

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



Lamplighter

LAMB & LION MINISTRIES
a Non-Denominational Christian Media Ministry

JAN/FEB 2024



RAGING RULERS OF DARKNESS



LAMB & LION
MINISTRIES
STANDS WITH ISRAEL

Lamplighter

January/February 2024

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Lamb & Lion Ministries

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Observations from the Editor

October 7, 2023. A date that will live in infamy.

Those words take many of us Americans back to December 7, 1941. Franklin D. Roosevelt chose words to describe the surprise attack of the Imperial Japanese Navy on American military forces in Pearl Harbor.

How can we describe the brutal and intentional slaughter of hundreds of Israeli men, women, and children? What righteous indignation can be aroused to oppose the satanic hatred that motivates terrorists and their Jew-hating apologists around the world?

As this magazine goes to print, Israel is embroiled in a war unlike anything it has experienced in its 75-year existence as a modern nation. The existential threats that Israel overcame in 1948, 1967, and 1973 were only foreshadows of the metastasized cancer of hate and violence that it faces today.

We had intended this edition of the *Lamplighter* to revisit God's prophetic Word. But the onslaught of recent events demonstrates that God's prophetic Word is still being fulfilled right before our eyes. Because He has chosen to reveal the end of all things, we can be certain that He is still in control—and that His Will *will* be done.

Last month I urged you to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. This month I want to ask you to pray for the Jewish people—both collectively and by name if possible. Pray for Israeli Jews as they fight for their lives amidst the faltering support of a world that will quickly and inevitably turn against them once again.

In the days immediately following October 7th, I released a statement citing Psalm 59:1-3 and Psalm 7. After imploring the Lord to deliver him from the evil of the wicked, David affirms his everlasting hope in God's sovereignty and righteousness:

"I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High" (Psalm 7:17, NASB).

As all who trust Him can testify, if you put your faith in Him, "The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save" (Zephaniah 3:17, NIV 1984).



Tim Moore
Executive Editor
Director | Sr. Evangelist
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THE RAGE OF MY ADVERSARIES

Tim Moore

In the classic musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye looks to heaven and exclaims, “I know, I know. We are Your chosen people. But, once in a while, can’t You choose someone else?”

Most of us have never been viscerally hated for who we are. We have not lived alongside people indoctrinated to proclaim their greatest aspiration is to eradicate our nation and our families. Welcome to the reality of Israeli Jews.

On October 7th, the long-declared intention of Hamas was carried out with murderous results. For

several horrifying hours, Hamas terrorists and other Palestinian opportunists rampaged in southern Israel. They massacred over 1,400 innocent lives. Scores of men, women and children were set afire, wounded, raped, and kidnapped. They drug them back to Gaza, imprisoning them in an underground labyrinth of terror tunnels. Even at this moment, the lives of 137 hostages still hangs in the balance.

To understand the biblical and prophetic implications of this attack—and the ensuing War in Gaza—we need to consider the who, what, when, where, and why.

Who

The terror organization behind this most recent atrocity is Hamas. The word “Hamas” is an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Isamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement). It emerged in the 1980s as a spin-off of the Muslim Brotherhood. Palestinian cleric Sheikh Ahmed Yassin brought the militant activism of the Muslim Brotherhood from Egypt to the West Bank and Gaza after the Six Day War in 1967.



Following the first Intifada (launched in 1987 by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat), Sheikh Yassin asserted Hamas’ political influence. He initially stood in opposition to both Arafat’s Palestinian Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, but demonstrating a willingness to engage in dramatically more violent attacks against Israel. In 1988, Hamas published its charter promising a “very great and very serious” struggle against the Jews. It committed itself to vanquishing the enemy in order to “raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine.”

The single-minded fixation of Hamas—along with Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Islamic State (or



ISIS)—to annihilate the Jews has, at times, led to pitched rivalries with their fellow Muslims. That is why Hamas competed with Fatah (the political wing of the Palestinian Authority) for control of the Gaza Strip in 2005 when Israel unilaterally withdrew its military under pressure from the Bush Administration. Following Arafat’s death, the PA was no competition for Hamas’ more extreme ideology. As it consolidated power, Hamas militants murdered Fatah leaders. Tellingly, a majority of Palestinians in Gaza affirmed Hamas’ radical leadership, handing Hamas 56% of the seats in their Gazan parliament.

Almost immediately, Hamas demonstrated its intention to incite more violence against Israel. It quickly drew the ire of even Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. Egypt had firsthand knowledge of the radical Muslim Brotherhood and its destabilizing influence in its own country, and did not want any part of an even more dangerous organization.

Fast-forward to this past October. Some in the West expressed shock that Hamas had squandered millions in aid intended to benefit the people of Gaza in pursuit of its war against Israel. While the Gazans continue to live in squalor, Hamas militants amassed thousands of rockets, built 300 miles of terror tunnels, and prepared to launch its all-out attack on Israel. But Hamas

spokesman Taher El-Nounou was quite candid when he confessed, “Hamas’s goal is not to run Gaza and to bring it water and electricity and such. I hope that the state of war with Israel will become permanent on all the borders, and that the Arab world will stand with us.”

Although fraught with internal divisions of their own, the major Arab nations around Israel have declined to adopt the radical position of Hamas. In fact, they have made it rather clear that they would like to see Israel excise this infectious cancer. Exceptions have included Syria—a long-standing and rabid foe of Israel, Yemen, and Qatar. Qatar has been particularly duplicitous throughout, because they allow the string-pulling heads of Hamas—Ismail Haniyeh, Moussa Abu Marzuk, and Khaled Mashal—to live in luxury and security. American news outlets have reported that those three Hamas leaders are worth over \$11 Billion. They have enriched themselves while relegating the Palestinian people to refugee camps and poverty, even as they funnel millions toward terror against Israel and the West.

But as evil as Hamas is, it is not alone. Hezbollah has overrun south Lebanon and has even more weapons, more fighters, and more support from the financier of most Middle Eastern terrorism today: Iran.



From a biblical perspective, Hamas and Hezbollah would consider themselves Arab organizations. As such, they trace their lineage back to Abraham's son Ishmael. In Genesis 16:11-12, God told Hagar that her son would be a "wild donkey of a man" and that "his hand will be against everyone." To this day, that prophetic word lives on in an oft-quoted Arab proverb:

ME AGAINST MY BROTHERS. ME AND MY BROTHERS AGAINST MY COUSINS. ME AND MY FAMILY AGAINST THE TRIBE. ME AND MY TRIBE AGAINST THE WORLD.

What

Many of the details of October 7th are well-established. In a surprisingly coordinated attack, Hamas militants pierced the security fence separating Israel from Gaza and rampaged through several Israeli towns and villages. They quickly overwhelmed a local military outpost and police station, rendering the civilian population defenseless.

Many people have speculated on how Hamas could plan such a complicated mission without the vaunted Israeli intelligence organizations getting wind of the plan. But Hamas' operational security was exceeded only by their audacity and blood-lust. Utilizing drone technology, paragliders, sea-borne craft, and motorcycle-mounted gunmen, Hamas terrorists first blinded the electronic monitoring equipment and then began their murderous rampage.

An inevitable Israeli investigation will determine just how such an intelligence failure occurred. From a military perspective, it is obvious that Israel's reliance on high-tech gear and smug self-confidence in the face of constant boastful but unfulfilled threats led them to gradual complacency. There is another uniquely Western attitude that was certainly at play: an inability to recognize that the enemy is as ruthless as their words indicate.

So, when the first wave of militants blinded the IDF's local surveillance equipment (and reports are already being circulated that women IDF soldiers monitoring that equipment warned of a possible attack but were ignored), following waves were able to range throughout the region of Israel surrounding Gaza with no resistance.

What has also become obvious in recent weeks is that scores of Palestinian civilians streamed through breaches in the border fence to engage in atrocities. Some of the most horrific mutilations of dead Israelis was at the hands of those radicalized Gazan civilians.

Once again, it is difficult to understand hatred that is incited from birth. We cannot conceive of teaching our children that their greatest aspiration should be to die while killing Jews. But that is the undeniable ideology of those who cheered when Hamas terrorists brought dead, wounded, and helpless people back to Gaza from their assault into Israel.

When

The Israel-Hamas war began October 7—exactly 50 years and a day after Egyptian and Syrian forces launched the Yom Kippur War—but

the reverberations continue to this day. It is likely that the War in Gaza will continue for some time. For its part, Israel has been clear about its intention to destroy Hamas—a feat that will take months or years to accomplish (if it can be done at all).



What complicates every war Israel has fought is the pressure that is brought to bear by the world at large. In 1948, the world did not intervene when Israel was threatened with annihilation by five Arab armies. In 1956, Great Britain and France did not keep Israel from bearing the brunt of Egypt's attacks, even though the two countries themselves instigated the war in a secret pact with Israel.

Again in 1967, the world did not feel any compulsion to intervene when Abdel Nassar was falsely claiming to be devastating the Jewish nation. However, when it became obvious that Israel had gained the upper hand over the forces of Egypt, Syria and Jordan, the United Nations got involved, insisting on a cessation of hostilities.

Even in 1973, the United States only intervened once it became apparent that Israel was in such dire straits that it was considering a nuclear option. And the rest of the world only became concerned and demanded a ceasefire when Israel turned the tide against Egypt and Syria, and was driving toward Cairo and Damascus.

This war is no different. The outpouring of support for Israel from the West has already waned dramatically. America and its European allies are alarmed at the possibility of this conflict widening to encompass the entire Middle East. And they are all mired in internal protests from loud and violent Muslim and Progressive agitators. President Biden, who declared “America stands with Israel” when they began their own just war, has wavered in his support due to political pressure from Leftists in the Democratic party. He has even apologized for calling out Hamas’ lies.



The self-proclaimed “Squad” stands with Hamas

By mid-November, I became personally aware that the Biden Administration is actively blocking the transfer of defensive gear like bulletproof vests and helmets to Israeli civilians. So much for President Biden’s pledge to stand with Israel.



Prophetically, we know that the remaining Jewish Diaspora will be motivated to return home to Israel. This war may spark a mass Aliyah. We also know all the nations of the world will come against Israel in the End Times. Rising Antisemitism in the West is providing the motivation for the Diaspora to return, and the rapidly shifting sands of political expediency demonstrates why the nations will turn against God’s Chosen People when they are fully regathered to their ancient Homeland.

The accelerating pace of world events is yet another sign that we are living in the End Times. The wars forecast in Scripture may materialize very soon—and in rapid succession.

But this moment in time also demonstrates that the ramifications of this war extend far beyond the borders of Gaza or Israel.



Where

We often tell people that Israel is about the size of New Jersey. A better reference might be the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, both in size and in population. Compared even to Israel, Gaza is tiny—just over 17 square miles (by comparison, Manhattan is almost 23 square miles).

In terms of population, Gaza is home to just over 2 million Palestinian Arabs (Manhattan only has 1.6 million people). The fact that the world’s attention is focused on Israel and Gaza is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Zechariah foresaw that the nations of the world would become fixated on the land around Jerusalem—and that they would come against Jewish people regathered there (Zechariah 12:2-3; 14:14-16).

Today, billions of dollars in US military assets and thousands of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are arrayed around Israel, offering demonstrable proof that Israel is once again at the center of the world’s attention. The war raging in Gaza and threatening to escalate into a regional conflict is already causing skirmishes around the globe.

In every nation where Jews and Muslims have immigrated, protests and riots have ensued in recent weeks. What began as an initial outpouring of support for Israel and solidarity with the Jewish people quickly turned into Antisemitic outrage. And in places where sizeable Muslim populations are located, the rage of

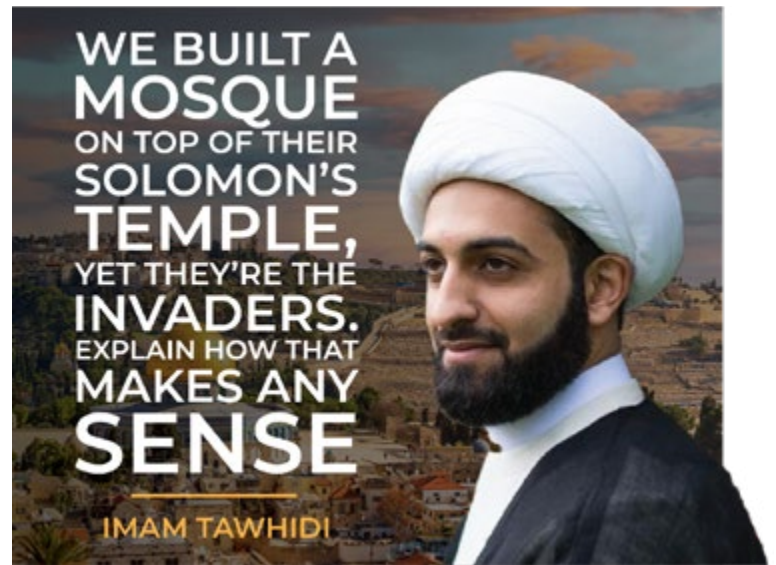
Hamas has been echoed in the frenzy of its unapologetic supporters and their fellow travelers.



Here in America, security experts have warned that terrorist sleeper cells, Palestinian agitators, and radicalized individuals are poised to spark their own Intifada (violent uprising). Unlike past wars that largely took place “over there” in distant lands, the war on Jews and those who support the Jewish state will ensue wherever masses stoked to hate God’s chosen people live.

Regardless of the turmoil that lies ahead, we can be certain that the satanic effort to destroy Israel will fail. God promised to “assemble the banished ones of Israel, and [gather] the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isaiah 11:12). And having regathered them, He promised, “I will also plant them on their own land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them” (Amos 9:15).

Despite Palestinian propaganda and lies, the Jewish people will continue to live and thrive in their Land—the Land God gave them.



Why

In addition to God’s prophetic word regarding Ishmael and his descendants, there is another tragic prophetic passage that explains the unceasing animosity of the “Arab” people living in and near Israel. When the Hebrew nation entered the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, they were told to act as agents of God’s judgment against the sin of the Amorites. Those pagan people had offended God by horrifically sacrificing their children to false gods. (* America take note!)

The Children of Israel started strong as God’s agents to purify the Land, but soon grew weary of their task and became intermingled with those idol-worshipping Canaanites. So God declared, “I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you” (Judges 2:3). The people wept when they heard that pronouncement, and over 3,000 years later, their descendants are still beset by thorns close at hand.

Much of the ancient animosity between the children of Israel (Jacob) and Esau (let alone Ishmael) is based on resentment and jealousy. Because God blessed Isaac instead of Ishmael, and bestowed a blessing on Jacob instead of Esau, the unchosen Arabs have been jealous of the Chosen Jews. Islam merely added fuel to the fire. Mohammed sanctioned killing Jews because they rejected his new religion worshipping Allah.

Palestinians take that animosity to new heights. They consider the modern state of Israel to be a catastrophe (called the Nakba in Arabic). Outcast by the rest of the Muslim world and used as pawns in the 75-year struggle against the “Zionist Entity,” the Pales-

tinians have focused their anger on the Jews instead of their Arab kin—even when Arab states like Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon have abandoned and persecuted them dramatically.

Ironically, in spite of exporting unrest and terror for generations, the Palestinians have become a cause célèbre in many parts of the world, while the Jews have become despised and hated. Thomas Sowell provided insight to this trend when he responded to a Jewish friend's inquiry on why the Jews have become so hated. Sowell responded that the Jews “not only succeed, they succeed in a way which is a threat to the egos of other people.” Sowell's advice to his friend seeking to minimize hostility to the Jews? “Fail. Because as long as you succeed, you're going to be hated.”



The mindset of people so consumed by hate is beyond the comprehension of most Westerners. Witnessing the self-destructive ideology of those determined to destroy Israel, Golda Meir said, “Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us.”

Waiting for the Prince of Peace

While the word “*Hamas*” is an acronym for the terrorist organization that controls Gaza, it is also a word in both Arabic and Hebrew. In Arabic the word means “zeal that is manifest in exuberant rage.” In Hebrew the word means “violence.” Many Gentile Christians would be surprised to learn that the word actually appears in Scripture. Genesis 6:11 says, “Now the earth

“I will also plant them on their own land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them.”

Amos 9:15

was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with *hamas* (violence).”

Jesus said in Matthew 24:37 that the coming of the Son of Man will be “just like the days of Noah.” Corrupt and filled with violence—sounds like a fitting description of our sin-weary world.

Many centuries ago, King David also found himself surrounded by enemies seeking his life. He understood the sting of animosity and hate, and prayed, “deliver me from those who do iniquity and save me from men of bloodshed. For behold, they have set an ambush for my life; fierce men launch an attack against me” (Psalm 59:1-3, NASB).

In Psalm 7 (a fitting Psalm I read the morning of the Hamas attacks), David began, “O LORD my God, in You I have taken refuge; save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me, lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver” (v. 1-2). In verse 6 he cried out, “Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; lift up Yourself against the rage of my adversaries, and arouse Yourself for me; You have appointed judgment” (NASB). And in verse 9-10, he says, “O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; for the righteous God tests the hearts and minds. My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.”

In another great testimony of faith in the “LORD my salvation”, David declared, “Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident” (Psalm 27:3, NASB). He concludes that Psalm in a way that resonates in the hearts of all of us who await Jesus' soon return!

Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalm 27:14, NASB

We will be strong and courageous—while we wait... ☆



DECEPTIVE SLOGANS IN THE PROPAGANDA WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

Dr. David R. Reagan

The pro-Palestinian demonstrations that have broken out across our nation are full of signs containing slogans that are either blatantly untrue or completely misleading. Consider the following:

“Set Palestine Free From the River to the Sea.”

Based on the interviews of people chanting this slogan, it appears that many have no idea what it means. In the first place, Americans who have always been geographically challenged, have expressed no knowledge of what river or sea they are talking about!

And when they are told that the chant refers to the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, they still don't get the point that it is talking about the annihilation of the state

of Israel. It's just a nice-sounding chant that rhymes.

For those who do understand the meaning of the slogan, it is an expression of appalling Anti-Semitism.

“End Apartheid in Israel!”

This is a slogan that garners massive support, but the slogan expresses a total lie. There is no Apartheid in Israel. None! Zilch! Nada!

Two million Palestinians live in Israel. They are citizens of Israel, and as such, they have complete freedom to live where they please and to use any hospital or means of transportation. There is no enforced separation of Jews and Arabs of any type that exists in Israel.

Arab Israelis have the right to vote and to serve in the Israeli parliament (the Knesset). They also

have access to all the welfare services of the state. They have every freedom that the Jews have. In fact, they have been given a freedom Jews do not have! All Jews, except the small percentage of Ultra-Orthodox, are required to serve in the military — both men and women. Palestinian citizens are exempted from this requirement, although some voluntarily serve in non-combat positions.

The only Apartheid that exists in the Middle East is in the Arab countries where all their Jewish populations were forcibly evicted after the Suez War in 1956. The fact of the matter is that

**NO JEWS ARE
ALLOWED TO LIVE IN
ARAB NATIONS.**

That is true Apartheid!

“Free Palestine from Colonial Oppression.”

This is sheer nonsense. The Jewish people are not colonialists. They are not outsiders who have taken over someone else’s land. The land they currently occupy (and much more they do not yet occupy) was given to them by God as an eternal possession (Genesis 12:1-3, 7, 15:14-15; 16:18; 26:3; 28:4, 13; 35:10-12; Exodus 6:7-8 and Psalm 105:8-11).

The Jews occupied this gift of God 3,500 years ago and lived there for 1,500 years until they were forcibly ejected from the land by the Assyrians and the Romans. After their final ejection in 70AD, the land laid vacant and desolate for 2,000 years. The few Arabs who lived there considered themselves to be Syrians because most of the land was owned by absentee Syrian landlords.

During this long time span, the land was never an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. In short, there was never a Palestinian state with a Palestinian government. Nor was there a Palestinian language or culture.

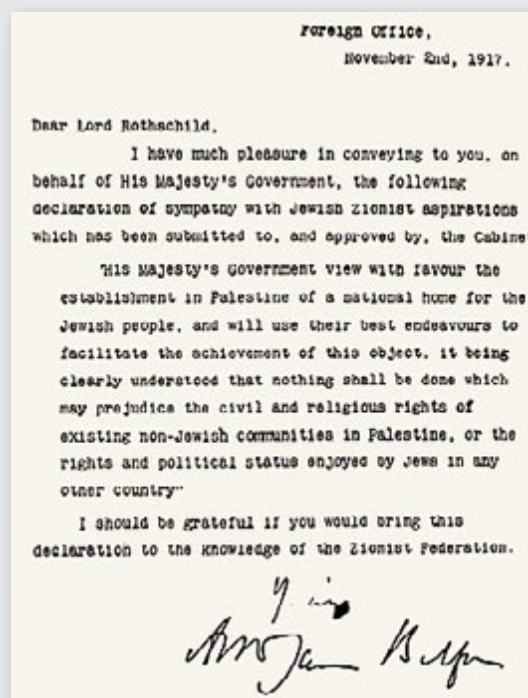
When the Jews began to return to their homeland in the late 1890s, they bought the land at exorbitant prices. The land was so desolate that the Arabs could not figure out why the Jews wanted it so badly. For example, by 1900 nearly all the trees in Israel had been cut down. This was due to the fact that the Turkish empire taxed trees. In the 20th century, as the returning Jews began to reclaim the land, they started replacing the forests and ended up planting more than 250 million trees during the century!

“End 75 Years of Occupation.”

Israel is not an occupying power. The land they are “occupying” was not only given to them by God, it was also legally granted to them by the United Nations.

At the end of World War I, the area which was known as Palestine was simply a province of the Ottoman Empire of Turkey. Since the Turks sided with Germany during World War I, the victorious allies decided to dismantle the Ottoman Empire by dividing its pieces between the British and the French. The area called Palestine was assigned to the British and they later began to rule it as a League of Nations Mandate.

A year before the end of World War I, the British issued the Balfour Declaration in November of 1917. In it they made it clear that their intention was to make Palestine into a homeland for the Jewish people. At that time, Palestine consisted of the territory that today includes Israel plus Jordan.



But in 1921, the British Colonial Secretary, Winston Churchill, decided to give two-thirds of Palestine to the Arabs to establish the Mandate of Transjordan. This area received its full freedom in 1946 when it was reconstituted as the state of Jordan.

The Jewish people felt betrayed by the British, but they expected to receive what was left of Palestine as their state. The remainder was a small sliver of land 270 miles long, with a width ranging from 9 to 85 miles.

In November 1947, the United Nations voted to divide this sliver of land even further, splitting it between the Jews and Arabs to create a state for each one. Again, the Jews felt betrayed, but they accepted the offer. The Arabs refused.

Israel came back into existence as a state on May 14, 1948. On that same day, the Arabs could have taken advantage of the UN resolution and created a Palestinian state for themselves. But they wanted all the land, so they attacked the new Jewish state with the intention of driving the Jews into the sea.

Throughout the history of the area since it was cut away from the Ottoman Empire in 1918, there have been five times when the Arabs were given the opportunity to create a state of their own, and each time, they refused:

- 1 In 1936, the British government appointed the Peel Commission to recommend a solution to Jewish and Arab conflict in the area. The commission offered the Arabs 80% of the land. The Arabs said, “No!”

- 2 In 1947, The United Nations approved a partition of the land into two states. The Jews received 56%. Again, the Arabs said, “No!”
- 3 In 1967, after the Six Day War, the Jews offered to allow the Arabs to create a state that would include Gaza and the West Bank. The Arab League responded with “The Three Nos” — No peace with Israel. No recognition of Israel. No negotiation with Israel.



- 4 In 2000, the most liberal Prime Minister in Israel’s history, Ehud Barak, offered Yasir Arafat the opportunity to create a state that would include Gaza, 94% of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The moderator of the conference, President Bill Clinton, said that all Arafat could say from the beginning to the end of the negotiations was, “No!”
- 5 In 2008, Israel’s Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, offered Mahmoud Abbas, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) the opportunity to create a state that included even more of the West Bank. Abbas said, “No!”

With this history in mind, you can understand what Israel’s most famous diplomat, Abba Eban, once said: “The Palestinians have never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity.”



“Free Gaza!”

This is another nonsensical slogan. Israel granted complete sovereignty to Gaza in 2005, and did so at great social and financial cost. The Israeli army forcibly evicted 9,000 Jews from their homes in 25 settlements and turned the entire area over to the Palestinians.

Jews had to blow up their synagogues to keep them from being desecrated by the Arabs. They also had to dig up their cemeteries and move the bodies of their loved ones to keep the graves from being desecrated. The removal cost the Israeli government \$900 million. Further losses included \$120 million in annual flower production and 15% of Israel’s agricultural exports, including 60% of its tomato and herb exports. Also lost was 70% of Israel’s organic produce.

After Israel’s withdrawal, hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign aid flowed into Gaza from many nations, including the United States. This money was for humanitarian assistance and the rebuild-

ing of the area’s infrastructure, particularly hospitals and schools. But when Hamas took over in 2007, these donations were diverted to the purchase of military weapons and the construction of over 300 miles of concrete tunnels for launching attacks on Israel.

The Palestinian people were left to scrape out a living as best they could while Hamas built up its military with the intention of attacking Israel. Also, the Hamas leaders confiscated much of the financial aid for themselves personally, using it to live extravagant lives of leisure in Qatar. It is estimated that the top three Hamas leaders have a combined worth of a staggering \$11 billion.

“Free Gaza” is an appropriate and true slogan only if it is referring to freeing Gaza from Hamas!

“Stop the Israeli Genocide!”

This would be an appropriate slogan if it were addressed to Hamas because the goal of Hamas is to destroy Israel and kill all its Jewish population. But the slogan is greatly misdirected when aimed at Israel.

Israel’s desire is to live at peace with the Arabs. The only war Israel has ever started is the Six Day War in 1967, and it did so because the surrounding Arab nations declared that they were going to attack and annihilate the Jewish state. Israel decided its only hope for survival was a pre-emptive attack.

The Israeli military has a long-established reputation for being the most humane in the world. When Israel goes to war, it always does everything possible to protect ci-

vilians. Israel drops leaflets, makes phone calls, and sends emails to announce targets so that civilians will have time to evacuate. Also, Israel focuses its attacks on military targets and not civilians. Yes, mistakes sometimes occur, but mistakes are not war crimes.

In stark contrast, Hamas uses its civilians as human shields. Thus, it launches rockets from the roofs of hospital and schools, and when Israel announces targets, Hamas forces civilians to the target areas so that they can use their dead bodies for propaganda purposes. As one expert has put it, “Israel uses its military to protect its citizens whereas Hamas uses its citizens to protect its military.”



Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu

Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has long summed up the situation in the Middle East with these words: “If the Arabs were to disarm, there would be peace. If Israel were to disarm, we would cease to exist.”

“Gas the Jews!”

This slogan has actually been used by the Pro-Palestinian protesters. It is nothing but a horrendous expression of naked Anti-Semitism.

It is just one indication that the true aim of the Palestinians is not to create another Palestinian state. The real aim is the annihilation of Israel.

And when I refer to “another Palestinian state,” I mean that a Palestinian state already exists. It is the state of Jordan. The state itself was carved out of the Palestinian province of the Ottoman Empire, and one-half of its population is Palestinian Arab.

Conclusion

The outbreak of massive, irrational Anti-Semitism worldwide is a supernatural event orchestrated by Satan. He hates the Jewish people with a passion because they are God’s Chosen People through whom God gave the Scriptures and the Messiah, Jesus. Satan also hates God’s promise to bring a great remnant of the Jews to salvation through faith in Jesus (Isaiah 10:21-22, Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 9:27).

Satan’s determination to annihilate the Jews is what the Holocaust was all about. It is the reason he will motivate the Antichrist to focus the second half of the Tribulation on picking up where Hitler left off in ridding the world of the Jewish people.

But Satan will not succeed:

“He who touches [Israel], touches the apple of His eye” (Zechariah 2:8).

“He who keeps Israel will not slumber and will not sleep” (Psalm 121:4).

“In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a fiery laver among pieces of wood

and a fiery torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem will again be inhabited in its own place — in Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:6).

“And it will be in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:9).

God has regathered the Jewish people to their homeland for a reason. He is going to bring the whole world against them (Zechariah 12:3), not because He hates them, but because He loves them. They have been a stubborn and stiff-necked people throughout their relationship with Him. When in trouble in Old Testament times, they always turned to Egypt for help. In modern times, they have relied on the United States. God has always wanted them to rely on Him.

In these end times, as the whole world turns against them, they will be forced to come to the end of themselves, and in their desperation, they will turn to God for their help, and they will finally accept His Son as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10).

What a day that will be! Jesus mentioned it when he rode into Jerusalem at the climax of His life. He said He would not return to this earth until the Jewish people were willing to say, “Baruch haba b’Shem Adonai,” meaning “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Psalm 118:26 and Matthew 23:39).

Maranatha! (1 Corinthians 16:22)
☆



TESTIMONIES FROM THE FRONT

Tim Moore

In the midst of the current War in Israel, it is appropriate to seek the testimony of Christians living and serving in the midst of battle.

Lamb & Lion Ministries supports a number of ministries located in Israel. Their service is more important today than ever before and we pray that in the midst of turmoil the hearts of many Israelis will be open to the hope-filled message of the Gospel.

Here are some excerpts of conversations I had in recent Prophetic Perspective video episodes:



Avi Mizrachi

Tim: From a prophetic perspective on these current events, what does the Word of God have to say about Gaza?

Avi: Amos 1:6-8 says, “Thus says the LORD: ‘For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke its punishment, because they took captive the whole captivity to deliver them up to Edom. But I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, which shall devour its palaces. I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn My hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish,’ says the Lord God” (NKJV)

Today, Gaza is still under the Philistines—now called Palestinians—and the Hamas terrorist organization. Zechariah 9:5-7 “Ashkelon shall see it and fear; Gaza also shall be very sorrowful; and Ekron, for He dried up her expectation. The king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited. A mixed race shall settle in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines. I will take away the blood from his mouth, and the abominations from between his teeth. But he who remains, even he shall be for our God, and shall be like a leader in Judah, and Ekron like a Jebusite” (NKJV).

Here we see very clearly that God is going to judge Gaza and He’s going to put away the king, or ruling power. Right now, Israel is not in war with the Palestinian people. Israel is at war with Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza. This war began when about 3,000 of those evil, satanic, demonic terrorists infiltrated into Israel and attacked about 20 or so Jewish kibbutz and moshav settlements with one thing in mind: to slaughter innocent civilians.

They killed 1,400 people in a few hours—including children and babies. More than 5,000 Israelis were injured. They also kidnapped 230 civilians, including

babies, children, and grandparents. We know that they killed parents in front of their children and even be-headed babies in front of their families.

Now you ask yourself, why would they do that? It’s demonic. It’s totally demonic.

That is why our Minister of Defense said, “We are fighting like the sons of light, against the sons of darkness. And we’re going to finish the darkness, and the evil once and for all.”

Tim: How have you and your ministry responded to the deep grief and anger that Israelis are feeling?

Avi: Well, first of all, we pray. As believers we pray. By the way, Jewish and Arab pastors are still meeting to pray together, for one another and for our country—and to take communion together. Secondly, we’re trying to reach out to those who are in need. Over 1,000 people had to evacuate from one city near Gaza alone. The pastor from that city is a good friend of mine, so we sent money to help them during this time.

Tim: Avi, so many people around the world are filled with grief, shock, and even despair. What hope are you offering to your Jewish friends and neighbors who don’t yet know Yeshua—our Blessed Hope?

Avi: I tell them that Yeshua, Jesus, is our hope. He is the Prince of Peace. That is a message I share with Jews and Arabs here in Israel. I tell them, “If you follow Him and know Him, He will give you peace, Shalom.”



Baruch Korman

Tim: What has been the reaction of Orthodox Jews in Israel to the horrific terrorism perpetrated by Hamas on October 7th?

Baruch: A strong sense of disbelief, amazement, and shock. One of the reasons for this is that the rabbis who are often revered by both the Orthodox and the Jewish community at large have taught for years we should expect only that which is good. Everything that is bad in the future has been canceled out. So, people were spiritually unprepared when this tragedy happened a few weeks ago, and that added to their confusion, their sorrow, their disbelief.

Tim: Do you see windows of opportunity opening, in such a time as this? Are Israelis beginning to realize that although the world has always hated Jews—from Hamas and Hezbollah today, to Hitler 80 years ago, to Haman back in Esther’s day—only the Lord God is their ultimate provision and protection?



**HATE FROM
HELL**

**HAMAN
HITLER
HAMAS
HEZBOLLAH**

Baruch: What you say is exactly correct. It is an opportunity because Israeli Jews are dumbfounded by what has happened. So now I can speak with individuals and share with them that the Word of God promises difficulty in the last days for the nation of Israel. There’s a very well-known verse from Jeremiah 30:7 which a time of trouble will come for Jacob, but out of it will come salvation.

Therefore, when we look at the prophets from the position of Israel, we can expect what Daniel 12 called the worst time, and what Messiah also described as the worst time ever for those in Judea. But in the end, a great remnant from Israel will look upon Messiah when He comes. This passage of course isn’t speaking about the Rapture, it’s speaking about the Second Coming that they will look upon the One who was pierced and they will respond, they will mourn, they will identify Him. So, this time is an opportunity to bring people into prophecy and to show them what

truly the prophets have promised, what they have said, and that all of God’s Word is going to be fulfilled.

Tim: What would you say to readers who are Jewish or have a Jewish background regarding a key verse to point them to our Jewish Messiah?

Baruch: Well, a great verse is found in Isaiah 59:20, where it says out of Zion (and that means from a kingdom purpose), the Redeemer will come. The Jewish people believe that redemption began with Passover—with a key element being shed blood. Isaiah speaks about our Redeemer who will turn away sin and death. So, we want to encourage people to believe in the promises of God. That’s what faith is: accepting His Word and then watching how God brings about a change, a kingdom change in our life. That’s the message that we like to share.



Dan Price

Dan and Meg Price were serving in Israel on October 7th. They have since returned to America on a long-planned home visit. Although Meg was not available, I asked Dan to comment on the response here at home.

Tim: What have you discerned as you’ve witnessed some in the United States condemning Israel?

Dan: You know, social media, shows us a version of America that sometimes is good and sometimes it’s not so good. We’ve seen a lot of support for Israel at this time of great crisis and need. But at the same time, unfortunately, I have also seen a lot of blatant antisemitism coming out of Christians within the church. That’s very disappointing to see, but I’m not surprised because I believe that at the core, all of this

is spiritual. And it seems as though on October 7th something was unleashed in the spiritual realm, not just in Israel but also around the world. A spirit of Antisemitism that has been pushed down and out of the way for a long time has come back with a vengeance. It feels like we're in 1930s Germany again.

Tim: We know we should be praying for peace, standing with Israel, and offering material support as much as possible. Based on your experience living in Israel, how can a Christian really bless our Jewish friends, either those in Israel or those we know here, in this moment of Jewish anxiety and fear?

Dan: Well, as you said, the main thing that they need right now is prayer. We need to be praying not just that their government will have wisdom in the way that they need to handle this particular war, but also that the Lord would be able to speak to the hearts of these people during this period of time.

But as any of us who have gone to a funeral to support a friend understands, they need us to simply stand with them. In other words, tell them you love them and just be a friend.



Erez Bar David

Erez is a good friend who often serves as the Israeli guide for our Israel Pilgrimages. He lives in a Messianic moshav (an Israeli community) that is under threat of internal terrorism. And yet Erez' faith in Yeshua gives him a confidence that cannot be shaken.

Tim: We're told that Israelis are more unified than we've seen in years, but how would you describe the national mood since the terrible attack of October 7th?

Erez: Well, aside from feelings of deep sorrow, I think the sense was that of a shock. People still are in

“A Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,” declares Yahweh.

Isaiah 59:20

a state of shock. For many years there was a sense of internal security. But what happened on October 7th in the southern part of the country can happen anywhere.

Tim: We all know Israel is a small country—smaller than the state of New Jersey. Seven million Israeli Jews live in a very dangerous neighborhood. What has been the response within your community and how are you trying to protect the people living there?

Erez: The place where I live is relatively safe because it's right in the center of the heart of Israel. The other thing, which makes all the difference, is the fact that our community is the only community of born-again believers in the entire country. All the families here are Messianic Jews or Christians.

We have tried to help our fellow Israelis. For example, we are hosting quite a few families who were forced to flee their homes in the south. We engage them in simple conversations, speaking about the Lord of Israel and how He brought the Jews back to their historical homeland and promised that they will never be rooted out again. These small conversations often make a big difference, because in a time of tragedy, terror, and anxiety, people are forced to think beyond the moment.

Tim: Are Israelis beginning to understand that although He is often behind the scenes (as He was in the book of Esther), God is always guiding and guarding, protecting Israel, and certainly protecting those who are His? We know that He will mete out justice to those who try to eradicate His chosen people—be they named Haman or Hamas.

Erez: Absolutely. And I would add one more thing. As believers, it is very clear that this war is a spiritual conflict, and not just a local conflict that is confined to the Holy Land. It's a global one, because you see people that are marching and yelling their hate and curses

at Israel. And in a way, they're cursing the God of everybody else who supports them.

So, it's not really just a Middle Eastern affair or even a question of Jews versus Muslims. It is a struggle, a powerful and deadly struggle between principalities, which we cannot even see with our physical eyes. It's a major spiritual war.

I understand that fact because I'm a believer in Yeshua, but unfortunately many of my Jewish brothers and sisters do not realize the root and the cause of all of this spiritual, satanic, demonic conflict.

Tim: As we engage in this dialogue on October 31st, I take great solace in Psalm 31, where David was calling out to the Lord for refuge. In verse 13 he says, "For I have heard the bad report of many, terror is on every side. While they took counsel together against me, they schemed to take my life. But as for me, I trust in you, O Yahweh, I say, You are my God. My times are in your hand, deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who pursue me."

I TRUST IN YOU, O YAHWEH

In a closing testimony of faith, David says, "Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for Yahweh" (verse 24). That just thrills my heart, because I'm waiting for Jesus to come again as the manifestation of God Almighty

of Yahweh. And that's exactly what David is talking about. Even as terror rises on every side, we trust in the Lord. We look for the Lord. We're waiting for the Lord because our hope is in the Lord.

Erez: That's exactly the point. This is our time to shine as believers, regardless of what's happening around us. A soldier may prepare his entire military service for an engagement. This is our time of engagement. God will direct us in His spiritual battle because He is our Marshall. He is our King.



Obviously, I've been praying for those Israelis who have lost loved ones—including 20 children who lost both parents and many others who lost one parent. But we're actually commanded to pray for our enemies. As hard as it might sound, with entire families butchered, and hundreds murdered, kidnaped, and raped, we also have to pray for the enemies of Israel. My hope is that somehow the Holy Spirit will touch their hearts and change them, be-

cause it is a spiritual battle. Our war, our struggle, is not against flesh and blood, it's against the Devil. He is the one that is standing behind and activating all those people just like mannequins or puppets on strings. And so, we really ought to pray for Israel, first of all, but also pray for the other side, because we know what's coming to them unless they repent.

Tim: Wow, you know what Erez, I think that demonstrates the heart of a faithful follower of Jesus Christ or Yeshua more than anything else.

Erez, we do pray for you just as we stand with Israel. But your heart's desire is to pray for the enemies of Israel. Only a person who has come to know the true and living God and His heart could have that kind of desire to show compassion, and mercy, even to those who would seek to destroy you. And so, the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you because you, my brother, radiate His love clearly to all those around you.

Erez: Thank you for that word of encouragement because we are on the front line.

Right now, we're taking all the heat. But we're all together in this. We know how ultimately it all ends. And our trust is in the Lord.

Amen! Greater is He who is in us who follow Jesus Christ than he is in the world. So, on behalf of all of us here at Lamb & Lion Ministries, God bless Israel and God bless each one of you who are lifting Israel up in prayer and seeking to serve the Lord.

Godspeed! ✨

IS THE BATTLE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS



A PROPHETIC WAR?

Nathan E. Jones

Did you know that Bible prophecy foretelling future events constitutes a whopping 31% of the Bible? Yet God's overall plan for the ages appears to be rather like a 100-piece puzzle, and so far, He has only provided 75 pieces. We can make out the outline of a picture, but until certain events unfold, which then add another new piece to the puzzle, the picture remains incomplete.

One such "incomplete" prophetic picture concerns the various wars prophesied in the end times, particularly as they relate to the nation of Israel. That's why many are looking at Israel's current war with Hamas as a potential prelude to the prophetic war described in Ezekiel chapters 38-39 called the War of Gog and Magog. But, is it? Wouldn't the Psalm 83 War make more sense with Gaza being involved? Well, let's see by comparing the two prophetic wars.

O God, do not remain at rest; Do not be silent and, O God, do not be quiet. For behold, Your enemies roar, and those who hate You have lifted up their heads. They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones. They have said, “Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.”

Psalm 83:1-4

The War of Gog and Magog

The War of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39) foretells a massive attack on the rebirthed nation of Israel by an expansive coalition of nations first described in Genesis 10:2-7. These nations descend from the territories of ancient Rosh (Russia), Magog (the ‘Stan nations), Meshech (including Tubal, Gomer, and Beth-Togarmah now Turkey), Persia (Iran), Cush (Sudan and Ethiopia), and Put (Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia) (Ezekiel 38:2-6). Their leader is called “Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal” (Ezekiel 38:2-3, NKJV).

The battle takes place on “the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste” (Ezekiel 38:8). The purpose of the invasion is to “capture spoil and to seize plunder” and attack the people of Israel (38:12-16).

The result of such a massive invasion by a seemingly invincible army on an unprotected Israel ends up surprising the invaders and shocking the world. The invading nations are, in truth, being manipulated by God, pulled out of their lands with “hooks into your jaws,” so that those nations feel the Sovereign Lord’s fury (Ezekiel 38:4,18). God drags these specific nations to the “mountains of Israel” to “enter into judgment with him... and on the numerous peoples who are with him,” with “torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone” (Ezekiel 38:21-22). God explains His ultimate purpose for supernaturally obliterating the invading coalition: “I will magnify Myself, I will manifest Myself as holy, and I will make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am Yahweh” (Ezekiel 38:23).

God’s supernatural victory over the Gog-Magog invaders allows Him to reintroduce Himself to the world and declare in no uncertain terms that Yahweh is personally defending Israel. Should the people of the world doubt, they have only to look on Israel who will “go out and make fires with the weapons and burn them... for seven years” (Ezekiel 39:9).

As for the invaders’ corpses, “for seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land” in the newly named “Valley of Hamon Gog” by a newly built “town called Hamonah” (39:11-12,16).

The Psalm 83 War

Now let’s compare the War of Gog and Magog to another war prophesied by the seer (meaning prophet), Asaph—the Psalm 83 War.

Psalm 83 may be read as an imprecatory prayer, meaning that Asaph is calling down judgment and justice upon an enemy, but note that the writer is indeed a prophet. In Psalm 83:6-8, Asaph calls to God to bring His judgment upon all the nations that are listed that have modern-day equivalents to the nations that surround Israel. As eschatologist Bill Salus lists:

Tents of Edom	Palestinians and southern Jordanians
Ishmaelites	Saudis (Ishmael was the father of the Arabs)
Moab	Palestinians and central Jordanians
Hagrites	Hagarenes or Egyptians
Gebal	Hezbollah and northern Lebanon
Ammon	Palestinians and northern Jordan
Amalek	Arabs of the Sinai Area
Philistia	Hamas of the Gaza Strip
Tyre	Hezbollah and southern Lebanon
Assyria	Syrians and northern Iraq

Full of Holes

Noticeably absent from the list of Gog and Magog nations are those Asaph noted that surround modern-day Israel: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Gaza, possibly Iraq, and the Arabian peninsula nations. Why are these hostile bordering nations not also actively involved in the War of Gog and Magog? Their absence leaves a giant hole in the Gog-Magog invaders' map.



Also, the precondition for the Gog-Magog War, as stated three times in Ezekiel (38:8,11,14), is that Gog will not attack until the people of Israel are living at peace “securely” in “unwalled villages.” Does that peaceful precondition exist today? Currently, Hezbollah in Lebanon has hundreds of thousands of missiles pointed at Israel. Terrorist attacks have been happening in Israel almost weekly, culminating in the horrific October 7, 2023, slaughter by Hamas terrorists. And, Israel has built a 400-mile-long wall down the center of the country.

The Destruction of Damascus

Then there's another Bible prophecy tied to one of these missing nations—Syria—found in Isaiah 17 and Jeremiah 49. This prophecy describes the destruction of Damascus by Israel in one mere evening:



Behold, Damascus is about to be removed from being a city and will become a fallen ruin... In that day their strong cities will be like forsaken places in the forest, or like branches which they forsook before the sons of Israel; and the land will be a desolation... At evening time, behold, there is terror! Before morning they are no more.

Isaiah 17:1, 9, 14



How could Israel utterly destroy a city, and in just one evening? A nuclear weapon perhaps? And, where does this attack fit into the prophetic picture?

With these things in mind, Psalm 83 may provide the answer, as the seer Asaph foresaw Israel one day subjugating their hostile surrounding neighbors. If Israel did conquer the countries on their border, that could be the scenario that grants Israel the peaceful precondition Ezekiel describes that precedes the Gog-Magog invasion (Ezekiel 38:11).

Skeptics claim that this Psalm 83 War must have happened in Israel's history. Various alliances among Asaph's list of nations attacked the newly reborn state of Israel during the War of Independence of 1948 and again later during the Six Day War of 1967. But even though Israel defended itself from these attacks, it has never fully subjugated these lands. If Israel did finally absorb their enemies' lands to become “Greater Israel,” that would explain why the Gog-Magog countries do not include the nations bordering Israel. Rather, Gog's coalition consists of an outer ring of Islamic nations bent on revenge, most likely because Israel has

taken control of their neighbors, just as we are witnessing with Gaza.



Psalm 83 also contains a prayer for the victory of Israel (verses 9-18). The outcome of the war is not stated, but we know from other scriptures that Israel will be victorious. For example, in Zechariah 12:6 we are told that in the end times Israel will be like “a fiery laver among pieces of wood and a fiery torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples.” Also, God declares in Amos 9:15 that once the Jews are re-established in their land, they will “not again be uprooted from their land which I have given them.”

The Psalm 83 War will result in an overwhelming victory for Israel and further territorial expansion and enhanced natural resources. It will also produce the security spoken of in Ezekiel 38. And, like the Gog-Magog War, it brings the name and fame of God to His enemies: “Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever, and let them be humiliated and perish, that they may know that You alone—Your name is Yahweh—are the Most High over all the earth” (Psalm 83:17-18).



Another Piece of the Puzzle

Psalm 83 may only be a prophetic theory, but it explains missing countries not listed as participating in the Gog-Magog War of Ezekiel 38-39—a gap that has long puzzled students of Bible prophecy. The defeat of Israel’s near-by enemies in the Psalm 83 War could provide the peaceful precondition to the Gog-Magog War. It would also lead the outer ring of Muslim nations to fear Israel’s power in the region and covet its control of even more natural resources than their underwater gas fields, hence Gog’s desire to plunder Israel.

Therefore, I can only conclude that Israel’s war with Hamas is not the prophetic War of Gog and Magog because the combatant nations just do not match. I also cannot claim at this time that the ongoing conflict reflects the prophetic Psalm 83 War either. Now, should the conflict with Hamas escalate into Israel fighting all their hostile bordering neighbors, and particularly should Israel suddenly obliterate Damascus, then yes, we could well be witnessing the run-up to the first of these prophetic wars—the Psalm 83 War.

With the Psalm 83 War just around the corner, followed by the War of Gog and Magog, God is about to step in and personally destroy Gog’s invading coalition. Such overt divine intervention has not aligned with the way God presents Himself through the Church Age. That must mean then that the return of Jesus Christ is right on the horizon! ☆

“Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever, and let them be humiliated and perish, that they may know that You alone—Your name is Yahweh—are the Most High over all the earth.”

Psalm 83:17-18

THE HOUSE OF JACOB SHALL BE A

FIRE

David Bowen

Since Saturday, October 7th, 2023, the eyes of the world have been on Israel and the war against Hamas. While the world gropes for understanding, we can turn to Scripture. Because “the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets,” we know what will come to pass according to His Word (Amos 3:7, NASB).

One source of insight on what is happening in the world today is the book of Obadiah. Obadiah’s name means “servant of the Lord.” This single-chapter book is the shortest book in the Old Testament and is not quoted in the New Testament. We know very little about Obadiah as a person. Background on who he was and where he was from is missing. However, this book is important, not because of the human author, but due to the message Obadiah received from the Lord concerning “The Day of the Lord.”



Obadiah's Prophecy About Edom and Israel

Obadiah begins with a prophecy against Edom. In verses 10-14, God charged that Edom “stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off [your brother Jacob’s] wealth, and foreigners entered his gate and cast lots for Jerusalem—you too were as one of them” (NASB). He also said,

- ▶ You should not have gloated over your brother on the day of his misfortune.
- ▶ You should not have rejoiced over the people of Judah on the day of their ruin.
- ▶ You should not have boasted on the day of distress.
- ▶ You should not have entered the gate of my people on the day of their calamity.
- ▶ You should not have joined in the gloating over Judah’s disaster on the day of his calamity.
- ▶ You should not have looted his wealth on the day of his calamity.
- ▶ You should not have stood at the crossings to cut off his fugitives.
- ▶ You should not have imprisoned his survivors on the day of distress.

2 Chronicles 21 describes when the Edomites assisted the enemy in attacking Israel and when they rejoiced over Israel’s distress. It also says “the Philistines and the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians...went up against Judah and invaded it” (vv. 16-17). Other passages also record the offenses of the Edomites:

- ▶ When Israel left Egypt and wanted to pass through the land of the Edom enroute to the Promised Land, the Edomites wouldn’t let them (Numbers 20:14-21).
- ▶ The Edomites opposed Saul and were conquered by David and Solomon (1 Samuel 14:47, 2 Samuel 8:14, 1 Kings 9:26).
- ▶ In the days of King Jehoshaphat, Edom joined with Moab and Ammon to attack Judah, but the Lord fought for Judah and defeated them (2 Chronicles 20:1-27).
- ▶ The Edomites successfully rebelled against King Jehoram (2 Kings 8:16-22).
- ▶ The Edomites attacked Judah in the days of King Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28:17).

Although directed at Edom, Obadiah’s prophecy applies to other nations as well.

Verse 15 prophesies, “For the day of the Lord is near against all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head” (NASB).

The House of Jacob, Joseph, and Esau

Obadiah 17-20 list nations and territories by name:

But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, and it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions. Then the house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau will be as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them so that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,” for Yahweh has spoken. Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, and those of the Shephelah, the Philistine plain; and they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead. And the exiles of this military force



of the sons of Israel, who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad, will possess the cities of the Negev.

1. The house of Jacob is the Jews
2. The house of Esau is the Arabs
3. There will be no survivors from the house of Esau—which includes modern-day Hamas and Hezbollah
4. The people from the Negev is Israel
5. The mountain of Esau is modern-day Jordan
6. The Philistine plain is modern-day Gaza
7. The fields of Ephraim and Samaria is the modern-day West Bank
8. Gilead is Jordan, the modern-day East bank of the Jordan River

According to Scripture, there is a day coming when modern-day Israel will again possess what is known today as the West Bank, Gaza, and Jordan. Adding this prophecy to Psalm 83, Ezekiel 38, Isaiah, Joel, and Zechariah, we get a picture of Israel prospering in a manner the world has not seen since King David and Solomon (1,000 BC).

Obadiah 1:18 paints a vivid picture: “The house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau will be as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them so that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau, for Yahweh has spoken.”

The house of Jacob and the house of Joseph are Jews, which is modern-day Israel. It seems there will be an attack on Israel (a fire, a flame) however, Israel (God’s chosen) will prevail to the point that “There will be no survivors from the house of Esau.”

A Forward-Looking Vision

The principle of God’s curse falling on those who curse Israel offers a prophetic warning to the nations of the world. That curse certainly includes modern-day Arabs who oppose Israel as Edom did, such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

The vision Obadiah received was twofold. The first part of it addressed God’s dealing with Edom. The second part focused directly on Israel and its future. Some believe Obadiah saw the future period when the Messiah, Jesus, establishes His millennium kingdom. The final verse of this short prophetic book foretells a coming day when “the kingdom will be the LORD’s” (v. 21, NASB).

As the LORD God told Obadiah, the day of the LORD is near!

Maranatha, Lord Jesus! ✠

“For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.”

Obadiah 15 (NASB)



STATEMENT FROM RABBIS

“To Do the Will of Our Father in Heaven: Toward a Partnership between Jews and Christians”

In late 2015, a group of Orthodox rabbis released a statement calling for a “fraternal partnership” between Christians and Jews, citing their commonalities and improving relations. Here is a portion of their statement:

We Jews and Christians have more in common than what divides us: the ethical monotheism of Abraham; the relationship with the One Creator of Heaven and Earth, Who loves and cares for all of us; Jewish Sacred Scriptures; a belief in a binding tradition; and the values of life, family, compassionate righteousness, justice, inalienable freedom, universal love and ultimate world peace.

Signed by more than 60 prominent Orthodox rabbis from Israel, the U.S., and Europe, the statement urged Jews and Christians to be “models of service, unconditional love and holiness.” Citing Jewish scholars such as Maimonides and Yehudah Halevi, the statement also acknowledged Christianity as “neither an accident nor an error, but the willed divine outcome and gift to the nations.” It also quoted Rabbi Jacob Emden, who said, “Christians are congregations that work for the sake of heaven who are destined to endure, whose intent is for the sake of heaven and whose reward will not be denied.”

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, a member of the Israeli Rabbinate said, “Jews and Christians must be in the forefront of teaching basic moral values to the world,” while also “acknowledging the positive theological status of the Christian faith.”

Tellingly, the statement also confessed that Jesus “strengthened the Torah majestically” and removed idols from the nations, “[instilling] them firmly with moral traits.”

Orthodox theologian Rabbi Irving Greenberg said there is room in traditional Judaism “to see Christianity as part of God’s covenantal plan for humanity, as a development out of Judaism that was willed by God.” Representing a shift in Orthodox Jewish attitudes toward Christianity, the statement concluded, “Both Jews and Christians have a common covenantal mission to perfect the world under the sovereignty of the Almighty, so that all humanity will call on His name and abominations will be removed from the earth.”

In addition to praying for the peace of Jerusalem as Israel battles against satanic evil at its doorstep, we fervently pray that the window of hope this statement represented will continue to open.

Lamb & Lion Ministries actively supports a number of ministries that share the Gospel and the love of Christ with Jews—in Israel and beyond. We invite you to join us in doing both. ✨



Maimonides



Yehudah Halevi



Rabbi Jacob Emden



Rabbi Shlomo Riskin



Rabbi Irving Greenberg

ISRAEL

Trip Reflection

Isaac and Emily Karpenske

“Maranatha! Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!” These were the words my mother and I (Emily) would proclaim excitedly each evening when we would pray together throughout my early childhood years. I had learned to pray “Maranatha” from one of my favorite books, *Jesus is Coming Again*, written by Dr. David Reagan. I absolutely loved the book and read it often.

I was blessed to be raised in a home where the gospel, eschatology, prophecy, and the importance of Israel in God’s grand plan were all topics discussed often. In fact, my father and uncle both largely attribute their salvation to reading Dr. David Reagan’s book, *The Master Plan* (* now available as *God’s Plan for the Ages*). God used this book to open their eyes to who God is, the truth of the gospel, and God’s ultimate plan.

Like many Christians, I always dreamed of going on a pilgrimage to Israel—to walk where Jesus walked, to better understand the context of the Bible, and to see where end times events will take place. I never thought I would actually have the opportunity to do so, especially as a financially struggling college student.

You can imagine my absolute shock when I learned that both my pastoral ministry-major boyfriend

(now my husband) and I were both nominated for Millennial Kingdom Scholarships in 2019. We entered the application process trusting the Lord and humbly knowing that His will would be done, no matter the outcome.



I shed tears of joy when I learned that both of us had been chosen as scholarship recipients. We were deeply humbled and abundantly grateful to God and Lamb & Lion supporters for the opportunity to experience this transformative and tremendously impactful pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Following a two year delay due to COVID and once due to unrest in the Middle East, on Saturday, June 17, 2023, we embarked on the trip of a lifetime! In God’s providence, that delay allowed us to travel as a newly married couple who had recently entered ministry together.

We were also blessed with the most wonderful travel companions! We joined Tim Moore and over 40 other pilgrims to travel to several different sites throughout Israel for ten incredible days! We heard devotional messages from many in our group, including our tour guide Erez bar David, Tim Moore, and Pastors Terry and Chad Cooper of Nineveh Christian Church in Kentucky. We ate different foods in a vibrant culture and learned about the Israeli people. Each site we visited was significant.

When we reflect on this wonderful trip, we cannot help but think of what the apostle John wrote in his gospel: “And the Word [the Lord Jesus Christ] became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14, ESV). This same Word taught His followers in Capernaum, one of many sites we visited. This same Word powerfully displayed His dominion over creation when He walked on the Sea of Galilee, where we sailed and felt the Holy Spirit’s presence. He prayed to His Father in the same Garden of Gethsemane we visited on our tour. This same Jesus will return at the end of the Tribulation to vanquish His enemies in the Jezreel Valley—another location we were blessed to see.



It was incredible to meditate on prophetic fulfillments of God's Word we can clearly see as believers. We've now been to the Mount of Olives and the Eastern Gate mentioned in passages such as Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Revelation 19-21, and understand more fully the promises of His Second Coming.

Modern Israel already represents the Jewish regathering from the Dispersion Ezekiel prophesied:

Thus says Lord Yahweh, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They also will no longer defile themselves with their idols or with their detestable things or with any of their transgressions; but I will save them from all their places of habitation in which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God."

Ezekiel 37:21-23

We look forward to the final promise of that prophecy being fulfilled even as we pray for the peace of Jerusalem today (Psalm 122:6). As we write this article (October 10, 2023), we have been burdened by the recent attacks on Israel. Right now, several nations despise Israel's existence. But Ezekiel prophetically says the promised Messiah, the only perfect King, will deliver and rule Israel.

I (Isaac) grew up in a church that strongly adhered to Covenant theology. Many of the passages Emily and I just referenced were interpreted "allegorically" or "symbolically" or "spiritually" by Covenant hermeneutics. However, I now see these with physical/literal, prophetic, and spiritual/symbolic implications.

Israel's prophetic "resurrection" in our modern history reflects our spiritual testimony of Christ's resurrection power that causes every believer to be born again. Christ now reigns at His Father's side, and He will reign in His Messianic Kingdom to come. Since coming out of the Covenant theological framework, my love and appreciation for studying Scripture and learning more about Bible prophecy, the Millennial Kingdom, and the significance of Israel has grown. On top of that, embarking on the pilgrimage to Israel further confirmed

and solidified my fruitful beliefs in biblical theology and eschatology. And it has further inspired my newfound desire to delight in praying for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6) and for the Messianic Kingdom to come.

The Millennial Kingdom Scholarship made it possible for us to go on this pilgrimage, an experience that will truly enrich our ministry. Additionally, we were able to go expense-free, which was an immense blessing. We thank God and the Prophecy Partners who want to equip the saints and reach the lost by sharing God's prophetic Word.

If you feel led to donate to Lamb & Lion Ministries' Millennial Kingdom Scholarship program to bless young pilgrims with the opportunity to visit the Holy Land, please do so! God can use your contribution as a worthwhile investment to impact young people like us, equipping the next generation for Kingdom ministry. We hope to see many future pilgrims enjoy the blessing we received and grow in their knowledge and love of biblical prophecy!

With our hearts yearning for the Blessed Hope, we proclaim, "Maranatha! Lord, come quickly!" ✨

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Tim Moore

NATURE

Iceland was hit by over 2,000 earthquakes in mid-November even as a massive magma dome was detected south of Keflavik, indicating a looming volcanic eruption. In 2021, Fagradalsfjall erupted in Iceland for 6 months—causing widespread disruption throughout Europe.



In the 1970s, we were warned of widespread starvation and an impending ice age. At the turn of the century it was global warming. Now doom-sayers are outsourcing the cause of human calamity to stray asteroids, demanding that NASA protect humanity.



SOCIETY

Performing under the pseudonym Flamy Grant, drag queen Matthew Blake saw his album “Bible Belt Baby” (filled with “several” curse words) hit #1 on the iTunes Christian music chart for nine days, thanks to support from an avid atheist.



The moral bankruptcy of American college campuses was on full display in the aftermath of the Hamas attack on Israel. As defenders of terrorism were joined by misguided purveyors of progressivism in violent protests, Ivy League presidents were unable to muster the courage to push back.



SPIRITUAL



Frustrated by pressure from traditional Catholics who reject the LGBTQ+ agenda and other progressivist trends coming out of the Vatican, Pope Francis removed Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler, Texas—an outspoken advocate for biblical sexual morality.

On the heels of major victories for the pro-abortion advocates in the United States in the November elections, Princeton University bioethics professor Peter Singer has begun promoting bestiality as morally permissible—with no cry of outrage from American churches.



Throughout 2023 we excluded signs from the category we were focusing on in our “Signs of the Times” series. Now we return to snapshots of signs from all six categories. The rapid increase in frequency and intensity of signs across the board amazes us each time we go to print. David asked, “How long, O LORD?” (Psalm 13:1) With signs in each category pushing the envelope of credibility and dismay, we join Isaiah in crying out, “Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down” (Isaiah 64:1).

WORLD POLITICS

While American attention has been focused on the Middle East, China has been quietly increasing its pressure on Taiwan. It is also increasing its aggressive provocations toward American military ships and aircraft operating in international waters and airspace.



Turkey, a once committedly secular nation affiliated with the West through its NATO alliance and friendliness toward Israel, is being guided by President Recep Erdogan into a newfound affinity toward Russia with radicalized Islamic fervor and open hostility toward Israel.



TECHNOLOGY

Technology now allows terrorists who embrace a 6th Century ethic to strike a 21st Century nation with devastating results; technology also allows Israel to destroy Hamas rockets in flight with Iron Dome and David’s Sling interceptors.



Israel has developed a new laser directed-energy weapon that can defeat short-range rockets, artillery, and mortars—at less than 1/50th the cost of a physical interceptor.



ISRAEL

Just weeks after many nations proclaimed solidarity with Israel as it reeled from the October 7th attack by Hamas terrorists, a growing chorus of Western nations are going wobbly, pulling back their unconditional support, and increasing their criticism of Israel as it single-handedly endeavors to eradicate Hamas.



As Antisemitism, overt persecution, and outright violence rises, Jews throughout the West are re-evaluating their status and beginning to see Israel as their only sure safe-haven; once again God is using the evil deeds of mankind to accomplish His Will.



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