



Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19

Lamplighter

LAMB & LION MINISTRIES
a Non-Denominational Christian Media Ministry

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Israel
GREATEST SIGN OF THE TIMES

Lamplighter

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Observations from the Editor

The Jews.

That was the two-word answer given to Tsar Nicholas and Napoleon Bonaparte when they asked for proof that God is real. No other people group has endured through the ages—despite continual persecution and prosecution. Their respective advisors understood that only God could protect and preserve a people He set apart as His.

Throughout Scripture, God not only promised to provide for the chosen descendants of Abraham—He swore to bring them back to their own Promised Land in the fullness of time.

That promise goes hand in glove with His warning that they would be scattered throughout the world because of their disobedience and faithlessness. They would be harassed and oppressed to the point that they would be left with “a trembling of heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul” (Deuteronomy 28:64).

But God swore that He would never fail them or forsake them.

All the other Signs of the Times are multiplying before our eyes—here in America and around the world. But the Sign of Israel focuses primarily on the Land and people of Israel.

Many of the contributors to this edition of the *Lamplighter* will testify to the magnitude of this great sign that reemerged on the world scene in just the past century. In the fullness of time, God is bringing the Jewish people back to the Land—and back to Him.

If you are a Jew, do you understand the promises that are yours? Do you know the Messiah Who said He came for the Jew first, but also for the Gentile?

If you are a Gentile, do you ongoingly pray for the peace of Jerusalem? Do you endeavor to make Jews you encounter jealous of your relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

Regardless of your ethnic background, do you realize that the Sign of Israel is proof that God’s prophetic timeline is nearing the end?

Get ready to be encouraged, enlightened, challenged, and thrilled. Know that “there is none like the God of Israel, Who rides the heavens to your help, and through the skies in His majesty.”



Tim Moore
Executive Editor
Director | Sr. Evangelist
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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4-6

Pre-Trib Conference in Dallas

Lamb & Lion Prophecy Podcast: "The Truth Will Set You Free"

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CORRECTION

Dr. Ephraim McDowell's name was misspelled
on page 4 of our Sept/Oct issue.

LAMB & LION
MINISTRIES
STANDS WITH ISRAEL



Lamb & Lion Ministries is closely monitoring the war in Israel that began in early October. Our next edition of the *Lamplighter* will address the conflict from a prophetic perspective. Visit ChristInProphecy.org for timely updates.



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SIGN OF ISRAEL

Tim Moore

All of us have specific memories that are indelibly impressed in our minds. Our wedding. The birth of a child. Or perhaps a moment of tragedy.

Whole societies can experience significant emotional events that become seared into collective memory. The World War II generation never forgot Pearl Harbor. Their children would long remember where they were when they learned of JFK's assassination. I vividly remember watching the Challenger explosion and later the coverage of the 9/11 attacks.

Other historical events have altered the trajectory of nations and the world. That is why the Battle of Lexington and Concord (that initiated the American Revolutionary War) became "the shot heard around the world."

In 1948, events in a remote corner of the world marked the fulfillment of ancient prophecies and hastened the approach of the End Times. Israel was reborn.

A Long-Awaited Promise

Beginning in AD 66, the Jews of Judea were decimated, exiled, or scattered. Mercilessly putting down the revolt that originated in the Galilee, the Roman Empire resolved to answer the “Jewish question”—at least as it involved the stiff-necked Jews in Palestine. So, at great expense Rome made an example of the Jewish rebels, besieging Jerusalem and stomping out the last band of resistance at Masada.

During Herod the Great’s heavy-handed reign, Jewish resistance to Roman rule was squelched. When he died, his kingdom was divided, and the Roman garrison soon found itself opposed openly. Of course, the Jewish Messiah appeared during that same period offering true and eternal liberation—but the corrupt Jewish authorities ensured that He was executed by Roman hands.

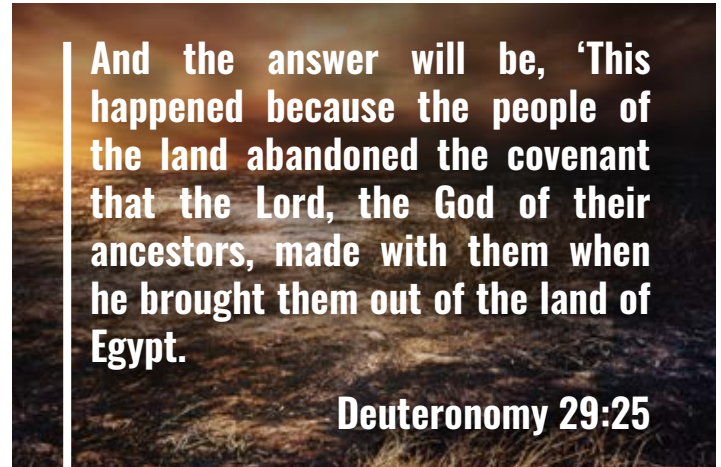


Jesus foretold the devastation that would fall upon Jerusalem. Because most Jews “did not recognize the time of [their] visitation” and embrace Him as Messiah, God rejected them for a long and painful season.

Rejected, but not forsaken.

The Lord was not the first to prophesy the destruction and Diaspora (dispersion of the Jews). Moses was very clear about the alternative to God’s continued blessing on His chosen people. Deuteronomy 28 records his extensive warning about the consequence of disobedience. Instead of an unending stream of blessing, he said, “the LORD will scatter [the Children of Israel] among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth... Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul” (28:64-65).

He went on to describe the curse that would fall upon the land itself—the Promised Land that his people were about to go and possess for the first time. When God scattered the people, the Land itself would become “brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it” (Deuteronomy 29:23).



All of these curses would fall on Israel (people and Land) because the Jews forsook the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers (Deuteronomy 29:25).

Moses also foresaw beyond that great calamity, promising, “If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers” (Deuteronomy 30:4-5).

That steadfast hope of that promise is why every Jew throughout the Diaspora has ended the Passover seder with a hopeful prayer: “Next year in Jerusalem.”

A Flickering Hope

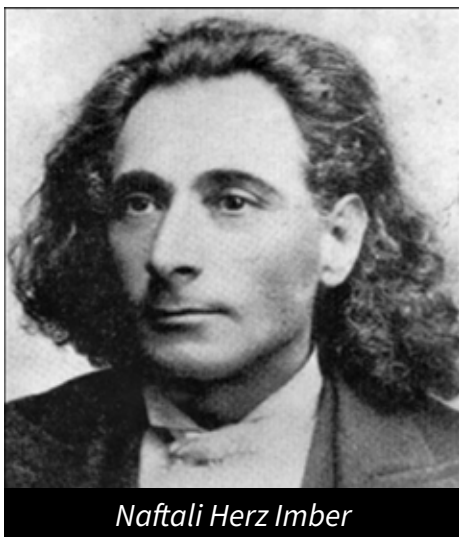
For over 1800 years, that glimmer of hope dwindled and grew increasingly faint. As Jews attempted to assimilate to living in strange societies and took on attributes of the people among whom they lived, the aspiration to return to the Land was more an unrealistic ideal than a motivating aspiration.

Because the curse on the Land was so overwhelming, there was little appeal to returning to a desolate wasteland. And, despite low-grade Antisemitism that occasionally burst into overt and violent persecution, Jews were relatively comfortable in places like Germany, Poland, and Russia.

This should come as no surprise. Human beings quickly adapt to new circumstances and accept the normality of their situation. That is why many Jews chose to remain in Babylon even when Nehemiah led some to return to Israel 2500 years ago. Quite a number of them still lived in Iraq until very recently, when Saddam Hussein drove them out. And it is why there remains a large contingent of Israel-condemning Jews in Iran to this day.

To an outside observer, the idea that a widely dispersed people would uproot themselves and return to the God-forsaken place where they once lived seemed ludicrous. It would be as if people calling themselves Trojans decided to regroup after 3000 years and rebuild the lost city of Troy.

However, unlike the Trojans, the Jewish people maintained their identity through the long years of the Diaspora. They honored ancient customs—although not always revering the God of their Fathers—in a way that unified them across the years and the miles. Passover, Hanukkah, Purim, and other Jewish holidays ensured a collective memory and shared hope.

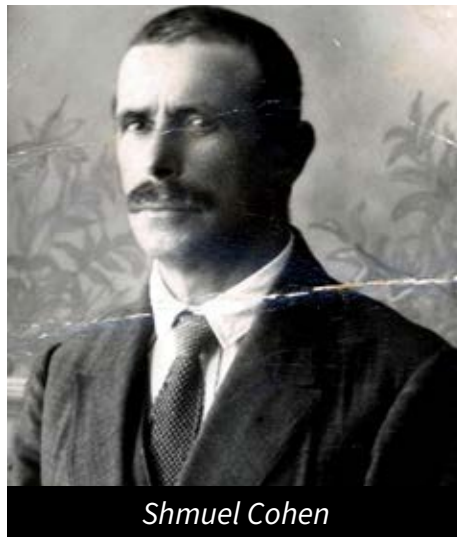


Naftali Herz Imber

By the late 1800s, the embers of that hope were stirring back into flame. In 1878, Jewish-Polish poet Naftali Herz Imber penned the words to “Hatikvah” (The Hope):

*As long as in the heart, within,
The soul of a Jew still yearns,
And onward, towards
the ends of the east,
An eye still gazes toward Zion;*

*Our hope is not yet lost,
The hope of two thousand years,
To be a free nation in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.*



Shmuel Cohen

Shmuel Cohen, a 17-year-old musician from Eastern Europe whose parents had immigrated to Palestine set the words to a Romanian melody in 1887. It became well-known throughout Zionist circles into the early 20th century and was adopted as the anthem of the Zionist circle in 1933. Although banned from public broadcast by the British Mandate government, “Hatikvah” would later become the national anthem of Israel.

As prophesied and promised, Israel’s Hope indeed springs eternal.

Odds Too Long to Wager On

The historical events surrounding the establishment of the modern state of Israel have been reviewed many times in the pages of the *Lamplighter* and on *Christ in Prophecy*.

Throughout the period of Diaspora, the Church took on an overwhelmingly Gentile flavor. Paul spoke of the Jewish rejection of the Gospel as the “reconciliation of the world” because it led to the Gospel itself being scattered far and wide over the earth (Romans 11:11-15). Tragically, many Gentile Christians assumed the Jewish obstinance was evidence that they had been cast aside, even though Paul insisted that was not the case (Romans 11:1-5).

But, witnessing the fulfillment of Moses’ prophecy regarding the wandering, outcast, despairing Jew, Gentiles too readily accepted the lie that God had washed His hands of the Jewish people. That was the attitude of “Christian” crusaders who streamed to the Middle East from 1050 to 1300—killing Jews with as much glee as they dispatched Muhammadans who had seized the Holy Land.

So, when Jews began to return to the Land that Mark Twain had described as desolate and devoid of people, beasts, or vegetation, there was little popular support for their dream. Even Great Britain reneged on its Balfour Declaration promise to support the es-



tablishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. When push came to shove—and there was much pushing and shoving from the Arab world when Jews began to grow in number and influence—the British Mandatory authorities were decidedly pro-Arab and anti-Jewish.

Perhaps the greatest example of the inconceivability of Israel's reestablishment is the counsel offered by America's Secretary of State in 1948, George C. Marshall. General Marshall, whose strategic and geopolitical acumen was proven in World War II, was convinced that the overwhelming superiority of the combined Arab armies would mean a death sentence for the Jews. Marshall warned Harry Truman that if the President dared support Israeli independence, he would resign his position and then campaign and vote against him in the next election!



*President Harry Truman &
George C. Marshall*

Thankfully, Truman had paid attention in Sunday School, and knew that while man sees only impossibilities, “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). And, when it comes to the prophecies of Scripture, a promise of God is an ironclad surety.

Impossibly long odds, or prophecy fulfilled? Many Christians were too ignorant of Bible prophecy to know the difference.

Promises Made—and Kept

One of the most prolific promises in Scripture is God's vow to regather the Jewish people. In Ezekiel 28:25-26, He said, “When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and will manifest My holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they will live in their land which I gave to My servant Jacob. They will live in it securely; and they will build houses, plant vineyards and live securely when I execute holy judgments upon all who scorn them round about them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.”

Did you catch that? Jewish awareness of and faithfulness to God will not precede the regathering; it will result from His protection after He has manifested His faithfulness. Ezekiel 34:11-31 makes the same point, emphasizing the regathering and the blessing before asserting, “ ‘Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people,’ declares the Lord GOD.” In Ezekiel 36, the prophet twice records the LORD's emphatic statement that the regathering is not tied to Jewish merit or faithfulness: “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went” (vv. 22 and 32).

Zechariah foretold the regathering to Zion from “the land of the east and from the land of the

west” (8:3-8) and God's promise to “strengthen the house of Judah... and save the house of Joseph... and bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they will be as though [He] had not rejected them” (10:6).

And, of course, Isaiah recorded the promise of God to bring His people Israel back from the east and west and north and south—the four corners of the earth. Jeremiah said this regathering would be so miraculous that it would make even the Exodus from captivity in Egypt pale in comparison (Jeremiah 16:14-15, 23:7-8).



Beginning in the late 1800s, increasing throughout the first half of the 20th Century (despite British resistance), and swelling into a flood in the past 75 years, Jews have indeed been streaming back to Israel from the four corners of the earth.

That modern-day miracle represents a promise made, and kept.

If You Will It—It Is No Dream

The father of modern Zionism is Theodor Herzl. As a young Hungarian-Austrian journalist, Herzl traveled to France to report on the trial of Jewish French Army officer Alfred Dreyfus. The unmasked Antisemitism that Herzl witnessed

from average Parisians led him to realize that Jews would never be fully integrated into Gentile societies. Ancient jealousies and hatreds would eventually reemerge to threaten Jewish families wherever they lived.

Just as Herzl began clamoring for a Jewish homeland, Christian Zionists also arose to support the cause of Jewish statehood. Herzl's motivation was primarily ethnic or nationalistic, while the Christian Zionists understood the promises of God and the significance of Israel's reestablishment to God's prophetic timeline.



Theodor Herzl

Beginning in 1897, Herzl gathered a "Zionist Congress" in Basel, Switzerland, to promote the idea of Zionism and an independent Jewish state. A few highly motivated people took up the cause and became fanatical in their advocacy for Zionism. Eliezer Ben-Yehuda was one of these, but his desire to resurrect Hebrew as the primary language of the Jewish people was too much even for Herzl.

Christians like William Blackstone were ardent supporters of the Zionist cause. German Pastor

William Hechler discerned the relationship between the Jewish people and the return of the Messiah and fervently promoted Zionism—and even motivated Herzl to be more aggressive in his aspirations.

Christians who longed for the Lord's return 100 years ago were eager to support Zionism and the establishment of a Jewish homeland—even if the average Jew was unwilling to uproot from relative comfort in Europe and elsewhere to relocate to a desolate strip of land on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean. They were the visionaries who took their cues from the Word of God, not the naysayers who could only see facts on the ground.

Herzl is famous for saying, "If you will it—it is no dream." His dream seemed audacious and out-of-reach by most Jews and Gentiles at the turn of the 20th Century. And his statement could be chalked up as yet another example of chutzpah—if it was grounded only in the hubris and pride of man.

But Herzl's dream aligned with the will of God. In fact, God's prophecy to regather His people and reestablish them as "one nation, on the mountains of Israel" was a promise guaranteed by the faithfulness of the Promiser.

Because He willed it—it was no dream.

The Time of the Gentiles

Jesus said that Jerusalem would be "trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

Remember Paul's insight that Jewish resistance to the Gospel propelled it into the Gentile world? Scripture indicates that there would come a time when the focus would return to the Jewish people. The modern nation of Israel was reestablished on May 14, 1948, but the Old City of Jerusalem, including Mount Zion itself, continued to be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until 1967.

Toward the end of the Six-Day War, Israel recognized a brief window of opportunity to recapture Jerusalem. Its military goals did not include the ancient capital. In fact, Israel had urged Jordan to stay neutral during the hostilities. But Jordan's pride and God's will aligned to create an opening for the Jews to reclaim the city.

I intend to explore the military aspects of the battle for Jerusalem in a forthcoming book (*The Battle for Israel*). The implication of this victory was not lost on the spiritually discerning in 1967. Hearing that the city had been liberated, Shlomo Goren, the Chief Rabbi of the IDF, rushed to the Western Wall, blew a shofar, and declared,



...and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Luke 21:24

“I proclaim today the beginning of the Messianic Age.” He understood that when the Jews were back in possession of Jerusalem, God’s prophetic time clock would begin counting down to the end.

Despite having Luke 21:24, countless other prophetic Scriptures, and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, most Gentile Christians were oblivious to the significance of that moment. I’ve asked scores of believers who lived through that period about the reaction in their churches. They testify to overwhelming apathy to the events taking place half a world away. The rising turmoil of Vietnam and growing unrest at home clamored for far more attention than the goings-on in Israel.

This is a sad commentary on contemporary Christianity—and I claim no inherent immunity from this myopia. While God is at work all around us and fulfilling promises Christians have longed to witness for almost 2,000 years, most followers of Christ are paying attention to all the wrong things. I am reminded of the C.S. Lewis character, Clarence Eustace Scrubb, whose pitiful self-centeredness stemmed from the fact that he had “read all the wrong books!”

We are called to be people of The Book—to treasure it, study it, believe it, and obey it. Certainly, there are aspects of eschatology

that people disagree on, or that we may only see clearly in hindsight. But there is plenty we can understand if we simply open the book and (to follow the twice-cited admonition of Revelation) “read and heed.”

Just before they entered to possess the Promised Land, Moses said to the Jewish people, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever...” (Deuteronomy 29:29).

What is Next?

If “the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled,” what lies ahead? According to God’s prophetic Word, there are no more prerequisites for Jesus to be told to “Go and get Your Bride.”

The very phrase insinuates that we have reentered the time of the Jews—in Jerusalem and beyond. And, certainly, the world has focused its attention on the Jewish question with renewed vigor. Middle East peace inevitably involves Israel. The nations of the world pay close attention to what happens in Jerusalem—and they are uniquely aligned in opposition to Israel. Satan’s own goal of eliminating the Jews is increasingly manifest in antagonism toward Israel and Antisemitism toward Jews.

But God is not done with the Jewish people. He has them right where He wants them—back in

their Land and poised to witness His mighty and outstretched hand miraculously protecting them.

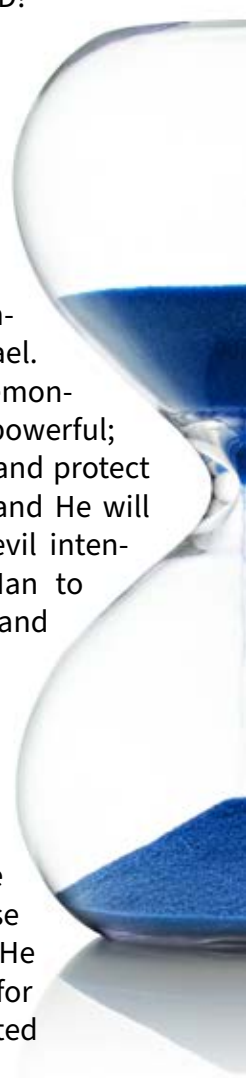
Praise the Lord, there is a rising wave of belief in Yeshua among the Jews in Israel and remaining in the Diaspora. But the trickle will become a torrent in the fullness of time. And, when the Jewish people come to the end of themselves, during the Tribulation, they will look upon Him whom they have pierced and weep over Him like a firstborn son. Then, they will cry out “Baruch haba b’Shem Adonai—Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the LORD!”

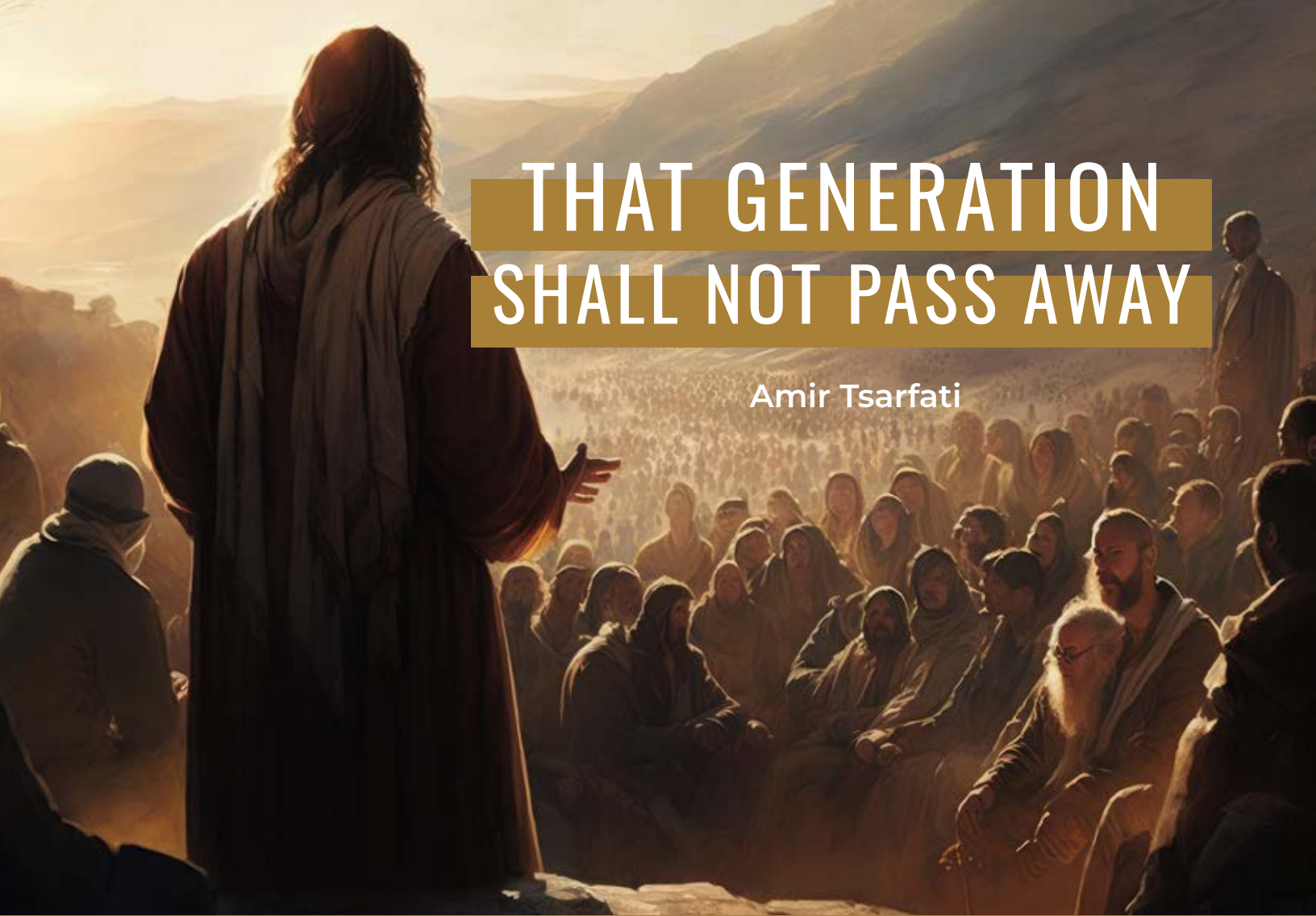
The Countdown is Ticking

All the Signs of the Times indicate that we are living on borrowed time. Jesus is coming soon. But the most important sign of all is Israel. Its mere existence demonstrates that God is all-powerful; He can choose, bless, and protect whomever He wants; and He will orchestrate even the evil intentions of Satan and Man to fulfill His perfect will and bring glory to Himself.

Israel is flashing like a neon sign—both a promise and a warning. Jesus is coming soon! He will be the Blessed Hope for those who know Him, but He will be a holy terror for those who have rejected Him (John 3:36).

The choice is yours. Time is of the essence. Next year in Jerusalem may be too late! ✨





THAT GENERATION SHALL NOT PASS AWAY

Amir Tsarfati

Hebrews 1 says, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds . . ." (NKJV). So, here we are seeing that Jesus never contradicted a single verse from the prophets. In fact, He continued in the same mantle.


Toward the end of His ministry, Jesus was on the Mount of Olives surrounded by His disciples. None of His disciples were "Christian" at that point. They were Jewish.

So, Jesus taught his Jewish disciples while He was in Jerusalem. And to make it very clear, in the history of planet Earth, Jerusalem was never a capital of any other nation but Israel. So, here you have the Jewish Messiah speaking to His Jewish disciples in the Jewish capital of the Jewish people.

We have to understand that the questions He was asked by his disciples—to which He gave a great, lengthy, and detailed answer—were authentic Jewish issues related to the Jewish Temple, the Messiah, and the last days.

No Gentile at the time was thinking about the last days, the Messiah, or the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was talking to Jews about Jewish matters that only interested the Jews. He spoke on the Mount of Olives. That is why Matthew 24 is called the Olivet Discourse.

By the way, He was not angry with their questions. He understood exactly where they were coming from and took His time to give them a detailed answer. First, in verses 4 to 31, He spoke to His Jewish disciples about the future of the Jews. But then, starting in verse 32, He also gave them a different perspective of things to come. And He was talking about something else, someone else, another group of people which, by the way, they are also part of.



“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”

Matthew 24:34

Learn from the Fig Tree

In Matthew 24:32-35, Jesus said, “Now learn the parable from the fig tree...” In the middle of His teaching on Israel and all the things Israel will go through, He stops to tell His disciples: “Now listen, I want you to learn a parable from the fig tree.” In other words, He makes it clear that what He says about the fig tree is not literally about a fig tree; it's a parable of the fig tree—a symbol of something different. He is basically saying: Look, “when its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know...” It's not “you think” and it's not “you guess.” It's “you *know* that summer is near. So you also, when you see...”

Again, it's not when you talk about it, it's not when you hope for it, and it's not when you dream of it. It's “When you see” (with your very eyes) “all these things, know that it is near.” Not 200 yards away, not 200 miles away. Where? “Right at the door.” Right there!

So, Jesus reminds the disciples, ‘Look, the fig tree, remember the fig tree (of Matthew 21:18-20)? That fig tree that died, it's going to come back to life.’ Then He said, “the generation that will see the ‘rebirth’ of that tree, that generation shall not pass away till all these things take place” (Matthew

24:32-35). What things? His coming back.

God's Word Stands Forever

Heaven and earth will pass away, but Jesus' words will not pass away. Just like God said through Isaiah: “The flower fades, the grass withers, but the Word of God stands forever” (40:8). Wow!

So, Jesus stopped His entire description of the end times of Israel to tell His disciples, “Now listen. I want to talk to you now, not as Israel, but as My followers. If you follow Me, you can escape destruction. And, if you're following Me and alive to see the fig tree blooming... that's it! That's the last generation.” Wow!

Before we talk about the fig tree, let's talk about the word “generation.” Scholars, theologians, teachers, and pastors have pondered and debated about the timeframe of a generation. Some say it's 20 years, some 30 years, some 40 years, others say longer.

But none of those answers are correct. We need to understand that biblically, a generation has always referred to the longevity of mankind. That means the time between conception and natural death. So, the average lifespan of a group of people living at about the same time constitutes the length

of a generation. Before the Flood, the Bible tells us the average lifespan of a man was over 900 years. Today, if a man makes it to 100, he's a celebrity.

In 1850, life expectancy in the United States was less than 40 years. It increased to 47 by 1900, and to 77 years by the end of the 20th century. Life expectancy in Israel today is 79 years and projected to be 82 by 2025.

So, which generation was Jesus talking about when he said, “this generation shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:34)? He was speaking of the generation that will see the fig tree come back to life. Wow!

I believe He is referring to believers who witness the most significant end-time prophecy: the “rebirth” of the fig tree—the rebirth of Israel.

Israel Reborn

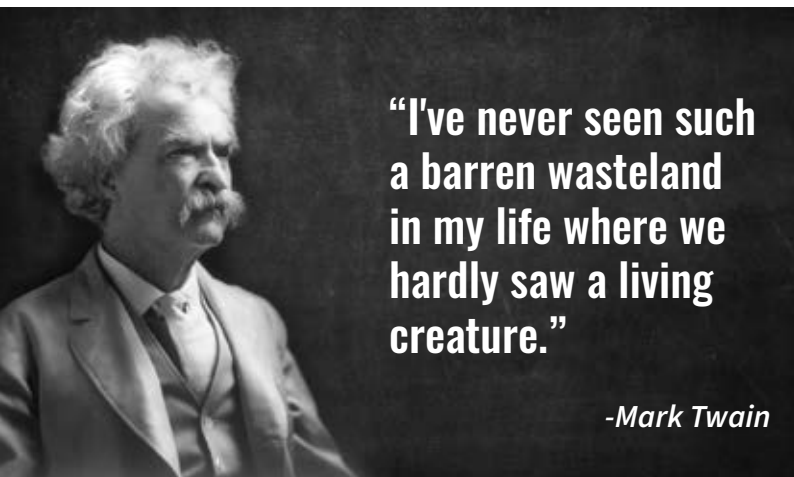
Israel in the Scriptures was described by three different types of trees: the vine, the fig tree and the olive tree. Each of them was a symbol of something else. The vine symbolizes Israel's spiritual privileges (Psalm 80, Isaiah 5, and Jeremiah 2). The fig tree symbolizes Israel's national privileges (Hosea 9, Jeremiah 24, and, of course, Matthew 24). The olive tree represented Israel's religious privileges

(Hosea 14, Isaiah 17, Isaiah 24, Psalm 52, Psalm 128 and Romans 11). Romans 11 speaks specifically of Israel as the “good olive tree” and the Gentiles as the “wild olive tree.” Some of the branches of the original olive tree were chopped off, and the Gentiles, the wild olive tree, were grafted in.



So, Gentile believers are now partakers of the blessing *with* Israel—not *instead* of Israel. In fact, the Church can trust the promises of God because He keeps His covenant with Israel. And the fig tree is coming back to life! It was cursed, but it is not dead forever.

When the Jewish people started coming back to the land of Israel toward the end of the 1800s, they found exactly what Mark Twain wrote in his diary as a traveler: “I’ve never seen such a barren wasteland in my life where we hardly saw a living creature.” So God first inspired the Jewish people to return to their homeland. That is the meaning of “Zionism”—the Jewish belief that your place is in Zion. So, the desire to go to Israel was the beginning of that fig tree returning to life! In Ezekiel 36:8, God said: “But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel, for they will soon come.”



“I’ve never seen such a barren wasteland in my life where we hardly saw a living creature.”

-Mark Twain

The Lord knew that there was no way that hundreds of thousands and millions of Jews could thrive in a barren wasteland. It would never work. So what did the Lord do? He spoke fertility, and boom! Look what happened; today Israel exports food. While farm workers are only 3.8% of the workforce in Israel, they produce almost 100% of our food. Israeli cows are the most productive cows in the world. Israel leads the world in technology to extract water even from the air. Israel invented the drip irrigation system and exports desalination installations around the world. It uses solar energy like no other country does. And 90% of its wastewater is being purified and recycled for agriculture.

One of the smallest nations on earth, Israel is thriving. That’s God’s way of saying, “The fig tree is coming back to life.”

Ezekiel 36 talked about how God would heal the land in preparation for the Jews to return to their land. Then in Ezekiel 37, Ezekiel was brought to a valley full of dry bones. He was so terrified that he asked, “What is this?” The Lord replied, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold they say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off!’ ” That means they’re alive, but barely. Like a person with bones and skin—but hopeless and thinking that God has forgotten all about him. That was the picture we saw when Jews were liberated from Nazi death camps. Men, women, and children barely alive. Skin and bones, but no hope. And collectively believing, “God has forgotten all about us.” But God had promised, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 37:12).

Not Palestine! Not Arab Land! The Land of Israel!

God Has Done It

Then He said, “Then you will know that I am Yahweh, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, Yahweh, have spoken and done it” (Ezekiel 37:13-14). Wow! And He has literally done that.

So, in 1948, the nation was born! Even then, Israel was born as a nation on the verge of annihilation



One of the smallest nations on earth, Israel is thriving. That's God saying, "The fig tree's coming back to life."

every day, every single day of that year, the following year, and the following year after that. Every single day since 1948 has been a gift from God, because Israel was supposed to be destroyed!

The nations that came against Israel in 1948 have tried to destroy the land repeatedly and failed at every turn. What was it that they wanted in 1948? Oil? Gas? We had none of those. They wanted us to be cut off from being a nation so that the name of Israel would be remembered no more.

However, 1948 is also when we start counting a generation. Just consider what has changed since Israel's modern founding. Israel was small, vulnerable, insecure, dangerous, and very poor. Compared to then, Israel today is safe, secure, and prosperous. But 75 years have passed since 1948.

I believe the Feasts of Trumpets, Yom Kippur, and Tabernacles will be fulfilled to the people of Israel when the Lord comes back. The Jewish people pray in Hebrew every morning: "May our eyes behold Your return to Zion with mercy." They want Him to come, but they do not believe the Messiah is returning for a second time. They think He is coming for the first time.

Jewish people also understand that before the Messiah comes there will be a terrible time of tribulation. They believe that there has

to be a great time of repentance. The repentance and God tabernacling physically on Earth with His people will happen as God fulfills those feasts to Israel just as He did with the first four feasts.

The importance of the Church and Israel is conveyed in God's command in Numbers 10:1-2 for Moses to make two trumpets—two Silver trumpets. Why two? Why silver? Why trumpets? Trumpets are a means to announce the coming of someone. Silver is a precious metal, but not perfect. And two, because there are only two groups of people on earth that God called out, "You are My witnesses." Israel in Isaiah 46 and the Church in Acts chapter 1.

Throughout the Old Testament history of Israel, the Church did not exist. But from the moment the Church was born, the nation of Israel was thrown out of the Land. Only since 1948 have the two co-existed to bear witness to the coming Messiah. The trumpets are sounding!

Are You Ready?

Some Christians are ready to go; others are simply tired. Either way, their attitude seems to be, "How long can we still stay here?" My response is Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" Paul went on to affirm, "The Lord is near." That is why we need to rejoice, and why we need to "hold fast the confession

of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

What hope? Our Blessed Hope! (Titus 2:13).

What promises has He kept? All of them! Everything He said has happened. Israel is back in the Land just as He said. The fig tree is alive!

We can rejoice that we are in the generation to see the sign of Israel. And, we can bless the Holy One of Israel—Who is the Lamb of God, *and* the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Emmanuel—Prince of Peace, King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Yeshua is the "light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of [His] people Israel" (Luke 2:32). And, He's coming again soon! ✨



Amir Tsarfati

Amir Tsarfati is the founder and president of Behold Israel. A Messianic Jew living in Israel, he is a dynamic speaker and proclaimer of Yeshua's soon return.



THE LION'S TESTIMONY

Arye Bar David
Edited by Tim Moore

The story of Israel's perseverance, as well as its reestablishment as a nation, sweeps across the span of human history. All the promises made to Abram, passed on to his son of promise Isaac, Isaac's son Jacob, and the multigenerational children of Israel, have been kept.

God has blessed Abraham's descendants and made them like the sand of the seashore. He has utilized them as a witness of relationship and a conduit of blessing. Battles have raged—in the spiritual realm and on earth—to upset His eternal plan. But God has orchestrated everything for His glory and the good of those who trust in Him.

It would be easy to focus on such a sweeping overview that we might miss the testimony of individual Jews who have trusted in the great I AM. Sons and daughters of Abraham have followed in his footsteps by believing God and endeavoring to obey Him.

One such man is Arye Bar David.

The Lion

I introduced Arye to the viewers of *Christ in Prophecy* in 2023. He is the uncle of a good friend who serves as the guide on many of our Lamb & Lion Ministries pilgrimages to Israel. Arye is one of the sons of a Jewish couple that settled in Israel prior to 1948—one of the first Messianic families in the Land. The Bar Davids have been a powerful witness to our Jewish Messiah in Israel to this day.

In Hebrew, Arye means “lion.” This bold, stout man embodies the spirit of Joshua and Caleb. He unashamedly proclaims his choice to serve the Lord and remains eager to serve the Lord courageously well into his 8th decade.

During two different pilgrimages, Arye shared his testimony of fighting in two major wars—the Six-Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973. His experience demonstrates the power of the Lion of Judah to protect and preserve those who are His.

Here now is Arye’s testimony...

My full name is Arye Yehuda Bar David—which in Hebrew means Lion of Judah, son of David. My parents had six sons and one daughter and decided that my name would point to their belief in Yeshua.

The Bar Davids were among the first Jewish believers in Yeshua in modern Israel. My parents’ faith was very important to our family. Every evening we gathered as a family to play instruments and worship the Lord. I was the only one who later played professionally, in

the Jerusalem Symphonic Orchestra. I was a conductor and double bass player.

When I was a boy, our extended family gathered four times a week into our home. My father would teach us about the Lord. We had two theme verses in our home—our family church. One was Psalm 91:7: “A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach



Arye Bar David

you.” In Hebrew, the last phrase is “eleka lo yiggas”—it will not come to you; it will not even get close. It is a very strong statement, like “it will not touch you” in English. The other verse was the word of Samuel to Saul in 1 Samuel 15:22: “to obey is better than sacrifice.”

When you grow up hearing such words, even before you know how to read or to write; when you look at your father sharing and see the words to his left and his right, those

words enter deep into you. I grew up with a full faith that God is real in this way. Those words proved vital when I found myself leading men into battle.

Six Days of War

The first war I took part in was the Six-Day War. I was born in 1947 and recently turned 75 years old. For me, it was important to be 75 because I knew that Abraham was 75 when he came to the Land. He was no fainting old man even at that age! When he heard that his nephew, Lot, was taken captive, Abraham also led 310 of his men into battle. They pursued the enemy all the way north of Damascus. Abraham was a man of peace, but when he was forced to fight, he was an excellent army commander. That assured me that being a believer in God is not contradicted by being an army commander.

When I joined the Israeli Defense Force, I volunteered to be a paratrooper, because then and now, paratroopers are the IDF’s spearhead force that fights in every battle. Christians should always seek the most difficult places to serve—the darkest places to shine as light. We have to be in the most dangerous place. To this day, it is a tradition within the Bar David family that everyone serves as a paratrooper or in very special combat units.

Paratrooper training was very rigorous—jumping and practicing for battle. Only five months into my service, the Six-Day War started. My unit engaged in battle on each of



those six days—an experience that will make you older very quickly. War is not a romantic adventure. The terror and the smell of war stays with you—as well as the loss of so many young men.

But God protected throughout those six days and Israel won a great victory—so great that Israel



Arye (pictured on right), 1973

became overconfident in its own military capability and forgot to give credit to God.

Yom Kippur

Just six years later, Israel found itself in another war, but one that was far more threatening on the battlefield.

As an experienced soldier by that time, I was a commander of

around 20 soldiers. When we were mobilized to join the battle, the IDF was just crossing the Suez Canal. My unit was ordered to penetrate into Egypt and attack bases that were shooting missiles at our IAF airplanes. Many pilots were lost by surface-to-air missiles before we eliminated that threat.

My unit knew how to navigate. I had received professional training and could navigate 30 kilometers at night to arrive at an exact location. We would then destroy the target and disappear. That role was vital to Israel regaining the upper hand in the air battle—so that our aircraft could defend our soldiers and attack the enemy.

While we were preparing to launch into battle very late one night, someone came from another unit and cried into the darkness, “Is Arye here?” I answered and said, “Yes, I’m here.” “Can you come to my unit?” “What is the issue?” I asked. “Some of the soldiers came just now from the United States. They told us about Jews for Jesus. We know you believe in Yeshua. Can you come and tell us more about what this is?”

It was 1973. Jews for Jesus were very popular then in the West, but not so well known in Israel.

I yelled back in the dark, “If my soldiers will permit me, I will do it.” My soldiers called out, “No! He is with us. If you want to hear, you come.” So that man returned to his unit and soon his men were walking through the trees in the dark to join us. Within a few minutes, I found myself surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of paratroopers—waiting for me to explain Yeshua to them. One paratrooper who was a famous bicyclist but so light that we had to load him down with potatoes when he parachuted yelled, “Okay, Arye. Start!”

For the next half an hour I told them about the verses I had learned from childhood. Prophecies from Ezekiel and the rest came to me and I told them that Israel’s existence was a fulfillment of God’s ancient promises. But I also did something that Jews who believe in Jesus almost never do in Israel: I told them about the blood of Jesus and the cross. Most Jews don’t want to hear that message because it makes them think of the Inquisition and persecution, but that night I found myself talking again and again about the blood of Jesus and forgiving of sins so that a person can come before God with a clean conscience.

Later, I remembered what Paul said in 1 Timothy about the goal of his instruction being love from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith (1:5). That is very important to a soldier when he is about to go into battle and thinks there is a 90% chance he will be killed. You can’t believe how an unclean conscience will burden even the bravest soldier!

After I finished, a siren sounded and we had to prepare to run to the

aircraft that would take us to the front. A young rabbi said, “Arye is just using our fear of war to scare us into believing like him.” Immediately soldiers on each side of him pushed him back down and said, “At least he gives us hope! What do you give us?”

Later, as we were proceeding on foot, I could sense that my men were murmuring something against me. I stopped the unit and said this to them: “Look, I know what you think about me and what you are saying. Now I tell you: if my faith in Yeshua, the real Son of God, if this is not right, I want to be the first killed in this war. If I am wrong, I do not deserve to be alive. But if I am right, you will see with your own eyes how God protects those who are His.”

You are the Light of Men

Immediately, we continued on our mission. The second day, we were caught in an Egyptian ambush, with horrible crossfire raking us from only 60 yards away. Seven men on our first line were wounded and one was killed. Even though we were pinned down, the unit behind us did not help us by shooting and drawing the enemy fire away from us. So, I got up in the middle of the battle and walked back to find those men—including the rabbi—cowering in a ditch. The Egyptians focused their fire on me, but I knew that no bullet has permission to touch me. While bullets were buzzing all around me like angry bees, I stood over that ditch and shouted, “Now, you see with your eyes!”

Later, we had to find our way back across the battlefield to rejoin the IDF. The sky was dark so there were no stars to guide us. The terrain had no distinctive markings and we had

no equipment to detect the enemy or landmines or other hazards. I volunteered to lead our group back through the Egyptian lines and my commander asked, “How will you find a safe passage?” I responded, “God will show me the way.”

As we moved out, I saw a very bright light in the distance and above the horizon. It was not like anything I had ever seen before. Much later, IDF rabbis asked me to describe it and I said I know what a tank projector looks like from 2 miles away. This was like a thousand times brighter. I simply led my men toward the light. But none of the other soldiers could see it. When the light shifted, I turned the men to the right and to the left, trusting that it would lead us to safety. My soldiers got nervous and asked, “How do you know? How do you know?” And I answered, “The light! The light!”



My soldiers became even more nervous, which I understand. They cried out again, “How do you know? This is stupid; impossible!” But I

But the goal of our command is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and an unhypocritical faith.

1 Timothy 1:5

knew that this was the light we had to follow. God was leading us. As it shifted and moved, I led my men through the enemy lines all the way to the sand dunes of Ismailia. And then the light suddenly vanished. I immediately understood that we were very close to our unit.

When my commander saw us walking out of the desert, he said, “I didn’t believe that one of you would get out of where you were alive.” But every soldier who was with me as I followed the light arrived safely.

Following the Light

Looking back even now, I say, “Praise the Lord for my father and mother!” They gave me a full understanding of what we believe. I will always talk about the Lord. I have lived to see a new generation of believers growing in Israel.

The world will say, “How do you know? This is stupid!” Other nations will look at Israel and say, “We didn’t believe you would survive!” But Israel will survive. And, if those who know Yeshua—Jesus—will follow His Light, we can lead others to life.

All we have to do is obey. God will see to it that we will not fall. Our enemy’s evil schemes will not even touch us. ☆



GOD'S COVENANTAL FAITHFULNESS TO ISRAEL IN **THE END TIMES**

Baruch Korman

I heard a popular Bible teacher state, “Throughout the history of Israel, covenant breaking, and disobedience and idolatry disqualified Israel from the present divine right to the Land (Daniel 9:4-7; Psalm 78:54-61).”

Oddly, this individual quoted from Daniel 9, for after speaking about God’s punishment upon Israel for their disobedience, idolatry and covenant breaking, Daniel states that such a punishment was temporary and that God was about to bring the people back to the Land which He had promised the Jewish people. Also in Psalm 78, God was certainly angry with His people, but Biblical prophecy makes it clear that in the End Times, God would indeed return the Jewish people to the very Land which He promised them by covenant. It is a gross error to believe that the Jewish people must be obedient to return to the Land. What one must remember is that God acts to fulfill His prophetic promises because of Who He is and not because of the obedience of His people.

Unbelief does not Negate the Faithfulness of God

When considering the return from Babylon, only a remnant came home to Israel. God brought them back because it was necessary for the Jewish people be in the Land for the first coming of Messiah Yeshua. Now, in our days, God is once again returning the people to the Promised Land in preparation for Messiah’s Second Coming.

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26



The prophet Ezekiel offers much information concerning these issues. He writes that God will not bring the Jewish people back to the Land in the End Times because of their purity; rather it will be in the Land that He will cleanse them. In other words, God Himself will bring a spiritual change to the people, but only after they have returned to the Land.

And they will not be unclean any longer in their idols and in their abominations and in all their transgressions, but I will save them from all their habitations which they sinned in them and I will purify them and they will become for Me a people and I will become for them God. (Ezekiel 37:23)

Ezekiel wrote these words over 2,500 years ago and it was for this reason he wrote these things in the future tense. This verse contains a sentence that appears numerous times in both the Old and New Testaments. This sentence is *"...and they will become for Me a people and I will become for them God."* These words represent the outcome of redemption, as only through redemption can a person have a relationship with God. Therefore, it should not be surprising that in the next verse, Ezekiel writes:

And My Servant David is King over them and One Shepherd will be for all of them and in My judgments they will walk and My statutes they will keep and will do them. (Ezekiel 37:24)

The David to which this verse refers is not David the son of Jesse, but the Son of David, Yeshua. He is the Redeemer and only He can bring about such changes to the Jewish people.

When looking at this verse (Ezekiel 37:24) in the original language, it states, "And My Servant David is King over them...." All English translations I could find, except Young's Literal Translation, place this in the future tense. The reason for the present tense is to reveal to the reader the outcome when Yeshua is ruling in the Millennial Kingdom. This prophesied righteous change is the sole result of Yeshua's work on the Cross and the redemption that the Blood of Yeshua brings. The point is that the Jewish people are returning to the Land of Israel not because of their faithfulness, but only due to God's faithfulness. He is bringing them back not because of their obedience and fidelity to the covenant, but to lead them to faith and obedience to His purpose.



Prophetic Ignorance Begets Bad Teaching

The major problem with those who teach that the Jewish people no longer have any divine right to the Land is that they ignore a plethora of Biblical prophecies which attest that God will indeed bring the Jewish people back to the very Land He promised their forefathers. Again, this event, which is taking place in our days, clearly indicates God's faithfulness and that we are approaching the End Times.

In 2022 alone, Jewish people returned to their homeland from 95 different countries. This is not by chance, but it is a strong example of the providence of God at work in our days. Again, David is mentioned a few times in Ezekiel 37. The context demands that the reader understand that it is the Messiah to Whom Ezekiel is referring. In verse 25, the Messiah is called a Prince. The Hebrew word that appears is אִישָׁן (nasiy), which is derived from the Hebrew word which can mean "to take away or to be lifted up". The Hebrew conveys to the reader that because Yeshua will take away the sins of the Jewish people in the End Times, He will be lifted up or honored. In modern Hebrew, this word is used for the term "President."

In Ezekiel 37:26, the Covenant of Peace is mentioned and also called an eternal Covenant. The word "peace" in Hebrew relates to the fulfillment of the will of God and the word "eternal" relates to the Kingdom. Hence, Yeshua Himself will bring a remnant

of the Jewish people to faith in the End Times. With this faith, they will join the rest of the believers in the Kingdom of God. A very important point is that God will not establish His Kingdom until the End Time remnant of Israel is saved. Crucially, God is returning the Jewish people to the Promised Land, not because of their faithfulness, but to bring them to faith. And it is His faithfulness that will cause this to take place.

A Testimony to the Gentiles

The chapter concludes with the following verse:

The Nations (Gentiles) will know that I am the LORD Who sanctifies Israel when My sanctuary is in their midst forever. (Ezekiel 37:28)

This means that even at this late hour in God's prophetic calendar, He will use the Jewish people as a witness to the Gentiles concerning the faithfulness of God. The Hebrew word that is first in this verse is יָדַעַן (ye-da) and it means to know by experience. There is another Hebrew word that could have been used—לְהִכִּיר (hikiyr), which refers to one only possessing knowledge of someone or something.

Ezekiel chose לָדַעַת (ye-da) to reveal that through God's prophetic plan concerning Israel, even right up to the Second Coming of Yeshua there will be some Gentiles who will come to faith and experience God's redemption. In other words, God's original plan to use the Jewish people to be a blessing to the Gentiles

And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Matthew 24:31

will be fulfilled in the End Times and the Land of Israel is foundational for this to take place.

God's Heart for His Land and His People

When studying the Scriptures, there is a strong emphasis on the Land of Israel and how it has and will play a significant role in the will of God. Failure to acknowledge this fact reveals an errant theology based upon the mind of man, rather than on the revelation of God through His inerrant Word.

We must remind ourselves that God will never forget His promises to the Jewish people. At the Second Coming of Christ, Yeshua will send forth His angels to gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to another (Matthew 24:31).

My hope is that there will be many Jewish individuals, who like myself, did not wait until the End Times to accept the Gospel, but who will receive the salvation that only Yeshua offers.

I came to know Him in 1982. My family returned to the Land over 20 years ago and now calls Israel home.

We do indeed serve a faithful God! ☆



Baruch Korman

Dr. Baruch Korman is the senior lecturer at the Zera Avraham Institute in Israel. His compelling lectures in English, Hebrew, and Spanish are available at loveisrael.org

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IS THE CURRENT STATE OF ISRAEL A FULFILLMENT OF **BIBLICAL PROPHECY?**

Mottel Baleston



Just over 100 years ago, all four of my Jewish grandparents were children living in Jewish villages in Eastern Europe. They grew up in fear of their antisemitic neighbors in the next village, who occasionally rampaged through the Jewish villages. Taught by institutional churches that had long departed from Biblical doctrine, these individuals would cry, “You killed Christ, and so we will kill you!” Of course, that statement is absolutely false, because Jesus Himself said “No one takes My life from me; I give it up willingly!” (John 10:18, CEV).

As a Jewish boy growing up in New York City, I knew religious loyalties most often divided along ethnic lines. The Italian kids in my public school were Catholic and believed in Jesus; I was Jewish and did not. When I found the true Gospel of the Bible at age 21, I realized that Jesus was a Jew who fulfilled all the Messianic prophecies of His First coming. As a born-again believer in Messiah Yeshua, I now understand what my grandparents did not: people who persecute Jews do not represent the person or teachings of Jesus. I now work full-time telling my own Jewish people about our Messiah. I also teach the Scriptures, and the following subject has been on my heart because it’s an area of confusion among some Christians.

Israel Reborn

The biblical prophecies concerning the resettlement of Jewish people back into the Jewish land of Israel were unimaginable just 120 years ago. Jews had been living comfortably in Europe for many years and America was starting to see significant Jewish immigration. The idea of going to Israel, mostly desert or swamp at the time, was unthinkable to most. Yet today the land is flourishing, the cities are full, and the Jewish population there exceeds all other countries combined. So, is the current state of Israel the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy? The full answer is a bit more complex than you realize.

One confusion is the name “Israel”—first given by God to Jacob. It can be used for the theocratic nation of the Old Testament which existed from approximately 1400 BC through 70 A.D., when the Romans obliterated the nation. Israel is also used to refer to the physical land in the Middle East, which the Romans called Palestine in an attempt to sever the relationship of the Jews (the children of Israel) with the Land. Today, the name Israel also refers to the modern Jewish state that declared independence in 1948.

Myopia in the Church

There are several wrong views about the State of Israel that exist within the evangelical Church today.



1 The first is called Replacement Theology, which claims that the Church acquired all of the positive and good promises to Israel, but the Jews get all of the negative results of disobedience. In this view, all the biblical promises regarding the future kingdom of Israel find fulfillment in a symbolic or allegorical way in the Church. First proposed within Roman Catholicism, this is now embraced by some evangelicals.

2 A second view asserts that there will be a future restoration of Israel, but that the current secular state of Israel has absolutely no significance since the Messianic kingdom will include a saved, believing nation. By this logic, the modern nation of Israel is simply an accident of history and not biblically relevant. This view is often found among Protestants who are liberal in their theology and politics and don't want to support Israel.

3 A third view holds that the current secular state of Israel is the actual nation of the Messianic Kingdom spoken of in the Bible. Advocates of this view believe that the secular nation will slowly and eventually come to faith. Although this viewpoint is growing among some Evangelicals, I believe it is also incorrect. It requires explaining away the fact that half of Israelis are not religious and do not live their lives according to the Old Testament—and that over 98% of them reject Jesus as Messiah.

All three views tend to emphasize a select few Bible passages, often pulled out of context, without considering Scriptures that clearly contradict their view.

Promises To Regather Israel

When the Bible is considered as a whole, Scripture makes clear that God Himself promised to bring the Jewish people back from the four corners of the globe to the Land of Israel. But the prophets anticipated two different regatherings:

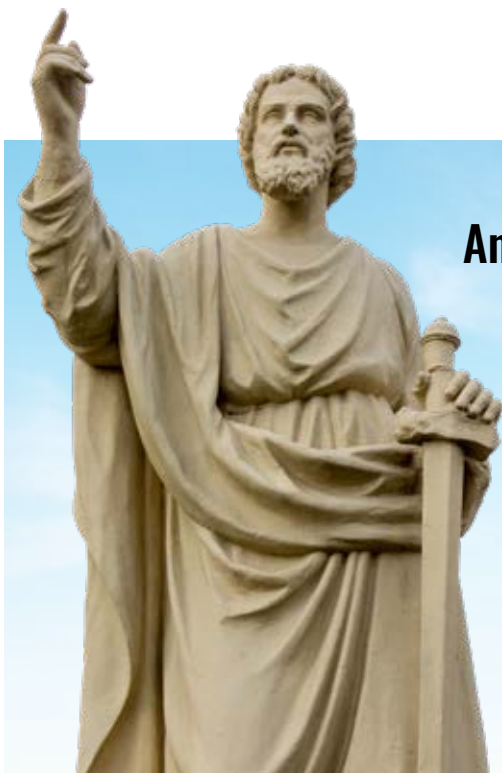
- ▶ the first in unbelief—in preparation for the judgments and difficult times described as the Tribulation (a seven-year period of time yet still in the future).
- ▶ the second of a saved, believing nation.

The key passage pointing to an initial regathering to the land in unbelief (in preparation for judgment) is Ezekiel 20:33-38. Ezekiel foresaw a worldwide regathering in unbelief—in the midst of wrath and difficult times. This is exactly what happened in large waves of immigration to the land that occurred from the 1890s through the establishment of the state in 1948. The greatest wrath was the Holocaust, dated from Kristallnacht in November 1938 through the liberation of the death camps in 1945.



Ezekiel 22:17-22 reiterates that the Jews will be regathered in the midst of wrath and not as believers.

Now a critical point: Isaiah 11:11-12 foretells two worldwide regatherings. The first was in unbelief, and we are in the midst of that still today. The second is a regathering in faith. Isaiah chapters 40, 61, 62, and 63 repeat the prophecy that the Jews would be regathered first in unbelief, then experience judgment, then all Israel would be regathered to the Lord through saving faith.



And so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,

**“The Deliverer will come from Zion,
He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”**

**“And this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”**

Romans 11:26-27

Paul explained prophetically that all Israel will be saved through faith in Messiah Jesus in Romans 11, which says:

I do not want you, brothers, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.” From the standpoint of the Gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God’s choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Romans 11:25-29)

National salvation for the Jews will come at a desperate moment toward the end of the Tribulation described in Zechariah 12:10: “and 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 it only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.” When the Jewish people cry out, “Baruch haba b'Shem Adonai” (Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD), the Messiah will return to earth to establish His Messianic kingdom.

The current state of Israel that we see in the Middle East is not an accident of history, nor is it the result of purely human effort by determined people. Rather, it is a key part of what God’s plan for the ages describes in the return of Messiah.

Recognizing that God has already sent Messiah Jesus to the Jewish people, let us be clear that the only hope for any individual, Jew or Gentile, is in the atonement provided by the blood of Messiah. That is my blessed hope, and I trust it is yours as well.

Shalom. ☆



Mottel Baleston

Mottel Baleston is a Messianic Jewish Rabbi who teaches in both English and Hebrew. He engages with Jewish and Gentile skeptics in a winsome and Christ-honoring manner.

WHAT IF ANCIENT RABBIS WERE CORRECT AND THE PROPHET ISAIAH WAS REFERRING TO THE MESSIAH IN ISAIAH 52:13—53:12?

“But He was wounded because of our sins, crushed because of our iniquities. He bore the chastisement

that made us whole; And by His bruises we were healed.”

—Isaiah 53:5 (JPS)

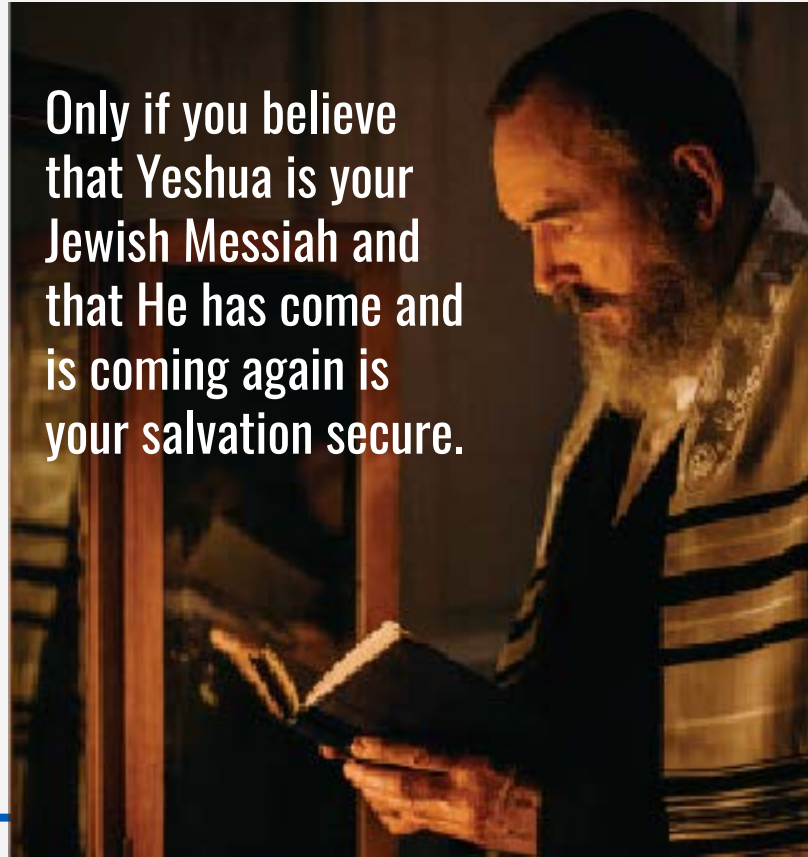


Aramaic Targum Isaiah 52

“Behold, My servant the Messiah shall prosper, he shall be exalted and extolled, and shall be very strong. As the house of Israel anxiously hoped for him many days, which was poor among the nations; their appearance and their brightness being worse than that of the sons of men.”

—Targum Jonathan, Isa. 52:13–14

Only if you believe that Yeshua is your Jewish Messiah and that He has come and is coming again is your salvation secure.



Sanhedrin 98b

What is his [the Messiah's] name? The Rabbis said: His name is “the leper scholar,” as it is written, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him a leper, smitten of God, and afflicted.”

—Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 98b

Provided by Dr. Igal German, Founder and Director of IBAA—a Lamb & Lion Ministries sister ministry



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IT BEGINS AND ENDS WITH ISRAEL

Robert Jeffress

Imagine you open to the middle of John Grisham's latest best-seller. Immediately you face unfamiliar names and locations. To make sense of the story you flip to the end. But the ending seems more confusing than the middle. You slam the book shut in disgust. Grisham has really lost his touch, you conclude.

This analogy is about as subtle as a sledgehammer. But it illustrates why so many people have trouble with Bible prophecy. To understand prophecy, we should not start in the middle of the Book—with Ezekiel and Daniel—or at the end—with Revelation. No, we should begin at the beginning—with Genesis.

It's there, in Genesis 12:1-3, that God makes a startling promise to a man named Abraham. All prophecy hangs on this promise, or "covenant." To better understand

this covenant, and how it relates to prophecy, let's look at the contents of the covenant, the character of the covenant, and the consequences of the covenant.

Content of the Covenant

The first thing God promised Abraham was Land. Abraham was born in the idolatrous city of Ur, around 2166 BC. In His sovereign grace, God called Abraham out of this lifestyle.

In Genesis 12:1 God says, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you." At the age of 75, Abraham uprooted his family and possessions and moved to a distant country he had never seen. It was only later, after Abraham had acted, that God provided the details of that land in Genesis 15:18-21.

God also promised Abraham a lineage to fill the land. Genesis 12:2 states, "And I will make you a great nation." Genesis 22:17 adds, "I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore." Remember, God made this promise to Abraham when he was 75 years old. Not only this, but his wife, Sarah, was barren. Yet God fulfilled this promise, giving them physical, and spiritual descendants beyond number.

In addition to a land and a seed, God also promised to make Abraham a lasting blessing. Genesis 12:3 states, "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." In this climax of the covenant, God was saying, "Through you Abraham, I will bring a Savior who will redeem the world." How do we get a Savior from Genesis 12:3? From the New Testament.

Galatians 3:8 states, “The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed in you.’” God preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Abraham. And Abraham was saved by it.

Galatians 3:6 tells us, “Even so, Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” People in the Old Testament were saved the same way we are: by God’s grace through faith. Abraham looked forward to Christ for salvation, and we look back to Him.

Character of the Covenant

We have seen that God promised Abraham a land, a lineage, and a lasting blessing. But were these promises symbolic? Were they temporary? Could they be lost? How we answer these questions determines how we view Bible prophecy. Thankfully, God’s Word gives us some answers.

First, God’s covenant with Abraham was literal. We see this from Abraham’s response. In Genesis 12:4-5 we read, “[Abraham] went forth as the Lord had spoken to him... and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.” If Abraham thought Canaan was only symbolic of Heaven, why did he go through all the trouble of moving to Canaan? Certainly, he was looking for Heaven as well, as Hebrews 11:10 states. But he was also looking for an earthly home. In addition to being literal, the covenant was eternal. Genesis 13:15 states, “All the land which you see, I will give it to you and your descendants forever.”

God placed no expiration date on the promise.

Finally, God’s covenant was unconditional. In Abraham’s day, kings would establish contracts by taking animals, splitting them in two, and placing the halves in two lines. The parties would then walk side-by-side through the animal pieces, holding a torch. This signified that the covenant was dependent upon each party keeping his end of the bargain. But when God ratified the agreement with Abraham in Genesis 15:9-21, only God passed between the pieces.

All the land which you see, I will give it to you and your descendants forever.” God placed no expiration date on the promise.

Genesis 13:15

This signified that the promise had nothing to do with Abraham’s obedience. It had everything to do with God’s faithfulness.

Genesis 13:15 states, “All the land which you see, I will give it to you and your descendants forever.” God placed no expiration date on the promise.

Consequences of the Covenant

So what does this have to do with prophecy? Since 1948 Israel has possessed the Promised Land—but not all of it. True, God sent a blessing to all the world through Jesus Christ. He rules right now in

the hearts of believers. But he’s not yet sitting on the throne of David in Jerusalem. That prophecy will still be literally fulfilled.

You may say, “I’m not Jewish. Why should I care?” Just as God made unconditional promises to believing Jews, He has made promises to you and me.

In John 10:28 Jesus said, “I give eternal life to them and no man shall snatch them out of my hands.” The God who can be trusted to keep His promises to Israel, is the same God we can depend on to keep His promises to us. We’ve seen that God’s promise to Abraham includes land, a lineage, and a lasting blessing. We’ve noted that the covenant was literal, eternal, and unconditional.

We know that part of it has not yet been fulfilled. And we know that God’s faithfulness to complete it demonstrates how faithful He will be to us.

We now know how the story begins. We are ready to dive into the middle and the end. And because of God’s faithfulness, we know it will have a Perfect Ending. ✨



Robert Jeffress

Dr. Robert Jeffress is the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Dallas and host of the weekly “Pathway to Victory” TV program.



SEND ME ONE JEW

Tim Moore & Reuven Doron

When I lead pilgrims to Israel, I always invite friends who are ministering in Israel to address our group. Some of these include Dan and Meg Price, who obeyed the Lord's calling and uprooted from Kentucky to serve Him in the Holy Land; Avi Mizrachi, who pastors a Messianic congregation in the heart of Tel Aviv; and Baruch Korman, a gifted teacher who engages with Orthodox Jews to expose them to the Gospel.

A few years ago, I was delighted to introduce our group to Reuven Doron. Reuven demonstrates the power of one Gentile praying to impact the life of one Jew who in turn touched many others. Here is his powerful testimony:

I was born in Israel and served in the Israeli Defense Force as a special forces commando. When my enlistment was up, I decided to go to America to attend school, seek my fortune, and sow some wild oats. To support myself, I picked up a few side jobs and launched a school for Hebrew.

What I did not know is that one of my Hebrew students had been praying every day for many years, "Lord, send me a Jew. Send me one Jew that I can share the Gospel with." When this man realized how arrogant and obstinate I was at that time, his prayer changed to: "Lord, send me a different Jew. This one cannot be the right one!"



Reuven Doron

But God knew differently. I was the right one, and his stubborn prayer of faith had been answered.

Eventually that Christian man rose to the challenge and began sharing with me about his faith in the Jewish Messiah—Jesus (or "Yeshua" in Hebrew). I put up strong opposition, but the powerful testimony of God's love and faithfulness

eventually made me jealous and sent me into a season of prayer and fasting to find out who is this amazing Messiah of Israel. Dramatically, I was born again and started a life of faith in Yeshua.

Today, I am the Director of Sar-El Academy and Ministry Relations. Sar-El is the faith-based Israeli tour company led by Messianic believers that coordinates pilgrimage tours for Lamb & Lion Ministries. I have the privilege of serving the Lord as an avid advocate for the Gospel—to Jew and Gentile alike!

Reuven Doron is still as strong and stout as he was as a special operations soldier in the IDF, but now he has embraced his new evangelical mission.

Reuven's story should motivate all of us to raise the same prayer as the man who shared the Gospel with him: "Lord, send me a Jew. Send me one Jew that I can share the Gospel with." We may not have to wait many years as that man did, but I believe the Lord will answer that prayer if that is your heart's desire—because it reflects a heart after His own. ☆



ISRAEL? SHOULD CHRISTIANS SUPPORT ISRAEL?

Nathan E. Jones

Since early in the 20th Century, God has been fulfilling promises today that were made to the Jewish people thousands of years ago. These promises rest on a series of legal agreements called covenants. The covenants were made between God and the Jewish people, and center on the land of Israel.

The cornerstone covenant—the Abrahamic Covenant—grants the title deed to the land of Israel to the descendants of the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This unconditional, irrevocable, and everlasting promise was literally sealed in blood (Genesis 12:1-7; 13:14-18; 17:7; 1 Chronicles 16:17-18; Psalm 105:8-11; Romans 9:4).

God's Land Covenant promises that Israel will one

day become the prime nation of the world, that is, as long as the Jewish people remain obedient to God (Deuteronomy 28:1,13).

The Davidic Covenant promises an eternal King who will descend from the line of King David. One day this Messiah will rule over the entire world from Jerusalem (2 Samuel 7:10-16).

These covenants are why for hundreds of years, Christians have believed, just because God said so, that we should naturally support the nation of Israel. Well, “Not so!”, says a particular group of Christians, Christians who meet at conferences with names like “Christ at the Checkpoint.” They question the legitimacy of these covenants and whether Christians should support Israel at all.

Myths Busted

Let's debunk seven of these naysayers' most popular myths for why Christians should not support the nation of Israel.

Myth #1:

"The Jews killed Jesus!"

Those who accuse the Jews of killing Jesus seem to have purposefully forgotten that the Bible says, "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel" (Acts 4:27-28).



So, not only did both Jews and Gentiles participate in murdering Jesus, but in truth, we are all sinners, and therefore all of us are responsible for Jesus dying on the cross. But, reality check, Jesus Himself clearly stated that He alone laid down His life and that no one took it from Him (John 10:15-18).

Myth #2:

"The Jews have been disinherited because of their unbelief."

The Jews may have been evicted from their land—twice—due to their rebellion against God. But, as Psalm 105 explains, God guaranteed in His Abrahamic Covenant that the land of Israel uncondi-

tionally and forever belongs to the children of Jacob. And, as the Apostle Paul argued in Romans 9-11, "Has God rejected His people? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite... God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew."

And so, no, God has neither disinherited the Jewish people nor revoked His land covenants.

Myth #3:

"The Church has replaced Israel and now receives her inheritance."

Not according to the Apostle Paul! He tells the story of an olive tree whose branches were pruned off due to unbelief, and wild vines grafted on (Romans 11). But, when the natural branches began believing again, they would be grafted back on the tree. Salvation may have come to the wild olive vines—the Church—but God still has salvation planned for the natural branches—a believing Israel who will call Jesus Savior.



Myth #4:

"The Jews regathering back to the land of Israel cannot be from God because they haven't repented and accepted Jesus as their Messiah."

The Jews returning to Israel in unbelief is precisely what God foretold would happen. Isaiah prophesied the Jews would be regathered a second time from the nations of the world, and Ezekiel made it

clear that the Jews would regather in unbelief for God Himself to give them a new heart for Him (Isaiah 11:10-12; Ezekiel 36:22-28).

It's no accident of history that a people dispossessed from their country for 1,900 years could ever have kept their ethnic identity and rebirthed their nation two millennia later. Such a thing has never happened! And this is the nation of the Bible we're talking about. Therefore, the regathering of the Jews can only be a miracle from God.



Myth #5:

"To support Israel is to support every action of the Israeli government."

Nobody supports every action of any government, even their own. Supporting Israel is to support God's redemptive work in bringing a remnant of the Jewish people to salvation in Christ and ultimately into the fulfillment of His covenants.

Myth #6:

"The Jews stole the Palestinians' land and live there illegally."

First off, the Abrahamic Covenant grants the Jewish people the eternal deed to the land of Israel.



Second, when the Jews began returning in the early 20th Century, there was no such thing as a Palestinian. The handful of Arabs living in that wasteland sold the land back to the Jews at exorbitant prices. Third, Israel was created legally in response to a United Nations declaration passed in November 1947 which authorized the establishment of a Jewish state in the land the Romans had renamed Palestine. You can't steal land that's already legally yours.

Myth #7:

"To support Israel is to hate the Palestinian people."

Contrary to Arab propaganda, those who call themselves Palestinians enjoy more freedoms and rights in Israel than if they lived in any Muslim nation. It's not the Jews who hate and abuse the Palestinians, but their own terrorist leaders who steal billions of their foreign aid and deny refugees access back to their home countries of Syria and Jordan.

Why, the Palestinians have been afforded several opportunities since 1948 to create another Palestinian state besides Jordan, but each time they have rejected those offers and instead responded with violence. Why? Because their ultimate

goal is the annihilation of Israel. So, who exactly hates who here?



Should Christians Support Israel?

With those myths busted, let's look at some of the reasons why Christians should support Israel.

1. Democracy

The nation of Israel is the only Western-style democracy in a sea of Islamic tyranny. Supporting Israel is to support the only nation in the Middle East that offers religious freedom and human rights to women.

2. Defense

Israel protects the West and Christianity by standing as the first line of defense against violent, radical Islam.

3. Economics

Israel contributes to the world a mind-boggling amount of food, medicines, and cutting-edge technologies that raise the standard of living around the world.

4. Blessing

When it comes to supporting the nation of Israel, God promised in Genesis 12, "I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse." Supporting Israel incurs God's blessing.

5. Biblical

It should go without saying that it is biblically correct for Christians to support God. Since God loves the Jewish people and wants them to return to Him, shouldn't Christians want this as well? Loving Israel expresses our love for God.

6. Prophetic

And finally, whether you love or hate the nation of Israel, or even the Jewish people, regardless of what we mere mortals think—Bible prophecy will be fulfilled. God's will will be done, and there's just no stopping it. After all, who could ever stand against the Living God and expect to win (Psalm 76:7; Hebrews 10:31)?

So, in conclusion, it's not "Should Christians support Israel?" but rather, "Christians must support Israel!" ☆

Most Gentile Christians think of Israel twice a year—at Christmas and at Easter.

Reflecting on Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, we tend to think of an old rugged cross "on a hill far away." Our mind turns to Jerusalem and the Passion of the Christ that took place there in the City of our Lord.

Christmas makes us think of shepherds watching over their flocks by night on a lonely hill south of Jerusalem. Once again, Jesus' birth is tied to a specific place in Israel. Old Testament prophets foretold that He would be born in Bethlehem—and not just any little town by that name. The Messiah was born in the city of David—Bethlehem, Ephrathah.

Today, Bethlehem is under the corrupt control of the Palestinian Authority. Anti-Jewish sentiment runs rampant in the city of Jesus' birth. . The Promised Land is once again embroiled in war as Israel battles satanic forces committed to its destruction.

As you sing hymns and carols celebrating Jesus' nativity this Christmas, consider that they point *forward* as much as they harken *back*. The everlasting Light shone in the streets of Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. We live anticipating the fulfillment of Emmanuel—God dwelling with us forevermore.



O Little Town of Bethlehem
O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!



UPCOMING

Farewell...

The end of 2023 will mark a bittersweet milestone for Lamb & Lion Ministries.

Rachel and Leo Houck will retire after a combined 52 years of service to the Ministry. As our Chief Operating Officer and Director of Services, their contribution to Lamb & Lion cannot be overstated.

When David Reagan passed the torch to me—Tim Moore—on June 1st, 2021, it was as if the Ministry underwent a head transplant. That transition went smoothly because it was bathed in prayer and because we maintained our commitment to the calling God placed on Dave's life in 1980.

For many years, Rachel and Leo have been at the center of day-to-day operations, the beating heart of all we do. They are the first at work in the morning and usually the last to leave in the afternoon—and not only because they live on site. Their selfless commitment to Lamb & Lion Ministries has been beyond compare.

Rachel and Leo intend to settle down close by and enjoy even more time with their grandchildren. Leo will probably try to golf more regularly—honing what is already a natural skill. He says that he plans to ride one more bull as a throwback to his younger days (if Rachel will let him). Rachel looks forward to driving the golf cart, traveling, and keeping Leo off the bull.

We will miss Rachel and Leo on a daily basis. But we are gladdened by God's perfect timing and faithfulness to bring new people to our team. We trust that collectively, they will fill all of the roles Rachel and Leo excelled at—printing and stuffing envelopes, planning and hosting our conferences, operating a television camera and acting as on-set director, overseeing staff, applying makeup on TV hosts and guests, caretaking the Ministry's property, carrying all our mail, serving as media technician, coordinating our television outreach, and countless other tasks.

Rachel and Leo have been good and faithful servants throughout their tenure at Lamb & Lion Ministries. We wish God's continued blessing on them.

—Tim Moore



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Tim Moore

NATURE

Dry conditions and strong winds combined to turn wild-fires on Maui into an inferno that ravaged the island paradise, destroying whole communities and driving people into the ocean to escape the flames.



From uncontrolled fires in Canada to earthquakes in Morocco and floods in Libya, cataclysmic disasters are striking with greater frequency in places unprepared to cope with such devastating natural calamities.



SOCIETY

Wayne Brady has proclaimed himself a “pan-sexual” and Barack Obama’s biographer has documented the former President’s past homosexual fantasies; our post-LGBTQ revolution society celebrated both stories.



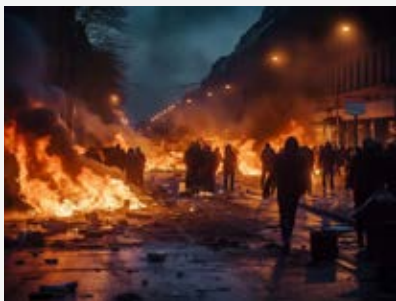
Canada, a British Commonwealth nation that was so conservative in the 1930s it would not tolerate the King of England marrying a divorced woman, reacted to the news of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s impending divorce with general apathy.



Each month, we select from signs multiplying all around us to highlight the increase in frequency and intensity of all the signs. By the time we go to print, some of the examples we offer have already been exceeded by others far more egregious and alarming. The trend is unmistakable for anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear—and a modicum of spiritual discernment. God is alerting His people to the lateness of the hour—and warning the unsaved to flee from the wrath to come.

SPIRITUAL

Unmoored from objective Truth and conditioned to embrace individual truth, America is beset with increasing anxiety, despair, and violent behavior—taking the civil out of civil society.



Five students praying at Alabama's Auburn University led to 5,000 people worshipping together in September. After the service, 200 were baptized on campus—to the outrage of groups like the militantly secular Freedom from Religion Foundation.



WORLD POLITICS

The Biden Administration, in an effort to secure a diplomatic win, announced that it would release Iranian assets worth \$6 billion to seal a deal to exchange American and Iranian prisoners.



A South African politician advocating for Black nationalism recently led thousands in a chant to “kill the white farmer,” inciting violence on top of violence. Western media outlets who are quick to cry “Racism” were equally quick to dismiss the incident.



TECHNOLOGY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) directed telemarketing computers can now carry on realistic conversations with unsuspecting victims, luring them into believing they are interacting with a real person.



Scientists are developing ink that can be tattooed onto human skin and act as a circuit to monitor body functions and transmit data to outside receivers.



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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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