

## Israel – God’s Linchpin

Today, like many of you, my heart is very heavy. It is heavy for God’s chosen people, the Jews, and the nation which he loves, Israel. My heart is filled with conflicting emotions. On one side it hurts for the innocent lives that have been lost – Jew and Palestinian. On the other side, it is enraged at the brutal, heartless animals of Hamas and Hezbollah.

Every moment it is becoming more and more clear that we are living in the times that the apostle Paul wrote about in 2 Thessalonians 3: 1 - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. In 1 Corinthians this same Apostle said about the days in which he lived “Now all **these** things happened unto **them** for examples: and **they** are written for our admonition, upon whom **the ends of the world** are come.” I can only imagine how loudly who would scream this now if he saw what you and I are seeing in our time.

Before I get into the meat of my message let me start by addressing an elephant in the evangelical room – why even talk about prophecy and current events...

**J. Barton Payne’s *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* lists 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament, for a total of 1,817. These encompass 8,352 verses.**

Approximately one-fourth of the Word of God was prophetic at the time it was written. The obvious conclusion any serious Bible student can make from this statistic is that if the Almighty devoted that much of His Word to the subject of prophecy, it certainly benefits every Believer to study it. The knowledge of Biblical prophecy produces the following important results:

### **The Bible’s Authority**

The detailed descriptions of coming events and their precise fulfillment validate that “Scripture is of divine origin, trustworthy, and to be studied with confidence.” All that man knows of God is recorded in His Word; without this assured foundation, we are nothing.

God Almighty inspired the writers of His Holy Word through the communion of His Spirit with the spiritual nature and intellectual abilities of man. Remember this truth: all Scripture is written by God; it is His voice and His authority.

## **The Bible's Accuracy**

The Holy Scriptures are not merely man's account of historical events— they are a living, accurate, and authoritative message from God to His people. Christ acknowledged the Scriptures in His earthly ministry by referring to the Old Testament writings as those things “spoken to you by God.”

There are 353 prophetic Scriptures in the Old Testament dealing with the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These accounts were recorded centuries before He came to earth, and every word has been fulfilled. Man, with all of his knowledge and with the assistance of all the technology afforded him, cannot come close to this degree of accuracy—only God can.

## **God's Wisdom**

Only the Almighty, in His infinite capacity, can inspire the compiled writings of sixty-six books that were penned on three continents in three different languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

The Holy Scriptures were chronicled by approximately forty people of diverse education and backgrounds, including kings, shepherds, scientists, attorneys, an army general, fishermen, priests, and a physician, most of whom never met.

This sacred masterpiece was written over a period of about 1,400 years, covering over 4,000 years of human history. There are 1,239 prophecies found in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament, for a total of 1,817, which comprise 8,352 verses.

## **God's Power**

The study of prophecy and its fulfillment reveals that God's powerful hand will stretch as far as needed to achieve His divine plan. The greatest proof of God's power lies within His Word and its fulfillment, which includes our personal redemption from sin and conformity to Christ's resurrection.

Remember this truth: God is power. His Word is power; therefore, when God speaks—it comes to pass!

## **God's Promises**

Consider the rebirth of the nation of Israel (Isaiah 66:8). Every major prophet in the Old Testament prophesied that God would bring the Jewish people “out of

their Gentile graves,” which were the nations into which the Jewish people had been dispersed following various conquests.

By May 14, 1948, when the United Nations officially recognized the State of Israel, over 800,000 Jews had fulfilled the prophecies of the ingathering. Currently, out of the 14.3 million Jewish people in the world, 43 percent of them reside in Israel; as of this writing, that equates to more than 6.4 million Jews.

Only God could have foreseen this miraculous ingathering and rebirth over 2,500 years before it began, and only God had the power to make it happen!

### **God's Purposes**

God Almighty demonstrates beyond any doubt that He knows the end from the beginning and is orchestrating the events on earth to fulfill His perfect plan. The study of prophecy provides a better understanding of the current economic and political events in the world that will bring the Antichrist to power.

### **God's Peace**

When Jesus spoke of His approaching death and resurrection with His disciples, they naturally became troubled. Many today are also troubled due to the disturbing world conditions. We are asking the same questions the disciples most likely asked themselves: “Who will defend us from our enemies?”

Jesus calmed their fears with these prophetic words:

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:2–3)

Because they had already witnessed the fulfillment of Scripture through the life and ministry of Jesus, the disciples believed Him when He gave the prophetic promise of His return.

Like the disciples and so many of God's people before them, we are also comforted by the fulfilled promises of prophetic Scriptures, which confirm that every event on earth occurs by divine design.

Beloved, right now there are so many passages of scriptures being fulfilled that even the most astute students of the Scriptures are having a difficult time digesting it. I want you to understand the seriousness of the hour and the excitement of the opportunity that you and I now live in... NOW to what is going on...

On October 7<sup>th</sup> as Israelis were wrapping up the seven-day-long Jewish festival of Sukkot on Saturday, sirens echoed across the country just before dawn, and citizens soon realized it was not a false alarm. A full-fledged surprise attack was being waged from the air, sea and ground by hoards of Hamas militants.

Thousands of missiles fired from Gaza streaked through the sky and began raining down on indiscriminate targets in Israel, sparking terror and leaving hundreds of bodies in the streets of cities and buildings decimated. Simultaneously, hundreds of armed fighters of the terrorist group, many on motorcycles, followed bulldozers that breached fences separating Israel from Gaza and charged into cities, taking Israeli soldiers off guard and gunning down citizens.

The lightning-quick, multi-pronged ambush also included dozens of Hamas militants in motorboats storming Israeli beaches and engaging in fierce firefights with Israeli forces. Other armed Hamas attackers swooped into Israel through the smoke-filled skies on paragliders.

As those under attack rushed to safe rooms and bomb shelters, groups of terrorists infiltrating the county marched into towns and into kibbutz after kibbutz, opening fire on homes and killing Israeli citizens at random. Militants burst into houses, shooting residents begging for their lives and taking others -- including women, children and the elderly -- hostage, driving the terrified captives back into Gaza as many of them screamed for help.

A music festival where hundreds of Israeli young people danced through the night into the break of dawn suddenly became a shooting gallery for the Hamas militants, who arrived in vans with their guns blazing, mowing down 260 partygoers and abducting others.

As of Oct. 14, the death toll in Israel stood at more than 1,300, officials said. Another 3,227 people were injured in Israel. Among the dead are at least 27 American citizens, John Kirby, spokesperson for the U.S. National Security Council,

said on Oct. 12. An undetermined number of Americans were taken hostage, U.S. officials said.

In Gaza, at least 2,228 people have died and more than 8,740 others have been injured since the retaliatory airstrikes by Israel began, the Palestinian Health Ministry said on Oct. 14. At least 724 of the dead in Gaza are children and 458 are women, the health ministry said.

The Hamas attack was launched on the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Yom Kippur War that pitted Israel against Egypt and Syria.

Now why is any of this important and why should you care? Why shouldn't it alarm you that right here in America there are pro Hamas demonstrations extoll these savage murders as some sort of historical heroes? Why is many in the media already turning their backs on the tiny nation of Israel, the only stable democratic state in the entire region? Does the Bible say anything at all about this?

I want to shout something from this microphone that every citizen of America needs to here – It will anger hell and it will infuriate the left wing communist that have filled our halls of higher education. It might even get me removed from this auditorium, but I have come to a fight this morning.

**WE MUST STAND AND FIGHT FOR THE NATION OF ISRAEL BECAUSE ISRAEL IS THE KEY TO AMERICA'S SURVIVAL!**

There is one verst that the White House down to the church house better hold onto:

Genesis 12:3 - And I will bless **THEM** that bless thee and curse **HIM** that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

**God has a perfect track record of keeping his promises.** This is backed up by a track record of several thousand years of human history. Yet despite God's demonstrated trustworthiness, America's leaders in recent years have rationalized and justified their way into denying Israel the free expression of her sovereignty as a nation. America has tolerated and even climbed in bed with some of Israel's fiercest

enemies Who have openly declared that their goal is to drive the Jewish people from their homeland and scattered them back into their pre 1948 homes around the world. They have boldly declared that they want to exterminate them altogether. Recently our current administration gave one such enemy, the Iranians, 6 billion American taxpayer dollars for prisoner exchange. Before the money could even get off the press, they admittedly funded the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack. Our administration knows all too well that Iran is a bad actor on the global front, yet we insist on playing footsie with them. **President Biden and the United States Congress we demand that our 6 billion dollars be seized and returned to the American people right now!**

No nation should take lightly the promise of God in genesis 12:3 - if for no other reason than for self-preservation. Even if American leaders don't fully understand or agree with the Judeo-Christian teachings of the Bible matching up genesis 12:3 with the thousands of years of history involving Israel should be convincing enough.

**Bless Israel and you will be blessed, curse Israel and you will be cursed!**

**What is so special about Israel? To answer that question, we must look how Israel began as a nation:**

Israel is called God's chosen people because God chose a person – Abraham. Instead of choosing an existing nation God chose a man and created the nation. Through him and his wife that nation became God's chosen people.

**Psalm 33:12 - Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.**

**Why did he choose Israel?**

There was nothing in Israel that caused God to embrace her as his people. Moses spoke the words in Deuteronomy 7 to a new generation of Israelites whose parents had been poverty stricken for over 400 years as slaves in Egypt. Israel became God's chosen people for two reasons. #1 because of a promise that God made to Abraham centuries before and #2 because of God's faithful love and keeping his promises:

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 - <sup>6</sup>“For you *are* a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; <sup>8</sup>**but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers,** the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments...”

Here is the promise:

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Child of God, I want you to see clearly that this passage contains a very serious word of warning that we all need to consider. We also need to consider some other questions: Why is Israel so important to God? Why does God insist on protect her and promises to take action against ever enemy?

**Here is the answer: “And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

- Through Israel God gave us his word
- Through Israel God gave us the law which is the basis of our Jurisprudence in every free nation in the world
- Through Israel, he gave us a savior.
- It may rarely become international news, but in Israel it seems almost weekly we hear about a new invention from an Israeli company being welcomed into the medical world. From a laser that can shatter kidney stones without surgery, to a wearable exoskeleton that allows the paralyzed to walk again, to bones that can be grown from a patient’s fat cells, the accomplishments are both lifesaving and jaw-dropping. Israeli ingenuity has been proven in fighting everything from the common cold to cancer.

- For years babies have benefited from the close care of the non-radiation cordless baby sensor that monitors their movement and breathing
- Israelis are often the first ones on scene when a natural disaster strikes around the world.
- To conserve water, Israel's drip system, invented in 1965 and now used globally, consumes a fraction of the water that traditional watering methods use.
- If you've ever researched "Jews in the Arts" you are probably aware of the many well-known actors/singers/painters who were, and are, Jewish.
- Ageless songs like, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" were written by Jews, and the latter is rumored to have been written about Israel. Irving Berlin wrote scores of songs—so many of them incredibly famous—like "God Bless America" and yes, "White Christmas."
- Then there is Bob Dylan, known to be a Messianic Jew, who won a Nobel Prize for his music and lyrics. In fact, the list of musicians is a mile long: Judy Garland, Paul Simon, Barbra Streisand, Neil Diamond, George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein for a start. From the smooth vocals of Lenny Kravitz to the crass persona of the band Kiss, to the modern sounds of rapper Drake, the Jewish influence on music spans across every genre. The percentage of comedians and entertainers is way over the top compared to the total number of Jews in the world.
- Israel's most extensive list of accomplishments is likely in the field of hi-tech. There's a running joke among Israelis who scoff at the impossible mission anti-Israel activists take on when they commit to boycotting Israel—since many of today's common tech devices such as computers, cellphones and a good amount of the software that runs them were either invented by or are currently run by Israeli companies.
- Incidentally, out of 892 Nobel Prizes awarded, 201 or 22.5% were presented to Jews, a mere 0.2% of the world's population. How do you account for that?

## WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY ISRAEL – AND SO HAS THE ENTIRE WORLD

People who stand in the way of Israel's future and their prosperity stand in the direct path of the judgment of God. History gives us the tragic story of what



happens to anyone individually or nationally who puts themselves in that unenviable position.

We not only see **God's promise to Israel**, but we can also see **God's Providence concerning Israel**:

So I'm sure that you're sitting there right now wondering what does all of this have to do with what is happening right now between Israel, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran? Well I'm glad that you asked.

**Part of God's promise and Providence concerning Israel is the guarantee of land.** A land in which he and his descendants would dwell. That land was known as Canaan when Abraham first arrived, and it became known as the promised land when Israel walked in following the exodus out of Egypt.

Not only did God promise to Abraham the land from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates, but he also promised it to Abraham's son Isaac, and he promised it to Isaac's son Jacob, and he promised it to Jacob's 12 sons who became the nation of Israel. Israel prospered in this land especially under her great kings David and Solomon. But after a while Israel fell away from God and backslid. God stepped in and allowed the Jewish people to be conquered and dispersed throughout all the nations of the world until Israel began moving back into their land in 1948 following World War 1 under the British mandate of Palestine. Following World War 2 tension developed between the Jews and the Arabs who were living in the land. They did not then, nor do they now, recognize Israel as a nation and the Jewish people's right to this land.

This is the essence of this conflict. And right now, all over America there are pro Hamas demonstrations because our young people are ignorant to whom the land actually belongs. The colonizers are not the Jews, the colonizers are actually the people who moved into that land when the Jews were dispersed by other nations. The Jewish people were the victims of colonization until 1948 when God gave birth to them once again as a nation and allowed them to return to their land.

Jeremiah 23:7-8 - <sup>7</sup>“Therefore, behold, *the* days are coming,” says the Lord, “that they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ <sup>8</sup>but, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the

descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

The regathering of the Jewish people into their homeland starting in 1948 is without a shadow of a doubt the single biggest sign that you and I are people a prophecy. And that we are living in what the Bible calls the last days.

Here is the bottom line - **This land belonged to God first and he gave the land to Abraham and his descendants - the Jewish people.**

In 1948 the League of Nations followed by its successor The United Nations declared this is Israel's land. Israel is not taking land that she does not deserve she is occupying the land that was given to her by God. Israel remains to this day the apple of God's eye and **Woe to any nation who tries to oppose that including the United States of America.**

Thomas Newton was the Bishop of Bristol England from 1761 to 1782 and he was an expert in biblical prophecy. He summarizes the warning that accompanies Israel:

**The preservation of the Jews is really one of the most signal and illustrious acts of divine Providence... and what but a supernatural power could have preserved them in such a manner as none other nation upon earth hath been preserved. Nor is the providence of God less remarkable in the destruction of their enemies, than in their preservation... We see that the great empires, which in their turn subdued and oppressed the people of God, are all come to ruin... And if such hath been the fatal end of the enemies and oppressors of the Jews, let it serve as a warning to all those, who at any time or upon any occasion are for raising a clamor and persecution against them. – Thomas Newton**

So let me close today by looking and this group of people called Hamas. Psalm 83 prophecies the events that we're seeing unfold today. It speaks of a time in which Israel's immediate enemies in territories on their border will rise up against them to destroy them. Israel, in a move of self-preservation, will have to take those territories back and subdue those terrorist groups. What you are witnessing right now is Psalm 83 in fulfillment, or at least the beginning of it.

Two of those terrorist groups are located to the north and the South of Israel: Hamas to the South and Hezbollah to the North. Both of them are funded, trained and armed by the Iranian regime.

"The Zionist Regime of Israel faces a dead-end and will under God's grace be wiped off the map," and "The Zionist Regime that is a usurper and illegitimate regime and a cancerous tumor should be wiped off the map."

"We will support and assist any nation or any group anywhere who opposes and fights the Zionist regime, and we do not hesitate to say this, Palestine Will Be Free. **The final solution**"

Hamas is mentioned 4 times in the Bible – translated as violence or wrongdoing:

- Psalm 7:16
- Ezekiel 7:11
- Habakkuk 1:3

Genesis 6:11 – <sup>11</sup>The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with **violence**. (Hamas)

- Matthew 24:37 - <sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Altar: Prayer for Israel and Salvation