse 2. We know already that the LORD is good; that His lovingkindness is everlasting.

If you are among the redeemed of the Lord, don't

miss an opportunity to say so. In the words of Psalm 107:43, "Who is wise? Let him give heed to these things, and consider the lovingkindnesses of the LORD."

In conclusion, all of the great prophetic promises fulfilled just recently in the land of Israel prove that we are living on borrowed time! ❖



DR. DAVID R. REAGAN

WILLISRAEL SURVIVE?



he answer to my title question from the viewpoint of world politics is an emphatic "No!" And the reasons are painfully obvious:

- Israel is a tiny country the size of New Jersey with a Jewish population of only 7 million. It is surrounded by 22 Arab countries with a population in excess of 350 million, nearly all of whom are dedicated to the annihilation of Israel.
- The Arab military forces adjacent to Israel now have sophisticated missiles, which they are willing to use indiscriminately.
- Iran (a non-Arab neighbor) has missiles capable of reaching Israel and is developing nuclear capacity. Its leaders have announced repeatedly that as soon as they produce a nuclear bomb, they will use it to annihilate Israel.
- The world's major international organizations (the United Nations, the European Union, and the Vatican) are all committed to forcing Israel to surrender her heartland to the Arabs, leaving the country only 19 miles wide at its narrowest point.
- The same organizations are demanding that Israel surrender all or half of her capital city of Jerusalem.
- The world's two superpowers, the United States and Russia, have joined the rest of the world in demand-

- ing the creation of a Palestinian state in the heartland of Israel, a state that would become a terrorist launching pad for the take-over of all of Israel.
- The people of Israel have grown war-weary after 74 years of never-ending hostilities.
- Many of the current leaders of Israel have grown corrupt and have lost the Zionist vision. And some of the most corrupt are religious leaders who will sell their souls for a shekel.
- The secularization of Israeli society has produced a loss of faith in God and in the truths of their religion, which, in turn, has generated an attitude of defeatism.
- Both the people of Israel and their leaders have embraced a policy of appearement that only whets the appetite of the Arabs and encourages them to press harder for more and more Israeli capitulations.
- And so, understandably, from the world's viewpoint, the annihilation of Israel is only a matter of time.





COD'S PROTECTION

But there is a supernatural Power of Protection at work here that the world does not recognize nor understand. They should, because that Power — our Creator God — has manifested Himself in behalf of the Jewish people throughout history.

In the Bible, we read of empire after empire coming against Israel - the Hittites, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, and the Romans — yet, where are these empires today? They are all in the dustbin of history; whereas the Jews are back in their homeland with their own nation-state.

Likewise, in modern times, since the re-establishment of the state of Israel, the enemies of the Jews have come against them time after time in efforts to destroy them. In fact, the Jewish state has fought at least a dozen wars since 1948, and the periods between the wars have been times of extreme tension due to unending terrorist attacks.

Yet, despite all this never-ceasing violence, Israel has survived. The reason, of course, is that the Bible says, "He who keeps Israel, neither slumbers nor sleeps" (Psalm 121:4).

THE CRUCIAL QUESTION

But what about the future? Does Israel have any hope? Again, the world would answer with a resounding "No!" But what does the Bible say?

Well, my friends, it says just the opposite. The Bible portrays some dark days ahead for Israel, but it also asserts that Israel will come through those days victorious. Let's take a look at the dark days that are prophesied.

DARK DAYS AHEAD

1) The War of Extermination

Psalm 83 states that the immediate neighbors of Israel will launch a war for the purpose of "wiping out Israel as a nation" (verse 4). The nations described as being a part of this nefarious effort are those with a common border with Israel today (verses 6-8) — Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Gaza.

The second half of the psalm is a prayer for the victory of Israel (verses 9-18). The war's outcome is not specifically stated, but we know from other scriptures that Israel will be victorious.

For example, Zechariah 12:6 says that in the end times Israel will be like "a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples ..."

Continuing, the prophet further asserts (Zechariah 12:8-9):

In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD before them. And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Prophecy scholar Bill Salus believes this war of annihilation will boomerang on the Arabs and will result in their overwhelming defeat, producing great territorial expansion and enhanced national resources for Israel. It will also produce the security spoken of in Ezekiel 38, where it says that before the War of Gog & Magog, Israel will live in security. Incidentally, it is during this war that Israel will most likely destroy Damascus, in fulfillment of prophecies in Isaiah 17 and Jeremiah 49.

But the security provided by the Psalm 83 War will not last long because the Arab nations will most likely turn to their natural ally, Russia, and cry out for help resulting in . . .

2) The War of Gog & Magog

This is the war of Ezekiel 38 and 39, where Russia

comes down against Israel with certain specified Muslim allies. I believe the Russians will be delighted to respond to the Arab cry for help because they have always dreamed of taking the

oil fields of the Middle East. They will, therefore, launch an invasion for the stated purpose of helping the Muslims destroy Israel. Their specific allies will involve the outer ring of Muslim states that surround Israel — all but Saudi Arabia.

I believe Russia's unstated agenda will be to use the Arab invitation as an excuse to expand their sovereignty over all the Middle East. This ulterior motive is mentioned in Ezekiel 38:12, where it says the Russians will come "to capture spoil and to seize plunder."

The invading armies will be supernaturally destroyed by God "on the mountains of Israel" (Ezekiel 39:4). The Lord will accomplish this destruction through earthquakes, pestilence, hail storms, fire, brimstone and battlefield confusion (Ezekiel 38:19-22). Even the Jewish people will recognize that the victory belongs to God, and many will open their hearts to Him (Ezekiel 38:23).

The Timing of Gog & Magog

The greatest mystery concerning this war is its timing. Most have placed it at the beginning of the Tribulation. Others delay its start to the middle of the Tribulation. But increasingly, in recent years, the tendency has been to place it before the beginning of the Tribulation.

The best discussion of timing that has yet been written can be found in Ron Rhodes' book, Northern Storm Rising (2008). He concludes that it is most likely to occur 3½ years before the Tribulation begins.

His conclusion is based on the following reasoning. The Tribulation lasts seven years. Ezekiel 39:9 says the Jews will spend seven years burning the weapons they will capture when Russia and its allies are destroyed in the Battle of Gog and Magog (possibly nuclear fuel). Revelation 12 says the Jews will flee from the land into Jordan 31/2 years into the Tribulation when the Antichrist tries to eradicate them. Therefore, the only way the Jews could spend seven years burning the weapons is for the war to begin 3½ years before the start of the Tribulation.



Rapture Question

This raises a question: Does this mean the wars of Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38 and 39 must occur before the Rapture? Not at all. The Rapture could occur any-

time before, during, or after these wars.

Keep in mind that the Rapture is not what marks the beginning of the Tribulation. The Tribulation will begin when the Antichrist signs a peace treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27). Several years could elapse between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation.

3) The Unveiling of the Antichrist

The next dark moment for the Jewish people will occur in the middle of the Tribulation when the Antichrist comes to Jerusalem and declares himself to be God.

Up to that point in time, the Jews will have considered this man to be their political savior because he will initiate the Tribulation time period by guaranteeing the safety of Israel and allowing them to rebuild their Temple. But once he comes to their rebuilt Temple and declares himself to be God, the Jewish people will totally reject him, and he will respond with a vengeance.

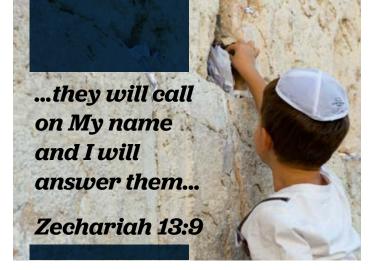


Satan will inspire him to once again try to annihilate the Jewish people, picking up where Hitler left off. Many of those in Israel will flee to Jordan. The Antichrist will pursue them, but he will

not be allowed into Jordan because this remnant of the Jews will be given supernatural protection by God.

The Antichrist will then launch a second worldwide Holocaust, and in the process, he will manage to kill two-thirds of the Jews remaining in Israel and around the world. We find this prophecy in Zechariah 13:8-9:

"It will come about in all the land," declares the LORD, "that two parts in it will be cut off and per-



ish; but the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them . . ."

This is the reason that Jesus referred to the last half of the Tribulation as "the great tribulation" - not because this half will be worse than the first half, but because the wrath of Satan will be focused on the Jews.

So, the Antichrist will be very successful in his war against the Jews, but he will fail in his ultimate goal of annihilating all of them. For we are told repeatedly throughout the Scriptures that a great remnant of the Jews will live to the end of the Tribulation at which time they will receive Yeshua as their Messiah.

THE COOD NEWS

1) The Return of Jesus

The good news for the Jewish people does not start until the return of Jesus to this earth at the end of the seven years of Tribulation. After the Jews have come to the end of themselves, due to their unparalleled persecution during the second half of the Tribulation, Jesus will appear in the Heavens, and the remaining remnant will repent and accept Him as their Messiah.

Here's how it was described in general by Moses before the children of Israel entered their Promised Land (Deuteronomy 4:30): "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice."

The prophet Zechariah describes it in greater detail (Zechariah 12:10): "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one

mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."

The climax of this great day is related in the next chapter (Zechariah 13:1): "In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity."

Jesus Himself stated in Matthew 23:37-39 that He would not return to this earth until a remnant of the Jews. were ready to receive Him as their Messiah.

2) Regathering in Belief

When Jesus returns, all believing Jews on planet earth will be regathered to Jerusalem. The current regathering is in unbelief. This one at the end of the Tribulation will be a regathering in belief. This regathering is mentioned in several places in the Hebrew Scriptures. Here's one from the time of Moses (Deuteronomy 30:1-4):

So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse... and you

return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the

"...For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, Blessed is the One WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! 333 Matthew 23:39

earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back.

3) Primacy

We are then told in the Scriptures that Jesus will begin His millennial reign by establishing Israel as the prime nation of the world. Jesus will reign from Jerusalem as King of the World. David, in his glorified body, will reign as the King of Israel. Believers, in their glorified bodies, will be scattered across the earth to reign with Jesus over the Gentile nations.

Isaiah devotes three full chapters (60 thru 62) to a

description of the blessings that God will pour out on the Jewish people during the Millennium. Just consider for a moment some of the blessings that Isaiah mentions:

- The Shekinah glory of the Lord will appear
 - over the nation (Isaiah 60:2): "... the LORD will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you."
- Foreign aid will come from all the nations of the earth (Isaiah 60:5-6, 10, 16): "... The wealth of the nations will come to you. They will bring gold and frankincense ..."
- Israel will be rebuilt (Isaiah 61:4): "Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations; and they will repair the ruined cities..."
- The Temple in Jerusalem will be beautified (Isaiah 60:7): "... I shall glorify My glorious house."
- Israel will receive the respect of the nations for the first time in its history. Zechariah 8:23 says the Jews will be so respected that when one walks by, ten Gentiles will grab his robe so that they can walk with him. Isaiah puts it this way (Isaiah 60:2-3): "... The LORD will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." Isaiah adds (Isaiah 60:15): "Whereas you have been forsaken and hated with no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, a joy from generation to generation."
- The peace and joy of the nation will be guaranteed (Isaiah 60:17): "... I will make peace your administrators and righteousness your overseers."
- The Jewish people will be a channel of blessings to all the nations (Isaiah 61:11): "For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause

You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of Your God...

Isaiah 62:3

righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations."

• The city of Jerusalem will be adorned with blessings (Isaiah 62:1-3, 7):

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for

Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning. The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the LORD will designate. You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God... And [God will make] Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

And the reason for all of this is that the Lord will make the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem His home during His Millennial reign (Isaiah 60:13):
 "... I shall make the place [Jerusalem] of My feet glorious." Ezekiel confirms this statement in Ezekiel 43:7 — "He said to me, 'Son of man, this [Jerusalem] is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever."

COD'S PROTECTION

Israel has some very difficult days ahead, but God has made wonderful promises to them that they can rely on:

- "Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4).
- "No weapon formed against you shall prosper" (Isaiah 54:17).
- "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:8-16).

Our nation needs to pay attention to these promises of God. In recent years, we have put enormous pressure on Israel to follow a path of appeasement by "trading land for peace." In the process we have increasingly given encouragement to Israel's sworn enemies. If we continue to manhandle Israel, we are guaranteeing our own destruction.

SUMMARY

In conclusion, the Scriptures teach that Israel will not only survive, but the nation will emerge as the prime nation in all the world as God fulfills His promises to the Jewish people and comes to live in their midst.

What a glorious day that will be - not just for Israel, but for all the world. A day of absolute victory is coming for Israel — that will also mean victory for the Church.

In Psalm 122 we are told to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem." The Scriptures make it clear that Jerusalem will never experience peace until Jesus returns. So, when you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, you are praying for the Lord's return.

We are also told in the New Testament to pray the Aramaic phrase, "Maranatha!" which means, "O Lord Come!" (1 Corinthians 16:22). So each morning as you awake, pray for the peace of Jerusalem and then look to the sky and cry out in your heart, "Maranatha, Maranatha, Maranatha, come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

And on the glorious day when that prayer is answered, the Jewish remnant will cry out, "Baruch Haba B'shem Adonai!!" meaning, "Blessed is He who comes

Editor's Comments:

Dr. David Reagan founded Lamb & Lion Ministries in April of 1980. He faithfully served over 40 years as Director and Sr. Evangelist until his retirement in 2021, Dave continues to write and occasionally appears as a guest on Christ in Prophecy.

"This World magazine cover from July, 2017, has weighed on my heart for five years. Israel really does stand alone most of the time—and yet God has promised to bless those who stand with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Will you stand with Israel?" ~Tim Moore





WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR?



Just as there was a precise moment in time when a human/divine zygote attached itself to the womb of a virgin, there will be a precise moment when the divine/human Lord declares history over and rolls up the universe like a carpet. If there was a beginning, there must be an end—perhaps thousands of years into the future, or maybe sometime this spring?

The earliest followers of Jesus seemed as restless as we are, for scoffers were already saying, "Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Peter 3:4). Neither Peter nor Paul could give a definite answer. Nor could they have imagined those of us, 2000 years into the future, who are still waiting. But God could.

Speaking for myself, I'm impatient and anxious and doubtful that it will ever happen. How about you? It's been so long, and times are so frightening—impatiently we ask, what is He waiting for?

He's waiting for you. He's waiting for me. Perhaps He's cast his favorable eye on great-grandchildren yet unborn to bring into His Kingdom. If He's willing to wait for the next hour or the next millennium, so can we. But with hope and expectation. ❖

Editor's Comments:

Janie B. Cheaney is a gifted Christian author from Dallas who now lives in rural Missouri. She is also a senior writer for World magazine. Wonderful samples of her writing can be found at: janiebcheaney.com.



UPCOMING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

May 14-25: Israel Pilgrimage led by Tim Moore

May 19-22: Nathan Jones, Prophecy Watchers Conference, Colorado Springs, CO

June 18-19: Tim Moore, Grace Church, Barnum, MN

July 3: Tim Moore, New Prospect Baptist Church, Oxford. MS

July 22-23: Lamb & Lion Ministries Annual Bible Conference in Forney, TX

August 6: Tim Moore, Prophecy Conference, First Assembly of God, Jefferson City, MO

August 15: Tim Moore, Woodland Hills Church, Longview, TX

For more information about these and other future events, visit christinprophecy.org. If you would like to host a local prophecy conference or invite Tim or Nathan to speak at your church, contact Lamb & Lion Ministries at:

lamblion@lamblion.com or call 972-736-3567







Ithough the Festival of Weeks (Shavuot) is mentioned in the Torah as one of the L-rd's appointed times, it is in the Book of Acts where one learns the connection between this Biblical holiday and the Holy Spirit. It is very significant that G-d chose first to pour out the Holy Spirit on believers on Shavuot. In fact, Yeshua (Jesus) had commanded His disciples to "remain in Jerusalem for the promise of My Father." The Holy Spirit is clearly related to a promise from G-d for the disciples of Yeshua. Also, in the Book of Acts one reads:

But you will receive power, the Holy Spirit having come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in both Jerusalem, and in all Judah, and in Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

G-d is faithful to every one of His promises and He provides power to the followers of Yeshua in order that each believer can bear witness to the Person and Work of Messiah Yeshua. One needs to remember that according to Judaism and based upon Biblical testimony, there is a relationship between the Festival of Weeks and the Ten Commandments. All would agree that the Ten Commandments are foundational to being in a covenant relationship with G-d and therefore, as believers in Yeshua, bearing witness of Yeshua should be foundational to us.

There are of course many different aspects to the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life, but the primary one empowers disciples of Yeshua to testify in both word and deed concerning the truth of Yeshua's identity and His work. Not only does the Holy Spirit anoint our words, but He pro-

vides power which enables the believer to behave in a manner that demonstrates Yeshua's presence in his or her life. It is this anointed behavior which produces good deeds and wondrous signs which serve to confirm the reality of who Yeshua is, what He has done, and what He is returning to do.

It is incumbent upon every believer to bear witness that Yeshua is the Only Divine Son of G-d. It is not sufficient or acceptable to G-d for us only to proclaim Him as the Messiah. I have encountered individuals who state they are followers of Yeshua, but do not accept Him as the only Divine Son of G-d. Failure to accept the divinity of Yeshua has significant spiritual consequences; primarily one cannot be redeemed from his or her sins when failing to understand the true identity of Yeshua. In other words, when one rejects the divinity of Yeshua, they have not accepted the One Who the Scriptures reveal. Today, it is unfortunate that there are an increasing number of people who will say they believe that Yeshua is the son of G-d and is divine, but when examining their words, they do not believe that it is proper to worship Him. For them, the term "son of G-d" is not referring to Yeshua being the second member of the Trinity, but only expresses a close relationship to G-d, much like other servants of G-d mentioned in the Bible. Similarly, their use of the term "divine" does not express Yeshua being G-d, but only a degree of holiness which once again, other people and articles can contain. They will, for example, state the Bible is a divine book, but obviously they are not saying that the book is G-d. One needs to be very cautious, as frequently these false believers try to conceal the fact that they do not accept that Yeshua is G-d.

An anointed witness of Yeshua should not only focus on His true identity, but also on what He did the

It is incumbent upon every believer to bear witness that Soshua is the Only Divine Son of G-d.

first time He descended from the Heavens, namely the work of redemption He did through His death on the Cross. In the same way that people are not proclaiming that Yeshua is G-d, there is a failure to properly testify of why He went to the Cross. It is an absolute requirement to be saved, that

one confesses his sinfulness and acknowledge Yeshua's death on the Cross as the redeeming payment for all sin. The Cross reveals G-d's judgment of sin and is the only means whereby one can experience redemption. Redemption must involve blood and it involves a payment which brings about a change of ownership. Through the work of Yeshua, i.e. His death on the Cross on Passover, no longer does an individual belong to sin, but he or she is delivered from the rule of sin and now belongs to G-d. It is not a proper presentation of the Gospel to offer salvation without revealing why Yeshua died on the Cross. The correct presentation of the Gospel must include people being called to confess their sinfulness. This includes people accepting the standards of G-d and a desire to turn away from sin and embrace these standards. The means of salvation is not one's performance of these standards, but accepting that these standards are the true will of G-d for a believer's behavior. Obviously, as we are still living in this human body, believers will struggle with obedience to these standards. But, failure to acknowledge them as G-d's will for one's life, reveals an improper comprehension of the Gospel which does not save. This is an important element of the true faith and perhaps an example will assist.

The Bible clearly states standards of purity. Such standards frequently relate to activity between individuals. Sexual intimacy is only acceptable to G-d within a Scripturally-based marital covenant. Same gender marriage is clearly not allowed, according to the testimony of the Word of G-d. People will ask, "Do all homosexuals go to hell?" People who will be in hell will be there only because they did not accept the Gospel. Everyone who will be in heaven is a sinner, saved by the grace of G-d, which was achieved by Yeshua's death on the Cross. Homosexuality, like adultery and all other sins, will not keep people out of heaven; rather it is the rejection of the Gospel that keeps people from Heaven. However, to accept the Gospel and experience G-d's free gift of forgiveness of one's sins, a person must desire to turn away sin. In other words, a person whether a homosexual or an adulterer, must acknowledge that such behavior is sin and desire to live according to the will and standards of G-d. One's performance of G-d's will does not save or maintain one's salvation! It is by faith in the grace of G-d that one is redeemed, and not by works.

If a person states they want Yeshua to be their Savior but have no intention of leaving sin, whether it be homosexuality, adultery, or for that matter any sin; then that person is not a candidate for salvation. If a person were to say, "I acknowledge my sin and I accept the standards of G-d, but I struggle with this area of my life," no matter what the particular sin is, this person is indeed a candidate for salvation. In fact, it is only by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit within a believer that one has access to the power of G-d to turn away from sin.

Unfortunately, many today do not bear witness to the Biblical Gospel. The Scriptural standards of G-d are frequently ignored or compromised. The times are changing as we approach the end times. It is for this reason true believers must walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit and in the power only He can provide us to be G-d's witnesses here in Israel and throughout the rest of the world.

Editor's Comments: Baruch Korman R. Baruch is the senior lecturer at the Zera Avraham Institute based in Israel and holds a PhD in Jewish Studies. He also appears on the Israeli Television program Pdut L'amo, where he teaches each week from the Bible (in Hebrew). Many of Baruch's lectures are available at Lovelsrael.org (English). Baruch and his family reside in Israel.

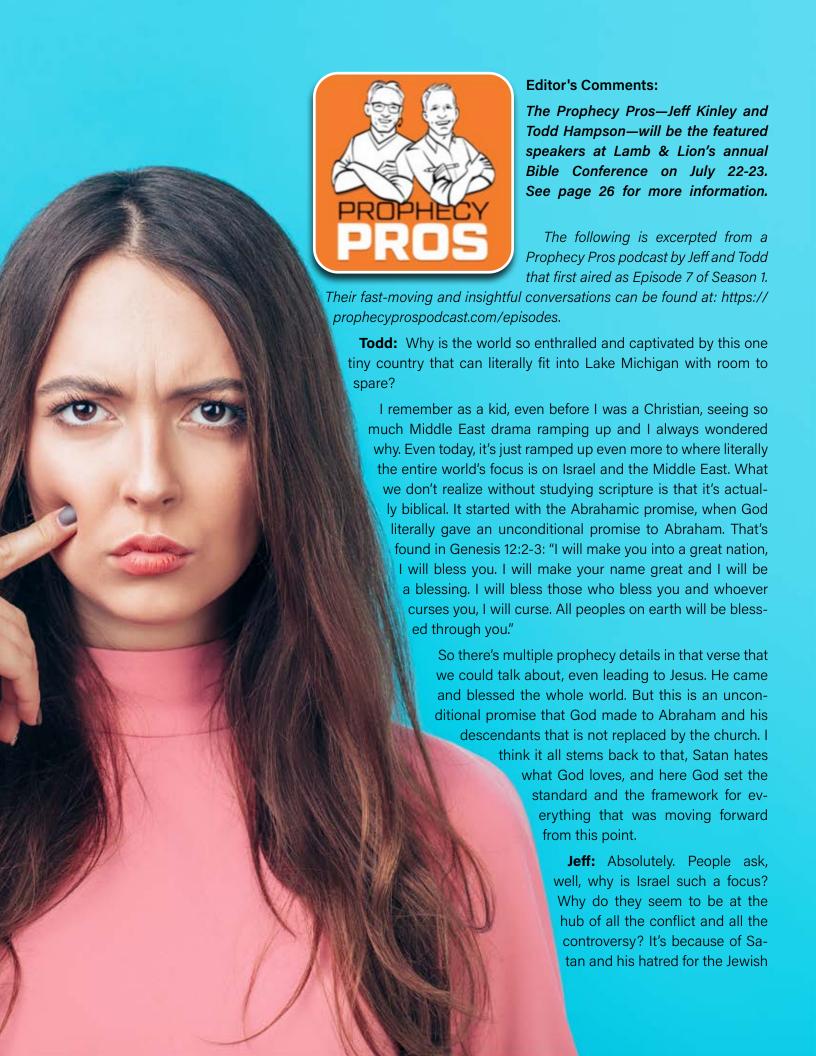
Out of respect for Baruch's Jewish practice of spelling the Almighty's Name as "G-d" and referring to Him as "L-rd," we have maintained his choice of format in this article.

THE PROPHECY PROS

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT ISRAEL?









people. I mean, antisemitism is on the rise today. It's really growing rapidly in Europe and we see it even in some places in America as well. But it really goes back, this ancient hatred goes back to Genesis, where God himself made a covenant with a people.

Jeff Kinley

In Deuteronomy 7, God

Todd: Yeah, what we

call the Old Testament

just sounds so anti-

quated and out of date.

It's kind of like an old

dictionary from 1900.

Who uses those things,

right? Shouldn't we just

basically said, "I didn't choose you out of all the nations of the world because you are the biggest nation, but because I loved you, because I wanted to." So why does Satan hate the Jewish people? Because God made this covenant with the Jewish people, and because through the Jewish people came the scriptures, through the Jewish people came the Messiah. And even today the Jewish people have promises from God that are yet fulfilled-including the promise that they are going to call upon their Messiah and He's going to return, which means that Satan won't get to rule the earth anymore.

So Satan hates the Jews for a variety of reasons, but I think some people probably think, "Yeah, okay, so there's the Old Testament, but that's so old school."



love God and love our neighbors and not worry about the Old Testament? Todd Hampson

Jeff: Yeah. Yeah, just love Jesus, right? But in the Old Testament, we learn so much about the character of God and the way that He deals with his people, His relationship with His people. That's what the Old Testament is about: the history of God's covenant relationship with the Jewish people.

In 70 AD the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and dispersed the Jewish people. From that time forward the history of the Jewish people is buried, it's dramatic, it's romantic, it's violent. But God's covenant with them has still not changed, because these were unconditional promises.

Todd: That's right.

History bears out His promise that those who bless Israel will be blessed, and those who curse Israel will be cursed. If you look at the history of Egypt, Syria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, those are nations that conquered Israel, they took their land, they took their people captive, they dispersed them in the earth. Hey, where's Babylon and Rome today?

Todd: Even more modern times, where are the Nazis? I mean, they're gone.

Jeff: Right. There's a pattern with those who treat the descendants of Abraham a certain way. It's like I told my boys when they were young, how you treat your mother will determine your happiness.

Todd: Wise advice.

Jeff: Yeah. God basically says, "Hey, how you treat my people of Israel will determine how I treat you as Gentile nations."

Todd: But what about the claim that the church replaced Israel?

Jeff: Well, we need to keep a couple of things in mind. First of all, those promises that God made to the Jewish people were specifically to them as a nation. In John 1, Jesus said that He came to His own and His own didn't receive Him. I think that's one of the saddest verses in the whole Bible, because Christ did come to the Jews first, presented Himself as the Messiah. They rejected Him at the time, because they were looking for a conquering King and He came as a suffering servant to die for their sins. So they rejected that and then God turned to the Gentiles.

But in Romans 11, Paul said, "For I do not want you brother to be uninformed of this mystery." He's talking about a prophetic mystery and saying don't be ignorant, don't be uninformed about it. He said that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

So basically, talking about a national relationship not an individual relationship with Jews who become Christians, but national Israel—He says, I'm going to put you on the back burner here while I deal with the Gentile nations and bring in the bride of Christ [the Church]. God's plan of salvation turned to the Gentiles who would become the bride of Christ in a covenant relationship with Him, "Until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

But the age or the time of the Gentiles—the church age—is going to come to an end and God's going to say, "Okay, now it's time to turn my attention back to the Jewish people." That's where the tribulation period will begin that's very Israel-centered. In fact, the very next verse says, "And thus all Israel will be saved."

Todd: So at some point, all Israel will turn to Christ and see Him for who He was.

Jeff: Absolutely. There's going to be this remnant at the end of the tribulation, and God's going to turn them back to Him.

But until then they will be rejected by the unbelieving world. Over and over again in history people have thought, "Well, Israel for sure is done now, right?"

Todd: Honestly, I think this is where some believers get a little tripped up. In 70 AD, Jerusalem was destroyed, Jews were scattered everywhere, there was no more Israel. End of story. Focus shifts to the Gentiles in the New Testament. But what they failed to realize is no, God was still at work, actually fulfilling ancient prophecies. For example, Deuteronomy 28:64 says, "The Lord will scatter you among the peoples from one end of earth to the other."

I won't go through all the prophecies. But Isaiah 11:11 says, "In that day," talking about the end times, "In that day, the Lord will reach out His hand a second time to bring back the remnant of His people." Notice he says there'll be two dispersions. So God was at work during that second, worldwide dispersion. Just like scripture foretold, everywhere they went, they were persecuted, they were mistreated. Yet somehow they kept their identity. That's never happened with any other people group.

We could also talk about God's preservation of the

He crouches, he lies down like a lion. and like a lioness. who dares to rouse him? Blessed is everyone who blesses you, And cursed is everyone who curses you." Numbers 24:9

Land—and its complete rejuvenation when the Jewish people began to come back in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Jeff: One more thing. Today there's a lot of talk about being on the "right side of history". The world defines the right side in a deviant way, but when we look at the Bible, we see what the right side of history is. The right side of history is to be pro-Israel.

Todd: That's right.

Jeff: What that doesn't mean, is that we agree with everything that the nation of Israel does.

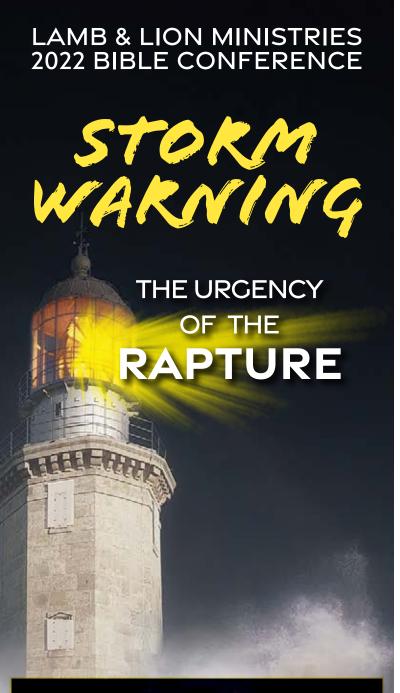
Todd: Or that they're perfect and deserving of blessing.

Jeff: They're an unredeemed nation right now, but yet God is still guiding them specifically and generally towards an appointed end. It just means that we're supportive, we're an ally, we're a fan of Israel, that type of thing.

It also doesn't mean that if you're born Jewish that you're automatically saved. It doesn't mean that at all. Each individual has to make a decision to follow Jesus Christ. You and I both know many Jewish believers who have become Christians. Whether they call themselves completed Jews or messianic Jews or whatever, they are brothers and sisters in Christ and a part of the church.

Todd: That's right.

Jeff: But in the end, God's got unfinished business



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with the Jews and the nation of Israel. If we're going to be on the right side of history, we have to honor God's promise to Abraham, to "bless those who bless you, [Israel]."

Todd: I want to be blessed, man.

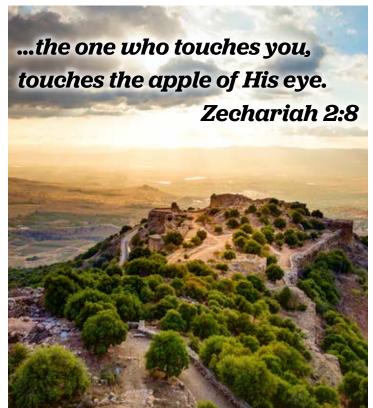
I think Christians, in particular at this time, need to forget about politics, forget about right versus left and all the stuff that's in our face, and look biblically at the issues and follow God's plan. That's where we need to focus. Regarding the Jews and Israel, always keep in mind the underlying biblical plan and framework that God has set up."

Jeff: I'm reminded of a quote by a Benjamin Disraeli who was a 19th century British statesman. He was asked one time if he knew of any infallible proof of God's existence. He thought for a moment and then with confidence responded, "The Jew, sir, the Jew."

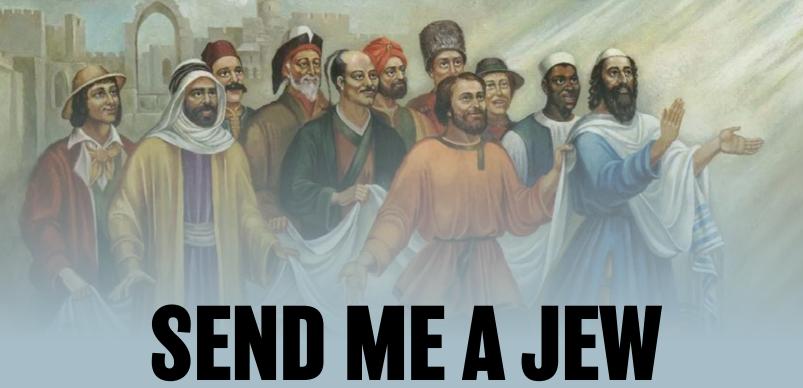
Todd: Amen.

Jeff: I think the fact that there are still Jews that are alive today, that they're living in the nation of Israel is clear evidence of the fact that the Word of God is authenticated, it's true, it can be trusted. That, yes, there is a God who does write history. So the existence of Israel is this miracle, it's the sign of the end times and that's why we believe that we're living in that time.

Todd: Amen and Amen! ❖



HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE? | POINT OF APPLICATION



TIM MOORE

cripture says that in the Millennial Kingdom ten Gentiles will grab the garment of a Jew and say, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you" (Zechariah 8:23).

There are still parts of the world where Jewish people are fairly scarce. Wherever they have lived, they've been persecuted more often than blessed. Even in America. Jews have often been ostracized and mistreated. Such behavior is no longer condoned by the culture at large, but acts of antisemitism are rising once again.

A good friend in Israel loves to share his personal testimony of coming to America as a very smug, secular Jew. A former special forces commando, he intended to make his fortune here, but quickly ran out of cash. He ended up getting an unlikely job in an American small town. His boss was a devout Christian who had prayed every day for twenty years, "Lord, send me a Jew I can share Jesus with."

When that man got to know my Jewish friend, his prayer changed to, "Lord, send me a different Jew; this one is beyond hope."

Thankfully, the Lord told the man to seize the opportunity afforded to him. He faithfully shared Jesus and my Jewish friend became an avid follower of our Jewish Messiah. Today he is a Messianic evangelist in Israel.

It is not enough to gain insight to what God is doing in Israel and among the Jewish people. It is not even enough to pray for God to bless the Jews in general. If we are to invest ourselves in blessing the Jewish people, we need to have a heart like the man who shared Christ with my friend. How many of us are willing to pray every day for twenty years, "Lord, send me just one Jew I can share Jesus with?"

Paul said that salvation has come to the Gentiles to make the Jews jealous (Romans 11:11). Are you manifesting such joy-filled faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—and in Jesus, the Messiah foretold by all the Old Testament prophets—that Jews are eager to learn about your blessed assurance? Jewish people will be drawn in by your joy and your love-only to be introduced to your Blessed Hope.

The point of this "Application" page in the Lamplighter is to offer an action point—something we can apply ourselves to. With time of the essence, Christians should be urgent and intentional about showering the Jews with the love of Jesus Christ. Pray for God to lead you to one Jew. Ask Him to send nine more brothers and sisters to multiply the blessing. And get ready to pay forward the blessing that has been given to you. \$\Price\$



MINISTRY MAILBOX

TIM MOORE

What is the prophetic significance of the war in Ukraine, and what does it mean with regard to the War of Gog and Magog?

This is a question that has been frequently asked over the past several weeks, and is one that weighs on the heart of many Christians as we witness the devastation inflicted on Ukraine by Russia.

Regarding the prophetic significance, we recognize the tragic reality of what Jesus foretold: that as the Day of the Lord draws near there will be an increase in war and rumors of war (Matthew 24:6). The perceived era of peace the West has enjoyed for several generations has been interrupted by more frequent conflicts than we like to admit—in places like Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Iraq, and Afghanistan (just to mention major American engagements). Other wars and skirmishes have raged in other parts of the world almost continuously throughout human history. Now the devastation of war is much more cataclysmic and documented, given the power of modern weapons and the immediacy of worldwide communications.

Jesus' own words portend an era of even greater global conflict to come. As mankind's rebellion against God enters its final stages, his moral degeneracy will lead to even more horrific human suffering. Just consider the war crimes committed with impunity in Ukraine in 2022, including the willful targeting of civilians. Add in Satan's antagonism, as he realizes that the end is drawing near, and you understand why the world will only grow darker.

From a Christian perspective, we need to remind ourselves of four key truths the Bible teaches us in a moment like this:

- God allows us to exercise free will even when we choose to act in a sinful manner.
- 2. God works all things together to fulfill His own purpose and plan.
- 3. God sometimes judges nations by raising up other even more wicked nations.

4. In the end every evil deed will receive the punishment and wrath it deserves.

We do not have enough insight (let alone hindsight) to apply truth #3, specifically in Ukraine's situation. But Scripture is clear that all of those lessons are true over time—even in the historical record of Israel and Judah.

Regarding the War of Gog and Magog as foretold in Ezekiel 38, the war in Ukraine does not involve the Axis of nations that will come together to attack Israel. As Nathan Jones describes at length on our website (see https://christinprophecy.org/articles/timing-gog-magog/), nations from ancient Rosh, Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Cush, Gomer, and Beth-Togarmah unite under a leader called "Gog, the prince of Rosh...[who] will devise an evil plan...to capture spoil and seize plunder" from Israel.



But the Ukraine war does demonstrate three realities scoffingly dismissed by advocates of a global world order:

- The world order can be upended with shocking speed, resulting in disruption and social and economic strain on a global scale.
- 2. Russia, while demonstrating the inconsistency of its own military prowess, can still wreak incredible devastation (including nuclear cataclysm).
- National leaders do not always act based on what we perceive as rational or benevolent considerations.

With those lessons in mind, it is easy to imagine that a despotic leader of Rosh (understood by most prophecy scholars to be Russia and the surrounding region) will come from the "remote parts of the north" to plunder the riches of the Beautiful Land (Israel). The impetus for an overwhelming assault on Israel could be desperation or misguided political calculations. Given the world's hostility toward Israel, it is unlikely that any nation will come to Israel's defense.

Instead, we know that the Lord Himself will supernaturally defeat the armies of Magog on the mountains of Israel with pestilence and bloodshed...flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone (Ezekiel 38:21-22). Through His deliverance of Israel, God says He will "magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 38:23).

Will the Ukrainian War morph over into the War of Gog and Magog? We deem that unlikely in the short term. But the inevitable instability this war will leave in its wake—let alone the isolation of the Russian bear—may lead to that great prophetic war much more quickly than would have seemed likely just a few months ago.

As Christians, we must pray for peace and minister to those who are oppressed and afflicted. There will be

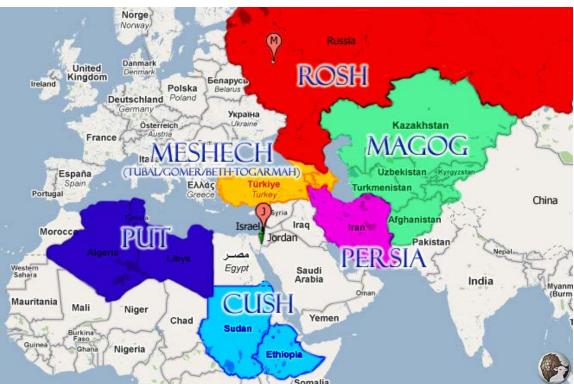
many opportunities to share the love of Christ and bear witness to the Gospel as millions of displaced people yearn for stability and encouragement. We should help supply those immediate needs even as we proclaim eternal salvation.

In the end, we know that Jesus Christ will defeat Gog's army—just like we know He will defeat the armies of the Antichrist and Satan. Current events should not fill us with anxiety or fear; instead they should make us thrill with the knowledge that He is coming soon! \$\Phi\$



Map created by
Nathan Jones,
delineating
which countries
are the modernday equivalents of
those prophesied
in the Russian-led
Gog/Magog
Battle.





the domino effect

ost people look around today and lament that the world is falling apart. Just as dominos toppling one after another, the whole world seems to be hurtling down a path of total destruction to ultimate collapse.

As foretold by Bible Prophecy, the signs of the times are multiplying all around us. They will continue to offer warning to those with eyes to see, that we are living in the season of the Lord's return. The following categories of signs—and their convergence for all to witness—bear testimony that Jesus is coming soon!

Nature



 While millions are displaced by war in Ukraine, American Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry has declared that

the greater catastrophe is the distraction from the threat of climate change.

- Parts of Australia recently received more than a year's worth of rainfall in less than a week—including what was called a "rain bomb" (more than 31 inches of rain over three days in the nation's capital); widespread disruption and destruction resulted.

Society



- Fully embracing a radical "woke" agenda, Citigroup has decided that its social agenda is more important than banking.

As conservative states enact laws to restrict abortion, it has announced that it will pay employees to travel to any state necessary to receive an abortion.

- Upending US law designed to protect women's sports (Title IX), a transgender man claiming to be a woman

won numerous swimming competitions; Will Thomas (who now calls himself Lea), was a mediocre male Penn State swimmer for two years before assaulting women's swimming.

Spiritual



- Reflecting a decline in spiritual (let alone patriotic) mooring, a shocking percentage of Americans surveyed indicated that

they would not defend America from foreign invasion. Only 55% said our nation is worth fighting for (among 18-34 year olds the percentage dropped to 45%). Politically, 68% of Republicans and 57% of Independents said they would defend the nation, while 52% of Democrats said they would flee the country.

- We are seeing rays of hope as people witnessing the world falling apart around us are now receptive to the Gospel and messages about Bible prophecy.

World Politics



- Even as Russia obliterates Ukraine, the Biden Administration is allowing Russia to take the lead in tri-lateral talks de-

signed to recommit to an Iran deal. President Biden has made the re-establishment of Barak Obama's JCPOA with Iran a priority of his foreign policy. It has been reported that his administration will accept Russia providing nuclear technology to the Iranians if that's what it takes to get a deal.

- Malign states like Iran, China, and North Korea are watching closely to see what kind of advantage they might gain amid the turmoil in Europe. Meanwhile, having undermined American energy independence, the

... You know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but are you unable to discern the signs of the times? Matthew 16:3

Biden Administration is begging for energy assistance from places like Venezuela and Saudi Arabia.

Technology



- Russia has claimed that a hypersonic missile was used against Ukraine, demonstrating the destructive capability of

this nuclear-capable weapon; the United States currently lacks such advanced technology.

- With Russia being isolated and Vladimir Putin backed into a proverbial corner, experts warn that asymmetric attacks on America's electronic and computer based infrastructure could come from Russia or other malign actors; if unleashed, those attacks could make the current supply chain challenges exponentially worse.

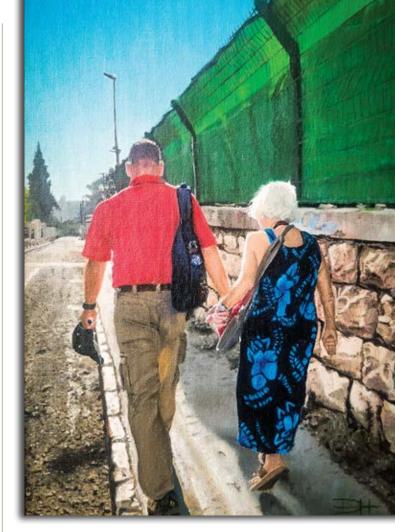
Israel



- Demonstrating a convergence of other signs and categories, Ukraine's government has pleaded with Israeli Prime Min-

ister Naftali Bennett to provide diplomatic and military assistance in their struggle against Russia. To this point Israel has remained neutral, primarily to ensure the continuing and unfettered immigration of Jews from Russia. But if Israel joins the international community in denouncing Russia, the Bear could turn with a vengeance against the Jewish state.

- As Arab recognition of the looming Iranian threat grows, Israel is benefitting from the proverb that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." Four Arab nations (the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan) have joined the Trump Administration-initiated Abraham Accords, while Egypt is warming in its relations with Israel. \$\Phi\$



The beautiful picture above (inspired by Jeremiah 23:4) was painted by David Hughey and generously gifted to Lamb & Lion Ministries.

David and his wife Jessica accompanied us on a pilgrimage to Israel in 2019. His painting poignantly foreshadows the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 2:2 as it captures the solidarity of two people from different generations walking where Jesus walked.



"Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it."

Dr. David R. Reagan LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

A MILLENNIUM AND A MILLIPEDE!

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Lamb & Lion Ministries is a non-profit, 501(c)3 evangelical Christian ministry. Our mission is proclaim the soon return of Jesus Christ to as many as possible, as soon as possible. We do not claim to know the day or hour of the Lord's return, but do believe we can recognize the season of the Lord's return. It is our conviction we are living in that season.