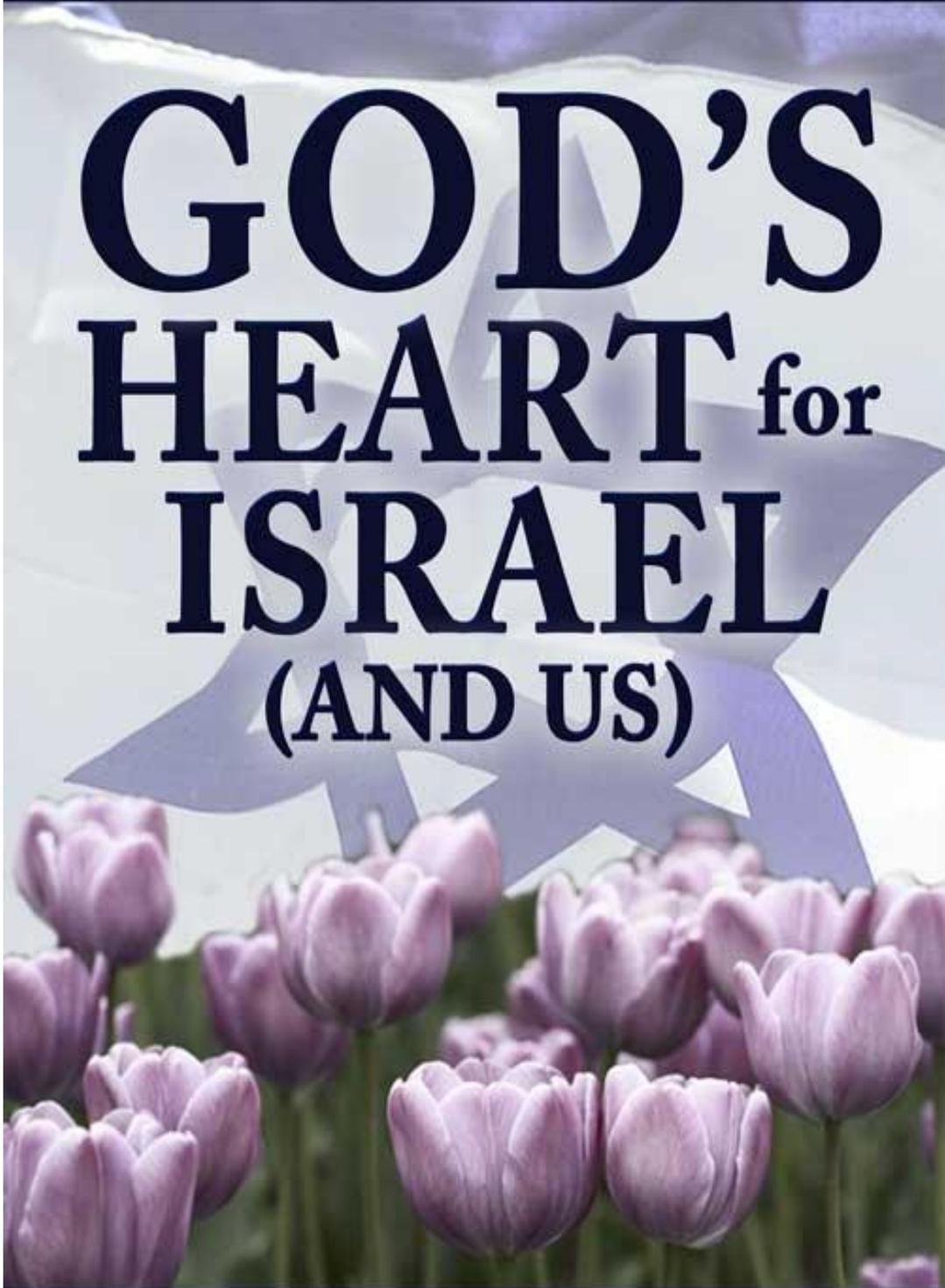


DR. JOHN G. WELDON

**GOD'S
HEART for
ISRAEL
(AND US)**

A dove in flight, symbolizing peace, is the central image. It is shown in a light purple/blue color, flying over a field of pink tulips. The background is a soft, light blue sky. The text is overlaid on the dove and the sky.

WHAT SCRIPTURE TEACHES ABOUT
GOD'S PLANS FOR ISRAEL
AND HOW WE CAN HELP

God's Heart for Israel (and Us): What Scripture Teaches about God's Plans for Israel and How We Can Help

by Dr. John Weldon

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"Your [Israel's] gates shall be open continually... that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations..." "They shall call you the City of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Whereas you have been forsaken and hated... I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age." "Your people shall all be righteous, they shall possess the land forever... [This is] The work of my hands, that I might display my beauty." (Isaiah 60:11, 14-15, 21)¹

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Prelude: "A Do-or-Die Moment" for Israel?

"From an Israeli standpoint — and this is a non-partisan, across-the-board situation — the Middle East is heading toward crisis and disaster." --Barry Rubin, Director, Global Research in International Affairs Center, editor, *The Middle East Review of International Affairs Journal*²

"Each and every day, Israel's very existence is at stake." – John Boehner, Speaker, US House of Representatives

According to an article in the Jerusalem Post of June 17, 2011, Israel is at a "do-or-die moment." "As was the case in May 1967, when the combined Arab armies gathered with the express purpose of wiping the Jewish state off the map – today again, Israel is alone in its hour of greatest peril."³

The article briefly discusses major stories – all coming out the same week – from Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Iran, Turkey, Yemen and Pakistan that are "all deeply disconcerting" for Israel's security. One of the most alarming is president Obama's total appeasement of Iran and his anti-Israeli stand. For example: "Obama is demanding that Israel agree to surrender its right to defensible borders by insisting that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accept the pre-1967 boundaries – that is the 1949 armistice lines – as the starting point for future negotiations. Since Obama surely recognizes that a Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority will not accept Israeli control over anything from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem to the Jordan Valley, he knows that he is requiring that Israel surrender its right to defensible borders before it even begins negotiating."

But most alarming by far are recent events from the terrorist state of Iran, which pale everything else by comparison. Citing Gregory S. Jones, a RAND Corporation scholar, "Iran has reached nuclear breakout capacity" and can now produce a nuclear bomb within not much more than two months; in addition, it just launched its second spy satellite into space. The Post correctly observed that such events present "a clear and present danger to Europe and the US," not just Israel. Yet somehow, the US and Europe seem unconcerned. The Post article concluded, "As was the case in May 1967, Israel has arrived at a do-or-die moment."⁴

It looks like the world may be about to change, perhaps dramatically; but only time will tell.

Note to the Reader:

With the world's increasing abandonment of Israel, and now even America itself under an extremist President Obama and like-minded Democrats (considering what they do, not what they say), this e-book stands up for Israel and proves that God is on Israel's side, based upon his unconditional, unalterable covenant with Abraham and his descendents. Israel is the miracle from God that no one can logically deny, try as they may.

This e-book briefly illustrates how much the world owes to the Jews, and especially how much Christians owe. Christians have been the heirs of incredible blessings from the Jewish people; far more than perhaps most Christians realize. It proves that Israel's rebirth as a nation was the divine fulfillment of dozens of biblical prophecies. Therefore, to oppose modern Israel is to oppose God's purposes for Israel, or in other words, to oppose God himself. It shows that a nation's blessing or cursing by God depends upon how it treats Israel, as demonstrated historically. It details God's eternal love for Israel -- which makes some Christian's rejection of Israel, especially in favor of the Palestinians, generally all the more ironic and dishonorable. Although accurate figures are hard to come by, polls seem to reveal that many to most Palestinians hate Israel and support terrorism, although thankfully the trend may be decreasing, at least in some places.⁵

Nevertheless, despite the rise of global anti-Semitism, Israel's ultimate future is bright beyond words. Indeed, one day Israel will rule the entire world under the rule of the Messiah. Despite most Jew's ill-fated rejection of their Messiah, God is not done with Israel. As the Old Testament clearly proves, God's plan and purposes for Israel transcend its behavior. (Thankfully, that holds true for Christians as well.) Indeed, his plan for Israel, and its blessings beyond measure, extend into eternity. Those who love God and wish to be blessed by God should logically support the Jewish people and the recently reborn nation Israel – spiritually, materially and politically. With Israel now surrounded by people that hate it and probably at least a million enemies within her own borders,⁶ Christians and others should look carefully at the true history of Palestine and the Middle East and not succumb to the myths and ruses of the often iniquitous Arab and Palestinian worlds, whose deceptions are manufactured to ultimately destroy Israel. The media rhetoric in Arabic and not the misleading statements in English tell the truth. Finally, we should not forget the one who hates Israel the most – Satan himself, as the history of the Jewish people clearly demonstrates. He is "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4) indeed, "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19). In the end, we must decide whose side are we really on? (For those who want to help Israel in practical ways, the first seven items on the Resource List provides a number of options.)

Introduction: Unexpected Divine Intervention

Israel is one amazing place.

Those who have been there and have sampled its remarkable history, culture and people, long remember the experience. I'll never forget my wonderful visits to this ancient holy land.

Considering the numerous past miracles of God in this small parcel of real estate and what we know prophetically will happen in the future, it gives the land a kind of magical quality: countless things happened here that only God could do. (Some of these miraculous events can be found in Appendix 1.)

What other nation on earth is like the nation of Israel? What other book on earth is like the Jewish book of the Bible? What other man on earth is like the Jewish prophet priest and king, Jesus Christ? Considering everything that has happened in Israel according to the Bible, one is rather amazed that so much divine activity should occur in so few square miles.

Whether considering its people (citizens from over 100 different nations live there), vibrant history, remarkable archaeology, multifaceted culture, biblical and spiritual dynamics, geography, agriculture, medicine, economy, technology, the military, etc., there's only one nation in history like the nation of Israel. It's central to the three greatest religions on earth. Its capital city is the only city in human history that God Almighty chose as his own – not for time, but for all eternity. God chose Abraham and his descendents, the Jews, to be a blessing to nothing less than the entire world (Genesis 26:4-5). This is exactly what they have been in multiplied ways,

both spiritually (for example, through the Scriptures and Jesus Christ) and in many other ways as whole books have documented.

As for the modern state of Israel, within a period of just six decades, the rebirth of this tiny country has actually altered the fate of the world, just as the Bible predicted. Indeed, 77% of the most influential and important book in human history is about Israel (the Bible). Israel is not only key to understanding the time in which we live; it is key to understanding the future of the world itself.

The miraculous rebirth of Israel as a nation is a subject the world could hardly ignore even if it tried. To the world's peril, day in and day out Israel's enemies continue plotting to destroy her; their most ardent desire is that it ceases to exist. Despite Israel's enemies repeated ploys, the Israeli government continues attempts to make peace with its adversaries. Every day news outlets carry stories about the Middle East and Israel. This little nation is under fire ethnically, politically and socially, under constant military threat (especially from Iran) and it's only a matter of time before Israel is attacked again, probably soon and perhaps by Syria which could bring in Iran and other Arab nations in yet another all out war to destroy the nation.

Not unexpectedly, Iran is up to its old tricks and growing more dangerous than ever, if that were possible. For all anyone knows, Iran could go nuclear at any time. Before it does, Israel will certainly attack if nothing else prevents its nuclearization. Iran now has a new satellite offensive with two satellites in orbit and three more expected by early 2012. President Ahmadinejad has also called for a security alliance against the West involving Russia, several former Soviet nations (many now Muslim majority) and China to form a united front against, one assumes, primarily the US.⁷

Consider some startling facts -- the physical resurrection of Israel from the dead, fulfilling Ezekiel's 2,600 year-old prophecy of the valley of the dry bones (Ezekiel 37); the miraculous recapture of Jerusalem in 1967 (a city which has become special to the majority of the world in one way or another); the continuing conflict between the Jews and its neighbors stretching back 4,000 years; Israel's astonishing victory in at least 5 wars in 60 years; the current "last days" alignment of the nations against Israel predicted in Ezekiel 38 and Psalm 82 (foretold some 2,600-3,000 years previously); and the universal hope for peace among Jews and the hope of many in the coming Messiah. Indeed, virtually all of the numerous implements for the yet to be built third Temple are now apparently ready, including 4,000 harps and 28,000 workers – all in preparation for the return of the Messiah.⁸

Something's up.

400 centuries ago in Genesis 17:7-8 the land of Israel was given by God almighty to the Jews for "an everlasting possession." One thing I would bet my life upon. God did not bring the Jews back to Israel after 2,000 years to toss them out again. Whatever the sufferings of the Jews prior to the return of their Messiah, Israel as a nation will survive. Israel has been Jewish-owned by divine right for 4,000 years based upon the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12, 15, 17, etc.). "When God made His promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for Him to swear by, He swore by Himself" (Heb. 6:13). What could be clearer or more definitive? Indeed, "He remembers his covenant forever" (Psalm 111:56).

No matter what an opposing or hostile group attempts -- whether the political Palestinians, terrorists such as Hamas and Hezbollah and a dozen others, the surrounding Arab nations, the 57-member Organization of Islamic Conference, OPEC, the EU, the US under a radical president, Iran, the Arab League, the ecumenical World Council of Churches, or others - Israel will survive until their Messiah returns in great glory. Indeed, when every person on earth will see him and there will be mourning and great weeping not only in Jerusalem, but globally. "Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen." (Revelation 1:7) "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. (Zechariah 12:10-11, a reference to the bloody history of Megiddo, one of the oldest known cities in the world, and the future site of the final war of history, Armageddon⁹)

If Christians should be ecstatic about anything besides the incomparable God of Israel and his Messiah Jesus, it would be the modern state of Israel. World War I prepared the land for the Jews to return; World War II prepared the people for the land.¹⁰ From the 18th Century onward, it's been one miracle after another until 1948 when Israel was finally reborn. Israel's miraculous rebirth is God's line drawn in the sand as a sign to both men and nations that his prophetic timetable is on schedule. With the Jews back in the land, can their Messiah be far off? If the Second Coming itself, the return of Jesus Christ to earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom isn't something to be ecstatic about, what is?

No Jews, No Christians

Without the Jews, Christians would have nothing, quite literally. In fact, no Christians would even exist. The Jews gave us the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Savior of the world, Jesus the Messiah, who was a Jew. When God became incarnate, he became a Jew. The Jews gave us everything we know about God and all we know of our Lord and Savior was revealed through Jews. The first 30,000 or so Jews began the Christian church and without the missionary journeys of the Jewish apostle Paul the church would never have blossomed as it did. Without the Jews of history we would know nothing about God except that which could be discerned from nature.

As a result, Christians owe the Jews everything, and this should never be forgotten. Of all the people on Earth, Christians should be the most grateful to God for the Jews and most willing to help them, especially spiritually with the gospel and in prayer, but materially as well, particularly in all the nations around the world where Jews are poor, persecuted and suffer, especially true in Muslim and Marxist lands. Christians should also stand up for the nation of Israel against a world that largely hates it. They should do so without taking away anything from the plight of the Palestinians and fully accepting our Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ and seeking to help them as well. But Christians should never take up the political and terrorist "Palestinian cause" which seeks to destroy Israel forever. Christians, nominal or otherwise, who stand against Israel should be ashamed and remember that not only blessings stem from the Abrahamic covenant, but cursings as well.

With Israel facing and soon to face perhaps its greatest crisis in its history (and possibly its greatest opportunity) this e-book seeks to take a look at the nation of Israel and its people from the perspective of God's election, judgments and blessings. It hopes to illustrate how important Israel is – not merely to the world, but to God himself. Despite the teaching of some Christians that God has abandoned Israel and that the promises in the Old Testament covenants became applied spiritually to the Church, God is not finished with Israel. To the contrary, the covenants and promises still apply to the nation of Israel.¹¹

Out of 193 nations today, Israel's true friends can be counted on one hand and now even America has turned on Israel, despite Israel being one of America's best friends. Regardless of what the future holds for Israel (and there will be much blessing as well as suffering), in the end God's eternal purposes will stand and he will glorify himself for the ultimate good of his people, both Jew and Gentile.

Israel's enemies are numerous and growing; their greatest wish is that it ceases to exist. But Israel will not only survive until the end of this age – in the millennium all the nations will serve Israel and it will prosper forever in eternity.

The Modern Miracles of Israel's National Rebirth

“Can you give me one single irrefutable proof of God?” “Yes, your Majesty, the Jews.”-- Marquis D'argens to Frederick the Great, 1779¹²

Considering that the nation of Israel is a miracle from God (see below), it is rather startling that in the world today no one is truly standing with Israel despite its pending risk of genocidal annihilation by the terrorist nation of Iran, an abandonment the Bible predicted. Who could have forecast something like this 300 years ago, let alone 3,000 years ago, not to mention that Israel would be reborn as a nation after 2,000 years? Only God himself could have foretold this. As best-selling author Dave Hunt observed, “Nothing else in all of history comes even close to the preservation of the Jews as an identifiable ethnic group.”¹³

Never before in human history has a sovereign, unified, independent nation been reborn after the passage of some 2900 years, let alone in a *single* day, just as prophesied 2700 years ago in the Old Testament (Isaiah 66:8) and fulfilled on May 14, 1948.

From the division of the nation of Israel around 930 BC under king Rehoboam into two kingdoms (1 Kings 12: 20-24; the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah) -- and the nation's complete destruction (beginning in 70 AD, ending under the Roman Emperor Hadrian ca. 135 AD), until 1948 there was no sovereign, unified, independent nation of Israel. But in 1948 all that changed in one of the most staggering fulfillments of biblical prophecy ever. Israel's return to the land was in direct or indirect fulfillment to the divine (and sometimes dual) promises to Abraham and Isaac, David and Solomon and others (see esp. Genesis 12:1-3; 17:7; 18:19; 22:18; 26:3-4; 28:13-15; 46:2-4; Jeremiah 31: 35-36, 40; Isaiah 11: 10-12; 43:5-7, 66:7-10; Ezekiel 36:24, 33-36; 37:11-14,21-28).

Israel's national rebirth has no parallel in human history, but it is virtual proof of both the existence and the everlasting covenants of the God of the Bible.

The fall of Israel's Northern Kingdom to Assyria occurred in 721 BC and the fall of Judah and Jerusalem to the Babylonian Empire in 586 BC. Under the decree of King Cyrus there was a partial return of the Jews to their land after the Babylonian captivity. In 70 A.D. under the Roman commander Titus, Jerusalem and the Temple were completely destroyed, and the nation ceased to exist until almost 2,000 years later when it was reborn in 1948. During the Babylonian conquest of Judah, the "times of the Gentiles" began, – the nation was variously ruled by Gentiles, which means that for some 2600 years Israel was not a sovereign independent nation, and yet here it is, today, a sovereign, independent nation.¹⁴

This cannot be logically explained apart from divine Providence, and even some historians have referred to Israel's existence as a miracle. A miracle is defined as an unexpected event attributed to divine intervention. Indeed, few can rationally deny that God's special blessing has also been upon the nation ever since 1948:

At 63, the Jewish State is a relative newcomer to the family of nations, yet in just over two generations it has been able to catch up and exceed the accomplishments of the majority of the older Western democracies in practically every category of human endeavor, not to mention the newer states in Asia and Africa and the Middle East. The eminent British historian Paul Johnson wrote of the Jewish State: "In the last half-century, over 100 completely new independent states have come into existence. Israel is the only one whose creation can fairly be called a miracle."¹⁵

There are many predictions that God would bring Israel back into the land: some deal with the return from Babylonian captivity, and some deal with the return to the land long after 70 A.D., sometime prior to the dramatic supernatural return to earth of Israel's Messiah, Jesus Christ. (Some examples include Isaiah 44:19-20; 66:8-9; Jeremiah 16:15 29:10-14; 30:3; 31:4, 8, 16-70, 23, 35-40; 32:10 33:7)

David Ben-Gurion was the "father" of modern Israel and its first Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. No one should be surprised that when he announced the rebirth of Israel on May 14, 1948, he used the prophecies in the book of Ezekiel as his authority. The prophecies in Ezekiel 37:21-28 and Isaiah 11:11-12 refer to the regathering of Israel from its long dispersion beginning in 70 A.D. It is unlikely Ezekiel 37 is speaking of the Jewish return from Babylon after the 70-year displacement, since the Jews were removed again in 70 A.D. Ezekiel 37:25-27 says the Jews at this time will live in the land forever. Further, Isaiah 11:11-12 specifically identifies the return he speaks of as a "second" return, where the people are gathered from the four corners of the earth. "In that day the Lord will reach out his hand *a second time* to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people... He will... gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the *four quarters of the earth*." (Isaiah 11:11-12, emphasis added) Again, this cannot refer to the return from the Babylonian captivity, which was not a second return and would have been limited only to a return to Israel from Babylon, not a return from nations around the world.

In their regathering to create modern Israel, Jews came from almost 110 nations -- an incredible number of nations-- how can something like this possibly be considered a mere coincidence of history, as some argue? (It reminds me of the nonsense of modern science's theory of evolution: literally everything there is being was created from nothing at all -- and solely by chance, a nonentity.) Regardless, the Jews continue to come to their homeland from many nations, incredibly, a beautiful and miraculous homeland. With the growing extremist Islamization of Europe and other places around the world, more and more Jews are being forced to move back to Israel, and the modern Exodus continues.

People who are familiar with history recognize that Israel is a miracle even if they don't mean something supernatural; everyone knows the reestablishment of the state of Israel is, at a minimum, something truly exceptional. As Ben-Gurion once observed, if someone doesn't believe Israel is a miracle, something's wrong with them. In the entirety of human history when have an ethnic people from 110 nations been gathered together into their ancient homeland after 200 centuries? Between 1991 and 2009 some 1.4 million Russian Jews came to Israel, almost a 40% increase in the nations population within 18 years, something that has also apparently never happened in human history. Again, Israel is the truest melting pot in the world with people from 110 nations, and yet her enemies can only think in terms of destroying her. What a shame.

Indeed, sometimes even skeptics concede that the rebirth of modern Israel is a kind of miracle, as do also some famous scientists -- not in a supernatural sense, but amazing enough to use the word. For example, in the October 1972 issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (an issue devoted to Israel), one of the most famous physicians in medical history, Albert Sabin M.D. (whose discovery was responsible for immunizing over half a billion children and virtually eliminating polio from the world) referred to Israel as "a fantastic miracle to me."¹⁶ The reason for such praise is simple: again, something like this has never happened before in human history -- ever. To be sure, the whole process of Israel's rebirth was superintended by Providence (something also true for the birth of America, as several Founders acknowledge), including the first Zionist Congress in 1897, the conquering of the city of Jerusalem by the British general Allenby, the birth of Israel in 1948 through the United Nations, the 1967 six Day war where Israel recaptured East Jerusalem and defeated the combined massive forces of all its Arab enemies, as well as the subsequent survival of modern Israel against her hostile neighbors -- and she will survive Iran's evil purposes as well. Actually, Christian interest in Israel's restoration to the land dates back to the 16th or 17th century England.¹⁷

But the reestablishment of Israel isn't just the reestablishment of a nation unprecedented in human history, a true historic miracle, it is also an event that will shape the future course of the world itself and change history forever. In fact, it will change the fate of billions of people. And it has not been *only* a historic miracle, but a virtual military, agricultural and scientific miracle as well. (As one example of dozens, those ubiquitous cell phones we use everywhere were invented in Israel.) Israel is a military miracle in that she has survived all the attempts to destroy her since the founding of the nation against literally enormous odds (see below) and in such a short time has produced the greatest army in the Middle East. Despite its minute size, Israel has at least the 10th-most powerful Army on Earth.¹⁸

Comparing the desolate agriculture of the land for the last 2,000 years against modern Israel, the nature of the agricultural revolution is a miracle for all to see. The nation did not bloom until its people returned, despite all attempts to make it do so. (On the Internet, anyone who wishes can find Mark Twain's picturesque comments about Israel's utter desolation -- hardly a bush seen anywhere -- which he noted as he traveled through the land.) Indeed, Europe today apparently gets most of its agriculture from Israel.

And one day, probably soon, Israel will also become a spiritual miracle when the entire nation turns to its Messiah (Romans 11:25), Jesus, who will then rule the earth from Jerusalem. In Ezekiel 38:12 Israel is even described by God as "the center of the world."

[Future Miracles of Israel](#)

Other miracles of Israel seem to be future and include the idea that she becomes so wealthy as to become a superpower and increases her size some tenfold, existing without walled villages and in security. It therefore

seems logical that the prophecies of Moses and Ezekiel could be fulfilled through something like massive new gas and oil finds (already being discovered) which make Israel a virtual superpower, such that she exists in a land without walled villages (meaning in part that the current massive wall is torn down) and in security (obviously, not currently true). It may be because of her great power and wealth that eventually the prophesied enemy from the far North, Russia, with a coalition of Muslim nations (a Confederacy already in the process of formation), comes down to "capture, spoil and seize plunder" (Ezekiel 38:11-12). Again, the current enormous gas and oil finds would seem to be suggestive, though not determinative: there are many ways Israel could become a superpower, including technological. I have personal knowledge that Israel is currently exploring a technology that, potentially, could change the world and make Israel the wealthiest nation on earth.

According to Dr. Jimmy DeYoung there are some three-dozen different passages in the Bible that mark out the future tenfold increase in the borders of Israel. These borders will then include all of current Israel, half of Egypt, all of Lebanon, all of Syria, all of Jordan, three fourths of Iraq, three fourths of Saudi Arabia and all of Kuwait.¹⁹ In other words, present Israel is only 1/10 the size of future Israel. According to both the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants, God will one day multiply Israel's landmass 10 times its current size – perhaps as a result of the potentially upcoming war in Psalm 83, in which case Israel would route its Arab neighbors,²⁰ seizing their land and spoil – this potential being illustrated in the 1967 six-day war, which increased its territory at least threefold by capturing the Sinai Peninsula. Bill Salus' book, ISRALESTINE: The Ancient Blueprints of the Future Middle East offers details of this potential startling and devastating war. Whether by discovering new gas, oil and other natural resources, a massive regional war, or new startling technology, in the not-too-distant future Israel may just become the most wealthy nation on earth. Wouldn't that be something!

The Unending War

"The security of Israel is a moral imperative for all free peoples."

–Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger

Noted political expert Dick Morris once made an observation that most would find difficult to argue with: "If the Arabs laid down their arms, there would be no war; if Israel laid down its arms, Israel would cease to exist."

Despite the odds against her, Israel has repeatedly won impossible battles against massively more powerful foes, historically in biblical times and today in modern Israel. For example, in 2 Kings 19 we find the highly dramatic incident of how an angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a single night (v. 35) to protect Jerusalem from Assyrian destruction. Modern Israel has been in a virtual state of war since its rebirth and experienced a half dozen major wars, including the intifadas and more or less constant terrorist attacks, yet emerges victorious every time.

In summary, here are Israel's modern wars:

-- The 1948 war of Independence (1947-49), the bloodiest of Israel's wars, pitting a potential 650,000 Jews against 40 million Arabs (only tens of thousands fought in the war), was begun on the exact day the British pulled down their flag and Israel raised its own flag. If this tells us anything, it tells us what the Arabs think of the nation of Israel. But it does nothing to quell the miracle. On the day Israel was formed, it faced incredible odds, when her implacable Muslim enemies attacked, with seven armies against an Israeli Air Force of two Piper Cubs and an initial fighting force of 30,000 people having no organized military or command structure. It was a nation solely in terms of a signed treaty and yet the nation of Israel was born that day and beat the Arab world combined – can anyone say that's not a miracle? Virtually everyone was convinced that Israel would be destroyed. In Vegas, not a single gambler would have taken odds for Israel, no matter what they were. With two small airplanes, no trained military, and only one rifle for every four people, facing seven modern Arab nations hell-bent on destroying Israel forever, who would bet on Israel? Only God. And thus, Israel won, as it has won every war since. Again, if that's not a miracle, what is?

-- The Sinai Campaign of 1956 that briefly captured the Sinai Peninsula and led to Egypt aligning itself with the Soviet Union.

--The Six-Day War in June of 1967, in which the Israelis were vastly outnumbered in both soldiers and weapons; Israel nevertheless miraculously routed all its Arab enemies and recaptured old Jerusalem and much else. Now all of Jerusalem belonged to Israel for the first time in some 2,500 years. (King David had originally captured Jerusalem from the Jebusites and founded it as the capital of Israel sometime between 1005-999 BC, proving historically that Muslim claims on Jerusalem made only in recent history are a myth.) The Israeli army took the entire West Bank of the River Jordan, overran the entire Sinai Peninsula up to the Suez Canal, and captured most of the Golan Heights.

-- The War of Attrition of Egyptian President Nasser (1968-70).

-- The Yom Kippur war (October 1973), a surprise attack which Israel won at the "last hour" through the arms shipments of President Nixon.

-- The Gulf War in 1991 in which Saddam Hussein threatened to burn "half of Israel," and sent scud rockets flying.

-- The unending terror war. For example, the evil organizations Hezbollah and Hamas, proxies of a much greater evil Iran, whose activities engage the entire Middle East and beyond. As the independent global intelligence service Stratfor.com observes, "Iranian militant proxies have been busily at work across the region for many years now. With a web of connections that reaches all the way from Lebanon to Somalia to Afghanistan, Iran can cast a wide net over the Middle East."²¹ As a result of the so-called Arab Spring, Iran has gained considerably more power. In all, Israel faces over a dozen terrorist organizations.

Consider the terrorist group Hamas. It controls Gaza with an iron hand. Incredibly President Obama sent \$400 million to Gaza for Palestinian aid, an unknown amount certainly being used for terrorist activities, in violation of US law. Hamas has as its major if not only purpose the destruction of Israel according to its Charter of August 18, 1988: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it [Islam] obliterated others before it." And, "There is no solution for the Palestinian [issue] except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors." And finally, "The Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] believes that the land of Palestine [i.e. all Israel] is an Islamic Waqf [i.e., an inalienable religious endowment of land set aside exclusively for Muslim purposes] consecrated for future Muslim generations until Judgment Day." As the MideastWeb.org concludes: "The implication is clear: Allah promised that the Jews will be murdered, and the Hamas 'aspires to the realisation of Allah's promise, no matter how long that should take.'"²²

These are the kinds of people (Iran, Hamas, etc) president Obama simplistically believes he can "negotiate" with – terrorists who have the destruction of Israel as their primary desire, as well as that of the West and the ultimate institution of global Islamic rule.

Through authoritarian, repressive Sharia law Hamas has turned the Gaza Strip into a kind of concentration camp, just like the Palestinian settlements in Israel were turned into similar repressive conditions by the Arab states as a weapon against Israel (see below.) Ironically, it was the Palestinians themselves who voted Hamas into power, despite the fact that their lives were better by far under Israel.

Regardless, even after all these wars to destroy Israel, Israel remains -- and remains prosperous, no doubt to the envy and frustration of her enemies.

All these victories and we haven't the time to discuss the many miraculous triumphs in the Old Testament, which must become another story.

[How much of a miracle?](#)

"In Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles."

-David Ben-Gurion, first Prime Minister and architect of the modern state of Israel, revered as the "father of the nation"

Most people in the world have no idea that the birth and survival of Israel is a literal, supernatural miracle, or that a number of documentaries have been produced documenting or suggesting this. These reveal that Israel's existence is no chance event of history, but an authentic miracle.²³

No other explanation is possible; the existence of modern Israel is part of God's fulfillment of his ancient promises to the patriarch Abraham (Genesis 12).

As astute political commentator and psychiatrist Dr. Charles Krauthammer wrote of Israel in his 2008 article, "The Miracle, at 60," "It is the norm; the rule for every ancient people is to be 'defeated, destroyed, scattered and exiled.' ... With one exception, a miraculous story of redemption and return, after not a century or two, but 2,000 years. Remarkably, that miracle occurred in our time. This week marks its 60th anniversary..."

Dr. Krauthammer proceeds to discuss the significance of modern Israel:

Besides restoring Jewish sovereignty, the establishment of the State of Israel embodied many subsidiary miracles, from the creation of the first Jewish army since Roman times to the only recorded instance of the resurrection of a dead language -- Hebrew, now the daily tongue of a vibrant nation of 7 million. As historian Barbara Tuchman once wrote, Israel is "the only nation in the world that is governing itself in the same territory, under the same name, and with the same religion and same language as it did 3,000 years ago."

Dr. Krauthammer also makes the point that the miracle of Israel's rebirth was most often celebrated in Israel's early years, but that today the miracle has been subject to revisionist (Arab and secular) history by the enemies of Israel as a mere "Zionist myth."

This is ironic, because, as we discuss later, the true reason for the suffering of the Palestinians and the lack of peace in the Middle East has little or nothing to do with Israel and everything to do with irrational hatred of the Jewish state by the Arab leadership and the Muslims, Arabs and Palestinians: "What the Arab narrative deliberately distorts is the cause of its own tragedy: the folly of its own fanatical leadership" over the last 60 years. "Israel's crime is not its policies but its insistence on living."²⁴

But in fact, it is not just modern Israel that is the supernatural miracle. The greatest moments in Israel's history are all miraculous -- the call of pagan Abraham to begin the nation, the great exodus from Egypt, securing the promised land, the Assyrian and Babylonian divine judgments/captivities, the partial return under the Persian King Cyrus, the birth of the Messiah, the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and Israel's rebirth in 1948.

Israel has been a miracle from its very inception some 4,000 years ago with God's call to pagan Abram to become Abraham, the father of the Jews, and the spiritual father of all true Christians and all Jews who believe in Jesus as their Messiah. (Genesis 12:1-20; Romans 2:28-29; 4:11-12, 16-17) Below we supply just some examples of how miraculous the Jewish community and nation truly is. In each case below, without supernatural divine miracles, Israel's survival would have been impossible. Apart from her rule under Kings David and Solomon, and her power today, for 3,500 years (since the Exodus), Israel has always been a relatively small, weak and/or fragile nation, yet it has somehow always survived.

Consider the following:

-- Around 4,000 BC, Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, "priest of the Most High God," and the King of Salem, i.e. King of what later became Jerusalem (Hebrews 7:1-2); he paid these tithes in Jerusalem *after* the Abrahamic covenant had been ratified, guaranteeing the promised land to Abraham and his descendants, the Jews. (Note, then, that the Jews claim to the land clearly goes back to about 4,000 BC, some 4,600 years before Islam or Muslims even existed.)

In speaking of God's promise to Abraham just prior to this notation of Abraham paying these tithes we read, "For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you."... So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us." In other words the promise to Abraham and his descendents (physically and spiritually) was guaranteed on the basis of God's immutable character and His oath sworn by Himself. (Hebrews 6:13-7:2)

-- The miraculous survival of the budding nation from famine as a result of Joseph being sold as a slave and sent into Egypt, a result of his brothers jealousy. Because God was with Joseph, he eventually became the second most powerful man in Egypt, second in command only to Pharaoh himself. Pharaoh supplied Joseph with vast power and the ability to save not only his extended family (the budding Jewish nation) but all of Egypt itself and the surrounding nations as well from famine. (Genesis chapters 40-45, see also 45:8) As Joseph told his brothers (illustrating the ubiquitous truth of Romans 8:28), "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today..." (Genesis 50:20) Eventually, in fulfillment of the prophecy to Abraham in Genesis 15:13, under another Pharaoh "who knew not Joseph," the Jews became slaves in Egypt for 400 years where they grew in strength, becoming a sizable nation of 2.5 million people.²⁵

The book of Acts declares of God, "... He made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt..." (Acts 13:17)

-- Under the new Pharaohs' persecutions, Moses receives his divine call at the burning bush and, upon God's command, subsequently delivers the Jews from Egypt with God's 10 miraculous and powerfully devastating national plagues (also judging the gods of Egypt), including the final plague, the death of all of Egypt's firstborn. Apart from this supernatural deliverance, the Jews would have remained slaves in Egypt, or more likely been decimated.

-- The miraculous giving of the divine law to Moses on Mount Sinai nourished and sustained the nation through repeated apostasy, military defeats, and idolatry.

-- Israel was supernaturally preserved and guided throughout the 40 years of desert wanderings and testings.

-- The conquest of Canaan under Joshua was clearly miraculous, as was Israel's survival and victory in the many historical battles with its hostile surrounding neighbors, as in its capture of Jericho.

-- The period of the Judges, the Kings and the prophets (most of Israel's ancient history), is replete with supernatural divine guidance or other miracles. (Acts 13:17-22 briefly summarizes God's preservation of Israel from the time of Egypt through the period of the Kings.)

-- Israel encountered supernatural preservation from the attempted mass genocide of Haman's nefarious plot in the book of Esther. God made Esther, an orphaned Jewish slave, the actual Queen of Persia, and she, along with Mordecai, who became second-in-command over the Persian Empire (shared in the book of Daniel), saved the Jewish people from genocide.

-- Israel also experienced divine judgment for her continued idolatries (and everything involved with them) through the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, as well as the supernatural return from Babylon and the rebuilding of the Temple. (See the books of Daniel and Ezra, with the command of King Cyrus cited in Ezra 1:1-5.)

-- Israel experienced divine preservation from 400 BC to the time of Christ.

-- Israel was blessed with the supernatural birth of her Messiah, Jesus Christ, and his miraculous virgin birth, life, ministry, teachings and resurrection from the dead (a historic fact²⁶), also pre-written in the

Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament that predicted his life in detail, 400-1500 years before he was born.²⁷ (This alone explains why the first 20,000-30,000 Christians were all devoted Jews.)

-- The Jewish Scriptures themselves were supernaturally inspired and, given the historic conditions, could never have survived intact and virtually autographic, apart from preservation through divine Providence.

-- Israel experienced all the miracles in the book of Acts that sustained and dramatically expanded the new Church which would comprise both Jew and Gentile, also prophesied in the Old Testament (e.g. Jeremiah 31:31-34; for some the miracles see: Acts 14:3, 8-10; 13:11-12; 15:12; 19:11; 20:9-10.) In e.g., Romans 15:18c-19 it appears as if almost everywhere the apostle Paul went, he did miracles. (As the former Pharisee Saul, Paul was a harsh and devoted persecutor of the new Jewish Church and a skeptic of Jesus as Israel's Messiah, yet he went on to pen fully one-fourth of the New Testament and literally changed the world through his missionary travels; as he acknowledged, he was repeatedly sustained supernaturally by God's grace and power throughout incredible suffering, persecution and hardship.)

-- Israel experienced the beyond-terrible divine judgment upon Jerusalem and the rest of the nation in 70 A.D. under Titus (some 60,000 Roman troops surrounded Jerusalem), condemning the nation to nonexistence for over 1,900 years. Allegedly, some one million Jews were killed. As Jesus prophesied 40 years previously in Luke 20:21, "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near." The fact that Jews today retain their national identity, despite being dispersed throughout the world and the fact that their land was preserved for them (for their return) for 1900 years, is again, nothing short of miraculous.

-- The fact that today, despite its minute size, Israel exists as one of the great nations on Earth is another miracle. Israel today has become a global leader in technology and other areas. None less than George Gilder refers to Israel as "a spearhead of the world economy."²⁸ Understanding a little bit of who Gilder is will help us to comprehend the importance of what he says about Israel some pages below. But first we need to digress and briefly discuss two items -- the global importance of Israel and Jerusalem, and the critical importance of free markets, something relevant to the prosperity and survival of both Israel and America and currently under major attack by the Obama administration.

[The Global Importance of Israel](#)

"I had faith in Israel before it was established, I have in it now. I believe it has a glorious future before it - not just another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization."

-President Harry S. Truman

Consider a few reasons why such a small piece of land as Jerusalem alone, only about 45 acres, has recently become the center of the world's attention and will remain the center of the world's attention -- and even become the center of the world itself.

There is no more significant piece of real estate on the planet.

To cite a few of many reasons:

- 1) It is home (Judaism, Christianity) or of claimed great importance (Islam) to the three great monotheistic religions of the world;
- 2) It is the location where Abraham was willing but prevented by God from sacrificing his only son Isaac -- the very place where 2,000 years later God the Father would actually sacrifice his only Son Jesus Christ as an atonement for the world's sin. To repeat, this time God Himself, in indescribable, infinite love, was sacrificing the only Son He would not permit Abraham to sacrifice 2,000 years previously;
- 3) The place where the Jewish kings Saul, David, and Solomon ruled a great nation;

- 4) The home of the First and Second sacred Jewish temples and soon to be home of the rebuilt Third Temple, the one into which the prophesied Antichrist will enter and proclaim himself God, demanding the entire world's worship;
- 5) It is the literal eternal capital of the Jewish nation (see below), the place where many of the miracles and manifestations of God himself occurred in the Bible; It is the location of the Dome of the Rock, the third holiest site in Islam. East Jerusalem is the place the Arabs, Muslims and Palestinians falsely demand for the Palestinians capital city, sparking unnecessary continued conflict and aggression in the region, although Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Qur'an, despite Muslims claiming it as their own;²⁹
- 6) It is the place where Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah, miraculously and spiritually ministered to thousands and tens of thousands, was crucified, buried and physically rose from the dead in fulfillment of hundreds of Messianic prophecies that are hundreds or thousands of years old, beginning as early as Genesis 3:15, written over 3,500 years ago describing the dawn of time itself. (Cf. Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*; Dr. John Ankerberg, et.al., *The Case for Jesus the Messiah*.);
- 7) It is the location from which the Christian church was born, the world's most unique and largest religion by far, an entity that, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ, changed the world forever; (See: Dr. D. James Kennedy, *What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?*);
- 8) It is the alleged location where Mohammed supposedly ascended into heaven;
- 9) It is the location where Christ Himself will physically return from Heaven, in great glory, to set up his Millennial kingdom to rule the earth.
- 10) It is the site of scores of wars historically, precursors in a sense to the final battle of history, the war of Armageddon.

These reasons and more are why the whole world is looking at Jerusalem, because of its remarkable religious history, its scores of wars and continued threats of war, diverse religious composition, the fabricated Palestinian issue that threatens world peace, and its centrality to three major world religions.

Consider a bit of interesting history. The first president of the state of Israel, Chaim Weisman, a leading voice for Israeli statehood, was a key player in helping to find and equip the British to win against Nazi Germany in World War I. Germany had conquered the market on acetone, a key ingredient for arms production, however Britain had none. Weisman invented a fermentation process that allowed the British to make their own acetone that helped win against the Nazis and possibly even win the war itself. Britain was so grateful that they helped Weisman to begin the process of reestablishing the State of Israel in 1917 through the Balfour Declaration (despite its flaws³⁰; not to be confused with the 1926 Balfour Declaration). By 1936, the Balfour Declaration had still not been implemented and anti-Semitism was sweeping throughout the Middle East. The Persian government changed its name to Iran in cooperation with the German government because Iran was believed to be the birthplace of the Aryan race. (In Farsi the word Iran means "land of the Aryans.") At the end of World War II, the Jews are hated almost everywhere and so they began flooding into Israel. In 1945, President Harry S. Truman, a biblical Christian (with the help of a good Jewish friend) laid the foundation for the establishment of the state of Israel. Truman was under incredible pressure to decide against the Jews by the Soviet Union, the US State Department and others, yet he chose to side with the Jews because of his strong biblical beliefs. The State Department actually attempted to sabotage Truman because they feared the Arabs would disrupt oil supplies. Apparently, Truman felt that he was born to establish the state of Israel.³¹

[The Blessings of Free Market Capitalism and an America at Risk](#)

America is at risk for her survival today as never before and one of many reasons is the massive size and debt of the current government and its hostility toward free markets. However before I discuss the topic of the importance of free markets, I would like to make a few introductory comments.

First, morally and in many other ways, conservatives are, by and large, principled while liberals are often unprincipled, which isn't at all to say that those of liberal persuasion can't be principled; only that their worldview tends to undermine their ideals in a variety of ways that are highly injurious to society.³²

Second, the basic ideals of political conservatism correspond to an originalist interpretation of the US Constitution, i.e., limited government, free markets, individual freedom, traditional American values (e.g., the importance of the Judeo-Christian faith), American exceptionalism, and a strong national defense.

Third, if these are the basic ideals of conservatism, unfortunately, it often misses the single most important item: that, in harmony with the United States Constitution, Judeo-Christian values be *openly* displayed and promoted in the culture and the public square; because without them America will simply not survive. The "separation of church and state" idea is an historic and Constitutional myth, promoted by those who often wish to undermine the nation (cf. wallbuilders.com).

Fourth, true free-market capitalism is regrettably a rarity on Wall Street today and has been for a long time, being replaced largely by crony capitalism. This isn't to say that free markets are absent from America, only that they predominate in small businesses, the engine of America, assuming the Obama government continues to permit it. As Pennsylvania Senator and Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum observed, "It's just unbelievable how much this administration has done in a very short period of time to just *crush* the American entrepreneurial spirit, to *crush* innovation and growth."³³

Fifth, in contrast to the ideals of conservatism, liberalism's ideals would be a subjective interpretation of the U.S. Constitution; big, intrusive government, which is inherently destructive to individual freedom, national prosperity and much else (i.e., government freedom over individual freedom); degrees of government control over the marketplace; rejection of traditional American values; frequent hostility to Christianity; and a less than strong national defense, along with varying degrees of acceptance of socialism/Marxism. (See footnote 30) For example, Dr. Randy Wysong observes what will shock many: "Read the Communist Manifesto. It's basically identical to today's government policies. Right now our economy is a charade. And economy is what social order is all about. When the bubble bursts and it falls apart, the consequences will be devastating. Government out of the Communist playbook will get you a Cuba ghetto, a loaf of bread for a wheelbarrow of dollars, loss of freedom, and the iron hand of government like in the Soviet Union, Cambodia, North Korea, pre-capitalist communist China, etc."³⁴

Finally, the solution for today's problems does not involve solely matters like personal independence and self-reliance; these are important, but, if one isn't careful, they can easily tend toward pride in a harmful sense, something highly destructive and which God hates. "Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD." (Jeremiah 17:5) Consider the words of Dr. John Piper on pride. (He is perhaps my favorite author, because God has so gifted him to glorify Himself, and I especially recommend Piper's superb work, *The Pleasures of God*). In *Life as a Vapor* Piper writes: "There are two reasons (at least) why God hates for man to boast in man. One is that boasting in man deflects man's attention from the Fountain of his joy and so ruins his life. It tricks man into replacing Magnificence with a mirror. Man was not made to admire man. He was made to admire God. The joy of admiration is prostituted and ruined when man tries to find galaxy-size Glory in the glow of his own reflection. God does not; like the human damage done by boasting in man. The other reason God hates for man to boast is this: It conveys the conviction that man is more admirable than God. Now that is, of course, untrue....What God hates is the dishonoring of God....So the real problem with man's boasting in man is that it belittles God. Boasting in God on the other hand, does the double opposite: it honors God and gives man the joy for which he was made: admiring the infinitely admirable. Mercifully, therefore, God has doubly excluded boasting by the way He saves sinners. First, boasting is excluded by faith [Romans 3:27]." "Second, boasting is excluded by election [1 Corinthians 1:27-29]."³⁵

For example, as much as I love and sincerely appreciate Glenn Beck and all he has done in exposing our governments' problems and offering solutions, the answer to our difficulties is primarily spiritual and moral in a

specifically Christian sense -- repentance from sin and trust in the biblical Jesus Christ. What will transform America is nothing less than national revival by the biblical Holy Spirit of God and renewal within the Christian church. That is what Christians must be praying for and working toward, especially now. Another Great Awakening is possible. However, faith in a general, undefined God will not suffice, for that is not faith in the true God. Hope apart from true biblical teaching is no hope at all, and charity or love must be centered first on God out of gratitude for what He has done for us personally in and through Christ -- and then towards our neighbors and society generally. (However, this is not to say that, if led, Christians are not to be involved in politics -- or *biblical* social justice, as opposed to the Marxist, progressive counterpart of Jeremiah Wright and President Obama: see Timothy Keller, *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just.*)³⁶

Mr. Beck however, has done the nation a great service in his overall analysis of the tremendous danger America now faces from several fronts. We face threats from extremists in Washington, such as the president and many of his powerful appointees (e.g. the czars), who are ruining the nation; an unmanageable \$14.5 trillion debt; Muslim extremists (and some terrorists) in the US who have considerably more influence than Americans generally realize [see Appendix 2]; the fact that common sense has, in so many ways, become almost illegal in the US (See: Philip K Howard, *The Death of Common Sense*); a US consumer illegal drug-induced war on the Mexican side of our southern border, with 35,000 dead and massive problems with illegal immigration; a constitutional crisis; multiple international threats (for example, global economic crisis and destabilization, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia, etc.), and a socialists/progressive movement with great power bent on transforming America forever, to name a few.³⁷

I've watched Glenn Beck regularly for three years and have checked many of his statements; he is typically correct, which is hardly surprising given his talent, research team, the number of powerful people in America who seriously dislike him (e.g., he spends \$1 million per year on personal security), not to mention the litigiousness in America. But that isn't all -- we face potential food, energy and water crises (for example, the Agallala water aquifer, which can't be replenished, is being depleted), possible massive civil unrest (look at Greece and what its overspending/debt is now doing), epidemics, severe hyperinflation, and the consequences of environmental radicalism which is now official policy under President Obama. This won't permit us to use the abundant untapped natural resources God gave us -- oil, coal, nuclear and gas -- that would solve many problems, and keeps us at the mercy of unfriendly foreign nations. Plus there are a variety of climate and environmental threats (not man-made global warming, but drought and decreasing farmland, honey bee colony collapse (bees pollinate something like 90% of fruit and vegetable crops and 30% of the bees have died off, with no cure in sight), and many others. Indeed, the signs of a coming US collapse are everywhere; some believe we have already entered the beginning phases of "the greatest depression" (TrendsResearch.com). As Dr. Nathan Hagens, former Vice President of Solomon Brothers and Lehman Brothers observes, "Our economic system is actually a giant global Ponzi scheme." And as everyone knows, with Ponzi schemes sooner or later it comes crashing down. Hagens is only one of several experts who believes a global depression is unmistakably on the way.³⁸ (Allegedly, the world's GDP is about \$60 trillion whereas the total corporate, national and private debt is about \$160 trillion.)

Even so, despite America's severe problems, it must never be forgotten that with the true God, all things are possible, and that includes surviving any type of disaster, and further, in His sovereignty, all things work together for good to those who truly love him (Romans 8:28). Even though things look bleak, God can always be merciful and turn things around. Hopefully, this nation will do the same spiritually. We may all be in big trouble, or God may be merciful, but it would be best to be prepared in any eventuality.

Returning to free markets, successful business competition helps everybody, especially the poor because better quality goods are produced at lower prices. Without free markets (Capitalism) everyone, including the poor, suffers more than they need to, often significantly more. And increasingly under socialism, the middle class tends to disappear, something happening now in America. As we will see, socialism has led about one billion people into poverty and capitalism has led about 1 billion people out of poverty.

So, why abandon the profit motive and all the good it has done in the world for socialism with a 100% failure rate, merely because the profit motive is capable of being abused? Why not correct the abuse by bringing back moral teaching in our businesses, homes and schools?

The profit motive is hardly something evil per se, but it can certainly be abused by greed and lack of ethics, which the nation now suffers from. To the contrary, the profit motive, capitalism and free markets are blessings from God.

Truth Frees; Lies Enslave

As in every subject, truth frees and lies enslave. Michael Medved and Steve Forbes are two of many experts who have exposed the common lies and falsehoods perpetrated about business in *The Five Big Lies about American Business: Combating Smears Against the Free-Market Economy and How Capitalism Will Save Us*.

Or consider Guy Sorman, one of the leading intellectuals and economists in France; he has received the highest distinctions in France (Légion d'honneur), Brazil (Southern Cross), and Argentina (Order of May); is a Manhattan Institute scholar and the author of 20-plus books, including *The Empire of Lies: The Truth about China, Exit from Socialism*, and *Economics Does Not Lie: A Defense of the Free Market in a time of Crisis*. He is also the former economic adviser to the French minister for foreign affairs and the prime minister. He currently chairs the India-France Economic Council and was appointed global adviser to South Korean president Lee Myung Bak in 2008. He has taught economics in the US, China, Russia, Argentina and at Paris University.³⁹

In *Economics Does Not Lie* (2009), he shows that free-market capitalism has lifted some one billion people out of poverty globally, especially in China, Brazil, and India. Who can't be happy about that? (This is opposed to Marxism and socialism that have placed *over* a billion people *into* poverty.) Among his 10 principles for a good economic system (e.g., one that promotes growth and thus helps the poor) are 1) entrepreneurialism, which assumes the rule of law, a reasonable tax system and the respect of property (the market economy is the most efficient of *all* economic systems); 2) innovation, the only engine for growth (related to "destructive creation," meaning that once something has outlived its usefulness it is replaced by something better); 3) a stable and predictable currency (inflation is always harmful, something the US government is now promoting); 4) free trade; 5) and 6) competition. Unfortunately, the Obama administration and the Democrats have forgotten virtually all these, which is one reason we are in the mess we're in and why, apart from real change and soon, it can only get much worse.

Sorman points out that once these principles are applied anywhere, they are successful and that there is no place on earth they will not work to produce growth and economic success. (Again, by contrast, wherever the principles of socialism are applied, they always result in failure; indeed one could think that otherwise smart people might somehow get the message after almost a century of recent socialist failures.) In addition, "almost all top" business experts and economic authorities – "who are recognized as such by their peers and who publish in the leading scientific journals -- would endorse" these 10 principles.

In sum, as Sorman emphasizes, "Free markets work better... it is a fact." Those today who wish to jettison free enterprise for socialism are guilty of a much greater sin than any perceived or real flaws in capitalism.⁴⁰

It is impossible to create the kinds of entrepreneurial success stories created in America (Whole Foods, the Forbes Empire, Microsoft, etc.) in any socialist or totalitarian government. As Steve Forbes affirmed, "In no other economy but a free-market entrepreneurial economy could Forbes have survived -- not just in the commercial sense but also with what we write about people."⁴¹

Before we travel too far down the current road, perhaps it would be well to remember, there aren't any businessmen in socialistic dictatorships.

Everyone uses cell phones today, but this ubiquitous luxury was never invented by or mandated by any government, rather through the innovation of free markets in Israel. The price of a cell phone in 1987 was

\$4,600; today they are virtually free -- that's one of thousands of illustrations the value of free market innovation. Something like this could never have happened under socialism and cell phones would not be everywhere, but again, it's only one of a thousand examples. The first calculator cost \$300 and offered only four options: add, subtract, multiply and divide. Today calculators with a computer chip can perform incredibly advanced mathematical calculations at 1/10 the cost. Look at the evolution of computers and hand held devices under free markets. If America were socialist, there wouldn't be an iPad today. In a free market, prices tend to go down over time while quality goes up -- remember your first TV or camera? In socialism everything goes down and stays there permanently.

George Gilder is the editor in chief of the Gilder Technology Report, author of the best-selling *Wealth and Poverty* and other books, including *The Israel Test*, a cofounder of the important Discovery Institute and he pioneered the formulation of supply-side economics (in contrast to Obama's miserable Keneysonian economics). Supply-side economics increases productivity and economic growth through policies maximizing the incentive to produce (within the context of a moral base), including lower taxes, less regulation, and greater flexibility, a return to which would possibly save America from many of the consequences of its current neo-Keneysonian madness.) Gilder has been a program director for the Manhattan Institute, is a fellow of the International Engineering Consortium, a contributing editor of *Forbes* magazine and a frequent writer for *The Economist*, the *Harvard Business Review*, the *Wall Street Journal* and others.

The Israel Test

"Israel is the canary in the mine. What happens to Israel will eventually happen to America itself." –
Former Marxist and noted political commentator David Horowitz

In *The Israel Test*, Gilder presents an innovative and I believe partially correct theory. He “argues that hostility toward Israel arises primarily from hostility toward capitalist creativity. How we react to that creativity -- by resenting it or admiring and emulating it -- will impact the future of Israel, the United States, and the world.”⁴²

Biblically speaking, hostility to Israel comes primarily from the devil, but Gilder's point is well taken. Indeed, this is perhaps the major reason why Muslim nations are typically poor and corrupt; they reject free-market capitalism for state control of everything through an antiquated and unworkable seventh century Quranic worldview and an archaic, repressive, totalitarian Sharia law. President Obama expresses a similar disdain for free-market capitalism through e.g., his semi-socialist government, repressive legislation, regulatory czars, scorn of business, and executive orders.

Ironically, Israel herself was significantly, but not entirely, socialist prior to the 1990s, but once she turned to an entrepreneurial free enterprise approach, the nation began to thrive and explode. Another irony is that apart from the Jews themselves, the biggest beneficiaries of Israeli wealth and success have been the Palestinians who, polls reveal, often support terrorism against Israel, their very benefactor.

To illustrate, consider Gaza and the West Bank. After the 1967 war, Israel obtained Gaza and the West Bank and they both became more prosperous. When Israel is in control, there is prosperity; when Muslims are in control they crumble into corruption and misery. Look at Gaza today under the terror group Hamas. As Gilder points out of President Obama and his administration: "I think they just don't understand how central Israel is to the American economy, American defenses and American intelligence -- we should prop up Israel, but Israel props us up."⁴³ And now, because we have an American president who is anti-Israel, the consequences to America could be anything but lovely. Consider the following note from the DEBKAFfile: "Congressman Eric Cantor: Obama admin. is manufacturing fights with Israel to ingratiate itself with Arab world" DEBKAFfile reveals that the Obama administration is already engaged in behind-the-scenes cooperation with Tehran in arrangements that have begun to acknowledge Iran's regional supremacy -- at Israel's expense." In addition, with the help of Iran and Syria, the 25,000-member terrorist Hezbollah militia is being transformed into "an organized mobilized army with a whole range of missiles and other sophisticated weapons" in order to attack Israel, along with other Iranian allies, in a preemptive strike before it can attack Iran.⁴⁴

For all anyone knows, that attack could come this year. Thankfully, as the late comedian Bob Hope once quipped, "The only thing chicken about Israel is their soup."

God's Choice

"You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth..." (Amos 3:2)

Regardless, Israel only exists at all, and is what it is, because of God's choosing her to Himself as a particular people for His own purpose and glory:

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands." (Deuteronomy 7:6-9)

The fact that the nation of Israel has been a miracle from the day it was born is why so many people point to Israel as proof of the existence of the God of the Bible as the only true God. As Jesus said, "This is eternal life: to know you the *only* true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3, emphasis added) Again, no other nation on earth has been like Israel, just as no other religion on Earth is like biblical Christianity and no other person in history is like Jesus Christ.

And the whole world should be grateful -- but somehow it isn't. In Genesis 12:3, 26:3-6, 28:14-15 and other scriptures, God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed in Abraham's offspring -- as indeed has been the case historically. Considering the Jewish Messiah, Jesus Christ, and the Jewish Scriptures, the Bible, alone, these have produced unparalleled spiritual and material blessings to the whole world. (See: Dr. James Kennedy, *What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?* and *What If the Bible Had Never Been Written?*) But in addition, many of the greatest statesmen, scientists, financiers, lawyers and people from all walks of life have been Jews. Their impact upon the world's culture, technology, science, politics, medicine and in other areas has simply been enormous.⁴⁵ This not only illustrates the blessings of the Abraham the covenant, but also illustrates how worldviews matter – they matter greatly depending on whether they are true or false. To cite just one example, the global Islamic populace is about 1.5 billion, over 20% of the world's entire inhabitants, and Muslims have apparently received a total of seven Nobel prizes; Jews comprise a mere 14 million people or .02% of the world's population yet they have received almost 140 Nobel prizes.⁴⁶

Israel in Prophecy -- the Amazing Biblical Scriptures (The Prophetic Return of the Jews to Modern Israel)

"Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind." (Ezekiel 39:28)

We have seen that Israel is a miracle; unique in the world and even critical to it. But we have not yet cited in detail the biblical Scriptures predicting the reestablishment of the nation of Israel. Remember, every one of the prophecies concerning the return of Israel constitutes a supernatural miracle, because only God could foresee thousands of years into the future with specific predictions that were literally fulfilled. Indeed, every one of the 1,800+ predictions in the Bible constitutes a miracle,⁴⁷ and all things considered, every page of the Bible is a miracle, contains a miracle, or assumes a miracle.

What are the ancient prophecies concerning Israel's return to the land?

God promised Abraham and his descendents that he would give them the land of Israel forever (Genesis 13:14-15). In Genesis 15:18-21 God provides the specific boundaries of the land of Israel per the eternal covenant, about 10 times the current size of modern Israel. (See Bill Salus, *Israelestine*.) In Genesis 26:2-4, the promise is

declared to Abraham's descendents. The covenant was reaffirmed to King David as an everlasting covenant (such as Psalm 105:8-12); it was reaffirmed in Jeremiah 31:35-37, as being as binding as the rising of the sun and the existence of the stars.

No one can deny that Israel is again a sovereign, unified nation after 27 centuries, involving 2,000 years of geopolitical nonexistence. It is also evident that this little country is increasingly capturing the attention and concern of the entire world, the beginnings of a fulfillment of biblical prophecy (Zechariah 12:2-4; Zechariah 12:9; Zechariah 14:2-12,).

These prophecies of a national return seem clear enough for anyone living in the twenty-first century – well after their fulfillment. But consider how difficult it would have been for people to accept such prophecies *prior* to the twentieth century. Such prophecies were not as easy to appreciate for those living in the extremely long period of 1,900 years before their fulfillment. How tempting it would be (and was) to “spiritualize” such prophecies and ignore their literal meaning.

Many years ago, I still remember reading in Louis Berkof's Systematic Theology a clear declaration that Israel would never again become a nation state, a belief that fit with his Amillennialism. Ironically, his book was published in 1947, just a year before the state of Israel was actually and dramatically reborn.

God predicted that, in divine judgment for their repeated, unrepentant idolatry and other sins, including human sacrifice as a consequence of their adopting (or syncretism with) paganism, that the Jews would be scattered throughout the nations, but that He would return them to their land. Again, these predictions occurred over 2500 years ago. As the late scientist Dr. Henry Morris observed in *Many Infallible Proofs*, “That a nation could be completely destroyed as an organized entity by an invading army (as Israel was, by the Romans in 70 A.D.), its people either slaughtered or scattered from one end of the world to the other, its land occupied and ruled by aliens for 1900 years, and yet survived as a distinct nationality, and then finally regain its homeland and be recognized as a viable nation once more by the other nations of the world, seems impossible. Yet it has happened in spite of the impossibilities, and to make it still more amazing, it was predicted to happen many centuries before it happened.”⁴⁸

The historical impossibility of a revived nation of Israel was why even many Christians and professing Christians over the centuries had concluded that God was through with Israel and that all the promises to Israel would therefore be fulfilled spiritually in the Church rather than literally in the nation of Israel. This remains true today, especially among professing Christians who favor the Palestinians over Israel. For example, the Catholic Church has a long history of anti-Semitism, per our discussion in the sense of its “replacement theology” which allegorizes Old Testament prophecies to Israel, giving them literally to the church. In October 2010, a Catholic Synod of Bishops, in effect, recommended that Israel end its “occupation” of Palestine, or that Israel cease to exist as a sovereign state by acceding to demands for a two-state solution and the dividing of Jerusalem. It called literally for “an end to the occupation of the different Arab territories.”⁴⁹

Clearly denying what God has already declared and promised, at the end of the conference, Msgr. Cyril Salim Bustros, the Greek Melkite Archbishop, asserted, “We Christians cannot speak of the Promised Land as an exclusive right for the privileged Jewish people. This promise was nullified by Christ.”⁵⁰ But nowhere can he cite a single statement of Christ (or the New Testament) to that effect. He also said that all people on Earth are the chosen people, flatly contradicting the Scriptures cited above, and many others. In effect, everyone on the planet is the chosen people -- apparently except the Jews who are so unchosen by God that aren't even allowed a sovereign homeland in the shadow of the Holocaust.

In essence, anyone who read these prophecies prior to the mid-Twentieth Century and wasn't committed to a literal biblical interpretation could find it easy to think that either these were false prophecies or to interpret them non-literally. Why?

First, because they had clearly not been fulfilled for 1,900 years, a very long time, and regardless, it would be historically impossible for such a dispersed nation to ever become a nation again.

Second, the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 is connected to the modern regathering of the nation of Israel (Ezekiel 38:8). Ezekiel predicts a major power to the far north of Israel that, along with a confederacy of additional (now Muslim) nations, will attack Israel in great hordes. (Significantly, the so-called "Arab Spring" seems to be laying the groundwork for a number of nations in the Middle East and North Africa to adopt Sharia law; for example, based on upcoming and recent elections, it's probably just a matter of time before Egypt and Turkey institute Sharia law.) This invading army will be dramatically and supernaturally destroyed by God. The description of this event given makes it clear that it has not yet happened. But since prior to 1948, Israel had no existence at all, an attack by a great Northern power and confederacy of nations was irrelevant. Thus it would be easy to dismiss or spiritualize the prophecies about a regathering Israel and associated events.

But no longer – since 1948, skeptics have some rethinking to do, or at least they should. And with the rise to power of Russia and her former satellite states, six of whom are predominantly Muslim, as well as the existence of an Arab/Muslim confederacy in the Middle East and much of northern Africa, now in the midst of upheaval and an a probable Islamist revolt, the Ezekiel prophecy takes on dramatic new meaning. Israel now exists and a great power does exist to Israel's north, and Russia is increasingly associated with many of the nations in the Ezekiel 38 prophecy.

As a result of prophecies like these, many people have learned to treat biblical prophecies with more respect, even when it seems unlikely or "impossible" that they could be literally fulfilled.

Ezekiel 36 declares that the main enemies of Israel will be from the half-brother of Isaac, Ishmael and the twin brother of Jacob, Esau. Historically, these peoples apparently mingled together to become at least in part, the modern Arabs. It's rather startling to think that the enmity of a half-brother and a twin brother could, in part, touch off so many wars in the region, not to mention at least one potential future war.

Now consider the prophecies themselves as to the historic worldwide scattering and re-gathering of the Jews. When we consider that all these prophecies were written some 2500 years ago, we can once again only conclude that the Bible is the inspired word of God, because no other logical option remains. Although prophesied over 25 centuries ago, this prediction has been and is still being fulfilled in this century with the rebirth of Israel, and the continuing ingathering of Jews from around the world.

In the material below we are selecting only those scriptures from Ezekiel, composed 26 centuries prior. Ezekiel, like all biblical prophets (and them alone), pre-wrote history in detail.

"Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it." (Ezekiel 36:36, see verses 1-38)

"..And I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord." (Ezekiel 37:14)

"...I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. They will know that I am the Lord their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind." (Ezekiel 39:27-28)

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land." (Ezekiel 36:24)

"... I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom [the Arab states], for with glee and with malice in their hearts they made my land their own possession..." (Ezekiel 36:5, emphasis added)

And say to them, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land." (Ezekiel 37:21)

"When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord their

God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind.” (Ezekiel 39:27-28; see also Ezekiel 36:3-6, 15, 26-30, 35-36; 37:26-27; 38:17-18; 39:21-22, 27-29).

There isn't any doubt that just as God had sent the Jews into dispersion throughout the world in the Assyrian, Babylonian and Roman judgments, so today He has and continues to bring back His peculiar people from the ends of the earth, and in the process, it seems, is setting up the final days before the physical return of their Messiah, Jesus Christ to this earth. He will rule the world from Jerusalem (see below) for the thousand-year Millennial reign prior to the end of time and the beginning of the eternal state. The Scriptures that many thought were impossible to fulfill over some 20 centuries have now been literally fulfilled. Indeed, their fulfillment was impossible for men -- but not for God.

[Similar Passages from Isaiah and Jeremiah](#)

Below we present seven additional prophecies from two other biblical books, penned 2,500-2,700 years ago. The first is particularly startling in light of Israel's history:

“Who has ever seen or heard of anything as strange as this? Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment? But by the time Jerusalem's birth pains begin, the baby will be born; the nation will come forth.” (Isaiah 66:8, NLT)

“He will raise a flag among the nations for Israel to rally around. He will gather the scattered people of Judah from the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 11:12, NLT)

"Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 43:5-6)

“The time is coming when my people will take root. Israel will bud and blossom and fill the whole earth with her fruit!” (Isaiah 27:6, NLT)

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west and from north and south. I will bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth. All who claim me as their God will come, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.” (Isaiah 43:5-7, NLT)

“But the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when people who are taking an oath will no longer say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt.’ Instead, they will say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the people of Israel back to their own land from the land of the north and from all the countries to which he had exiled them.’ For I will bring them back to this land that I gave their ancestors.” (Jeremiah 16:14-15, NLT)

“But I will gather together the remnant of my flock from wherever I have driven them. I will bring them back into their own fold, and they will be fruitful and increase in number. Then I will appoint responsible shepherds to care for them, and they will never be afraid again. Not a single one of them will be lost or missing,” says the Lord.” “For the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will place a righteous Branch on King David's throne [Jesus Christ]. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. And this is his name: ‘The Lord Is Our Righteousness.’ [A reference to the forensic justification that comes by faith in Christ alone; i.e., by faith, Christ's own perfect righteousness is imputed or reckoned to the believer's account for all eternity.] In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety.” “In that day,” says the Lord, “when people are taking an oath, they will no longer say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt.’ Instead, they will say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the people of Israel back to their own land from the land of the north and from all the countries to which he had exiled them.’ Then they will live in their own land.” (Jeremiah 23:3-8, NLT)⁵¹

But there are passages from still other biblical books as well, to cite one example, Amos 9: 14-15: "I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God."

[For the Nations -- Blessing or Cursing?](#)

Dr. Chuck Missler in his 15th lecture on the book of Genesis observed the following, "The tragedy in the Christian church is that probably 9 out of 10 churches have no grasp of the Abrahamic covenant, no grasp of what the Abrahamic covenant means to them, no grasp of the Old Testament and that's tragic because everything you and I enjoy as Gentiles is derived from Abraham and the covenant God made with him." He points out that Abraham has a six-decade overlap with Noah and is mentioned 74 times in the New Testament. Further, "It's astonishing to realize how the rise and fall of nations relate to their treatment of Israel."⁵² Actually, it's expected.

In Genesis 12 God promises Abraham that he will "bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you" and in Genesis 15 the covenant is ratified. "On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "*To your descendants* I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites." (Genesis 15:18-21, emphasis added) In Genesis 17 the covenant is reiterated in more detail e.g., "I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant *as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come*, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. *The whole land of Canaan*, where you are now an alien, I will give *as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you*; and I will be their God" (Genesis 17: 6-8, emphasis added).

Abraham received the Abrahamic covenant in Hebron just 20 miles south southwest of Jerusalem; it established an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendents, hence the blessing or cursing of those who relate to Abraham applies to both Abraham and his descendents, the Jews. This is something that has continued to be true for Abraham's descendents throughout history. As Hal Lindsey also points out, the fate of entire nations and empires has been determined by God's original promise to Abraham relative to cursing or blessing. Indeed, throughout history every government that has persecuted the Jews has, as far as can be determined, been judged by God: Assyria, Babylon and many other ancient nations that surrounded Israel, Rome, Nazi Germany, and the Arab nations in their recent multiple wars with Israel, have all suffered God's judgment because of their persecution or hatred of Israel. The USSR often had a national policy of persecution of the Jews, and eventually the Empire itself fell. Today, the Russian government and economy are largely in shambles. Between the late 1980s and the early 1990s over half of all Russian Jews left the country, most of them heading for Israel. Since the founding of the Jewish state Russia has consistently supported the Arabs over against Israel. "The official position of the Soviet Union and its satellite states and agencies was that Zionism was a tool used by the Jews and Americans for 'racist imperialism.'"⁵³

In addition, "One can track the rise and fall of medieval empires and kingdoms through to the modern era and see the same principle [blessing or cursing] played time and time again."⁵⁴

For example, as Lindsey points out the British Empire ruled the world for 300 years until it (in part) turned against the Jews, ceding land that was to be given to Israel to the Arab states instead.⁵⁵

In addition, by restricting Jewish immigration to the holy land, Britain also helped permit the exposure to Hitler's brutalities in the Holocaust. By the time Israel declared her independence and statehood in 1948, the British Empire had basically ceased to exist.

We shouldn't think it will be any different with America, who, as noted earlier, under the Obama administration, has turned on Israel. As Caroline Glick, who writes a column for the *Jerusalem Post* observed, "Conceptually and substantively, Obama [has] abandoned the US alliance with Israel."⁵⁶

To illustrate, Bill Koenig is a former White House correspondent who currently runs Koenig International News (www.watch.org). In his book, *Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel*, he argues that the 10 costliest insurance disasters in American history, the 12 worst hurricanes, and the two most tragic terrorist events on US soil, all occurred at the same time -- when US presidents were pressuring Israel to give up holy land, land that God calls his own, land ceded supposedly in exchange for peace, which only produce more hatred, venom, terror and war.

This is a peace, incidentally, which the Arab Muslims do not desire because they have made it clear that their only goal is the destruction of Israel. (After all, will peace be brought about by a Hamas led terrorist capital of Palestine in East Jerusalem, giving the Golan Heights to terrorist Syria, etc?) Koenig argues that there are dozens of catastrophic events that have occurred when America has turned its back on God's purposes for Israel. In a television interview he pointed out that CIA Director Leon Panetta attended a hearing four months ago on Capitol Hill where he said that in 4-6 months the US would be attacked by Al Qaeda.⁵⁷ This was apparently the November 2010 parcel bomb plot of Al Qaeda, using multiple aircraft, that was foiled just in the nick of time (although it could have referred to at least two other foiled attacks).

Indeed, there have been so many terrorist attempts against the US that have been thwarted (scores or more) that one is virtually forced to assume divine protection, despite our national sins. How much longer this protection will continue no one knows, but once it is removed, it could easily be in relation to something the US has accomplished against Israel in the search for a corrupt peace favoring the corrupted, terrorist Palestinian Authority.

If the following is true, it would be significant. In late September 2001 President Bush, in cooperation with the Saudis, was allegedly going to call for the establishment of a Palestinian state and for the negotiation of new boundaries in Jerusalem. Bush's lecture was purportedly going to be the most comprehensive address ever given to the UN by an American president on that theme. Whatever else 9/11 was caused by or resulted in, it definitely canceled that potentially pivotal UN address. Now, however, president Obama has promised that the issue will be forced soon and negotiations are allegedly occurring behind the scenes in which Israel is being severely pressured to give up East Jerusalem if it wants US help with protection from terrorists, Iran, billions in foreign aid, etc. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is unlikely to cave in and then we will have to see the outcome.

For 200 years America has been based on a Judeo-Christian foundation and for 60 years she has supported Israel. Now, under President Obama and radical Democrats, we are turning our backs on Israel and hope to force her to divide Jerusalem and return to the deadly 1967 borders. America was the first to recognize Israel and it was blessed by God until the Yom Kippur war of 1973; then Democratic President Jimmy Carter pressured Israel to surrender lands it rightfully captured after being brutally attacked by Muslim nations during the war. America then experienced the OPEC crisis that caused all kinds of problems, including interminable gas lines; soaring inflation and a tanked economy; we lost the war in Vietnam, national morality plummeted; there was national cynicism, etc. The 1970s saw the following: higher divorce rates, increased premarital sex, a rise in drug use and crime rates, a declining standard of living, increased recognition of the homosexual lifestyle, and a good deal of "dissolution, cynicism bitterness, and anger..."⁵⁹

Under president Ronald Reagan the US again blessed Israel and refused to consider dividing Jerusalem. With the fall of the Soviet Union, largely result of Reagan policies and papal influence, the US became the world's sole superpower. America was blessed again in the Reagan era. Then, in September 1993 Democratic President Bill Clinton sponsored the signing of the disastrous Oslo Accords favoring the Palestinians, it and it's been downhill ever since. The Oslo Accords were a disaster for Israel because the Arabs and most Palestinians never did and never will want peace with Israel. Israel has sacrificed time and again and only been betrayed by her hostile neighbors. Even under President Bush's similar two state policy, America suffered 9/11 and the ongoing results of the war on terror plus the financial crisis in 2007-2008 that almost took America back into a Great Depression -- and may yet do so, if not worse (a hyperinflationary great depression).

As best-selling author and prophecy expert Hal Lindsey points out, there are too many "unrelated coincidences" to not qualify as a pattern in relationship to that original promise given to Abraham relative to blessing and cursing.⁶⁰

Of course we can find good and bad things that happen in any given period. Some people may scoff and say that bad things are always happening regardless of circumstances. That is true enough. However this particular situation involving God's blessing or cursing based upon treatment of Israel seems true for a number of reasons. First, because God clearly declared it contextually in Genesis 12:2-3 and made a covenant-oath with Abraham in Genesis 15 and the blessing or cursing involves his descendents as well (for example, Genesis 17). Second, because, as Hal Lindsey and others have observed, there are just too many coincidences for it not to be a rule (for details see Bill Koenig's book, *Eye to Eye: the Consequences of Dividing Israel* and in part, John McTernan, *As America Has Done to Israel*). Third, the Old Testament is full of the judgment of Israel's enemies. Fourth, even apart from Abraham and Genesis 12/15/17, there are far too many Scriptures on divine judgment indicating that God does, in fact, judge the world every day on the basis of His righteousness. And if a religion, nation, or people treats God's personally chosen people Israel in an unrighteous or evil fashion, God's righteousness will pay that religion, nation or people in return. "He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in *all the earth*" (Psalm 105:7). "God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath *every day*" (Psalm 7:11). "I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me" (Micah 5:15)

Given God's promise to Abraham, do we think there is absolutely no connection between President Obama's current betrayal of Israel in the hopes of an impossible Mideast peace (again, there can never be peace with one party committed to the other's destruction, overtly or covertly) -- and his wasting of literally *trillions* of taxpayer dollars; a 500-year flash flood in Arkansas; a thousand year flood in Tennessee; a vast and consequential oil spill in the Gulf, the worst in history, making America even more dependent upon hostile foreign sources and weakening her national security; a literal war on our southern border, with 35,000 dead at the time of writing, a war that could seriously spill over into the US; our own government working hard to undermine the very foundations of the nation; a government that is increasingly undermining America's moral base and rewarding evil people and punishing good people; the likelihood of a collapsed currency/hyperinflationary depression in the near future; significantly increased risks of terror attacks from Obama's foreign policy ineptitude and weakness, and even the potential eventual destruction of traditional America, something now well in progress? 2011 saw more combined tornadoes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, droughts and other natural disasters than in a very long time; even volcanoes are becoming more active. The massive Ogallala aquifer in the central United States has begun to dry up, such that the Great American Plains that once supplied the world with food may become a dustbowl. For the fourth year in a row, more than one third of the nation's honeybee colonies failed to survive, further disrupting food supplies -- and on it goes. At the time of this writing true inflation has begun, with oil approaching \$100 per barrel, corn is way up, and cotton prices up almost 100% as an illustration of what's happening in the commodity market. Oh, and yes, America is now virtually bankrupt. And, of course, as the economy goes, so goes the military. (The US government today is increasingly corrupt and so dishonest that it does not even include food and energy prices in its inflation figures.)

These are just a few of the problems America faces and the longer we betray Israel, and ignore the God of Abraham and Jesus, the worse it will get.

President Obama asserted that if peace negotiations remained stalled until October 2010 (which they did) then he would seek to force a peace on both sides, and seek to force Israel's compliance to Muslim demands to divide Jerusalem and set up a two-state "solution." Palestinian officials claim they have received assurances from US envoy George Mitchell that "time is running out for Israel" -- that if Israel doesn't give in to Arab demands, Obama will force it to. As result, the Palestinians are set to unilaterally declare their own statehood and capital of East Jerusalem, no doubt with UN, European Union and OIC support (the 57-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference).

At the time of writing, there are reports of a 30-day ultimatum from Obama to Israel to accept the 1967 borders and a 30-day ultimatum from the Arab League to Obama relative to restarting the peace talks toward the 1967

borders, with the news media seemingly confused on these issues or engaging in its typically biased reporting. The Bebe Report says there is no Obama ultimatum to Netanyahu, which could mean anything in that so much of what goes on occurs behind closed doors.⁶¹ Regardless, what is more certain, based on Obama's actions and not rhetoric, is when the *Jerusalem Post* reports on the open hostility of the Obama administration toward Israel and "the US president treating Israel like an enemy." Unfortunately, that is exactly what the president has done and this is one of many reasons Mr. Obama desperately needs our prayers. Unfortunately, like birds of a feather, he has simply surrounded himself with too many political extremists whose worldview is contrary to America's best interests or even dangerous, not to mention the incompetence in so many areas that this administration displays on a regular basis. Thankfully, it is in times like this (and all times) that we can be grateful for the sovereign will and good purposes of God: do what anyone may, God's will shall be done, for good or ill, and it will in the end be seen to glorify Him and be the best for His people, and that's what matters.

However, Obama is doing far more than seeking an impossible Mideast peace; because of God's promise to Abraham, he is also bringing God's cursing upon the American nation. Of course, he is not doing this intentionally; he simply doesn't understand what the Bible teaches about Israel or that she is the 'apple of God's eye.' (Zechariah 2:8, or as the New Living Translation reads, "Anyone [any nation] who harms you harms my most precious possession." Hopefully, in little over a year President Obama will be out of office and a new president will once again support Israel. And hopefully, we will survive God's anger.

[God's Eternal Love for Israel \(has God abandoned Israel?\)](#)

If one thing is clear from the Old Testament it is that God's love for the nation of Israel (its people, its land and in particular, Jerusalem) is both eternal and inviolate, irrespective of the behavior of the Jewish people. (As Romans 9-11 makes clear, this is not to say that individual Jews automatically receive salvation apart from faith in Christ, their Messiah; it is to say that God has a unique love relationship with Israel. Indeed, throughout the entire Old Testament God's unique people *are* "Israel.")

Of all those cities and nations that exist on Earth, Jerusalem alone is God's personally chosen city, and Israel His personally chosen nation.

Jerusalem is described as "the city He loves" in both Zechariah 8:1-3 and Revelation 20:9.

And of all nations, Israel alone was chosen to be His people, as the following three Scriptures illustrate:

"Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today." (Deuteronomy 10:15)

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)

"... your [God's] people Israel, and may you listen to them whenever they cry out to you. For you singled them out from all the nations of the world to be your own inheritance, just as you declared through your servant Moses when you, O Sovereign LORD, brought our fathers out of Egypt." (1 Kings 8:53)

God desired Israel's obedience above all, but she was mostly unwilling to give it. God's steadfast love for Israel, despite her repeated idolatries, is graphically displayed in the book of Hosea, where God poignantly commands the prophet Hosea to marry an unfaithful wife and love her regardless. "The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods" (Hosea 3:1) Hosea himself repeatedly describes Israel's sin (Hosea 9:7, 9, 10b, 15; 10:1, 9, 15; 11:2; 4:7-8; 11:7; 13:2, 49) and both he (and Jesus, Matthew 23:29-39)

lamented over Israel's repeated persecution and killing of the biblical prophets that God had lovingly sent to them, to turn them from their evil ways. (Hosea 9:9)

Yet, in the end, we see that God's covenant love for Israel and his faithfulness to His own character cannot permit Him to let her go, despite her perpetual backsliding, idolatries and adulteries both spiritual and physical, even despite the severity of God's own judgments upon Israel historically. "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?" (Hosea 11:8-9)

As seen repeatedly in the Old Testament, it was typically only in their abject misery, after divine judgment, that Israel sought the Lord and returned to him.

Thus, God will remain faithful to Israel despite everything, proven in no small manner by the miracle of her rebirth in 1948.

Four Powerful Illustrations of God's Unchanging Love for Israel

Illustration #1

Consider the following four ways in which God illustrates his love for Israel (emphasis added in all Scripture citations below); significantly, this is reminiscent of the New Testament depiction of Christ as the bridegroom and the Church as his bride. (Matthew 9:15; John 3:29; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-9, 21:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2.):

First, God uses fixed laws and the regularity of nature to illustrate his commitment to Israel -- God wants Israel and the world to know that his commitment to Israel is as inviolate as the laws of nature. In other words, if the sun stops shining by day and the stars and the moon stop shining by night, then his commitment to Israel may be questioned. Or, if we finite and frail humans are somehow able to actually prevent the sun and the stars from shining, only then will he abandon Israel. Even when Israel was under the most severe judgment during the time of Jeremiah, it is this same message of God's steadfast love and commitment to the nation of Israel that God repeats to the idolatrous nation on multiple occasions, e.g.:

"This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar -- the LORD Almighty is his name: '*Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,*' declares the LORD, '*will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me.*'" (Jeremiah 31:35-36)

"The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "This is what the LORD says: '*If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night,* so that day and night no longer come at their appointed time, then my covenant with David my servant -- and my covenant with the Levites who are priests ministering before me -- can be broken and David will no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne.' The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "Have you not noticed that these people are saying, 'The LORD has rejected the two kingdoms he chose'? So they despise my people and no longer regard them as a nation. This is what the LORD says: 'If I have not established my covenant with day and night and *the fixed laws of heaven and earth,* then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them.'" (Jeremiah 33:19-26)

Illustration #2

Second, God also illustrates his love for Israel by comparing it with the love of a mother for her newborn son -- indeed, even greater than such a love: a mother may rarely abandon her own child, but God will never finally abandon Israel; he has even engraved Israel on the palm of his hands:

"But Zion [Jerusalem] said, "The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." [But the Lord responds:] "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has

borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me." (Isaiah 49:14-16)

Illustration #3

Third, and most powerfully, God not infrequently uses the terms "eternal" or "everlasting" quite literally, to show his undying commitment to Israel. To be sure, even that Jerusalem is, incredibly -- although God inhabits eternity and infinity itself -- his special home forever. Consider a few illustrations:

Isaiah 45:17 -- "But Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will never be put to shame or disgraced, to *ages everlasting*."

Hosea 2:19 -- "I will betroth you to me *forever*; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion."

Isaiah 54:10 -- "...my *unfailing* love for you will not be shaken... "

Isaiah 56:5 -- "... I will give them an *everlasting* name that will not be cut off."

Jeremiah 32:40-41 -- "I will make an *everlasting* covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul."

Jeremiah 31:3-- "The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." (Cf. Jeremiah 46:28; Jeremiah 51:5; Isaiah 42:24-43:7; Isaiah 41:8-11)

1 Kings 10:9 -- "Because of the LORD's *eternal love for Israel*, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness."

2 Chronicles 33:4, 7 -- "He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, 'My Name will remain in Jerusalem *forever*...' God had said to David and to his son Solomon, 'In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, *I will put my Name forever*.'"

Psalms 132: 13,14 -- "For the LORD has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling: 'This is my resting place *for ever and ever*; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.'"

Psalms 125:1 -- "Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but *endures forever*."

What could be clearer?

In essence, if as so many people maintain, even many evangelical Christians, God were through with Israel, why would it say of the massive eternal city, the New Jerusalem, "On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of *Israel*"? (Revelation 21:12).

Illustration #4

The fourth and final illustration of God's love for Israel is, in one sense, possibly the most powerful of all because it is centered in God sovereign purposes entirely and has nothing to do with human behavior. In his discussion of the Abrahamic covenant, theologian and philosopher Dr. R.C. Sproul discusses the specific method by which God made his original covenant with Abraham in Genesis. Here, God is showing Abraham a vital truth based upon ancient near Eastern practice.

In covenant-making ceremonies of the time, parties to the covenant would often kill a few animals and divide the pieces in two rows. They would then walk between the pieces to powerfully illustrate that they would meet the same fate as the animals, should they break their oath.

In Genesis 12 and 15, where God makes His covenant with Abraham, this is not the method God uses, and for a very important reason. In Genesis 15:7-8, Abraham asks God for a sign that he will keep his promise. God does

not rebuke Abraham for his unbelief -- after all, although it is God speaking and promising, the promises are of massive proportions; God understands Abraham's concern. Instead, God tells Abraham to display the animal covenant practice cited above. While killing the animals, Abraham probably thinks that both he and God will walk between the pieces, as a means to seal the covenant. But this isn't what happens. Instead, a visible manifestation of God appears, a flaming torch and smoking pot. These represent God and it is these items *alone* that pass through the row of animal pieces -- Abraham himself, in contrast to the normal covenant practice, is deliberately left out of the ceremony. (Genesis 15:12-18)

As Dr. Sproul comments, "God *alone* takes *upon Himself the covenant curse* if he does not keep his promises to Abraham. God swears this oath before changing Abram's name to Abraham and before instituting the sign of circumcision (chap. 17). The Lord is pledging to fulfill his promise *no matter what His people do.*"

In other words, God takes the entirety of the responsibility for fulfilling the covenant promises to himself alone. Why? Because he knows that he alone will be able to keep the covenant; Israel will not. In sum, no more powerful illustration could be provided, that God's multiple promises to Abraham will be fulfilled -- than God swearing by himself, and himself alone (Significantly, he also does this in the book of Hebrews regarding the eternal security of individual salvation, Hebrews 6:16-18.) It is if God were saying, "If I don't keep my promises to you Abraham, I will meet the same fate of those animals; I will be cursed and die," which, of course, is forever impossible. Thus, the sovereign faithfulness of God in keeping his promises is powerfully made to Abraham in a way that is otherwise not possible. All of God's covenant promises to Abraham will be fulfilled, for example:

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2-3)

"To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates -- the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites" (Genesis 15:18-21).

Replacement Theology?

"Salvation is of the Jews." (John 4:22)

"Replacement theology" seems to be increasingly popular in the Church, even the evangelical church. It is often part of "dominion theology," (composed of Christian Reconstructionism/Kingdom now teaching), the idea that the Church, through the increasing influence of God's law and evangelism in society will increasingly exert influence over the world until it brings about the Millennial rule of Jesus Christ. (For a good critique, see: Drs. H. Wayne House and Thomas Ice, *Dominion Theology: Blessing or Curse? An Analysis of Christian Reconstructionism*; for critiques of replacement theology see note 11)

According to a reliable source I remember reading, being struck by the information, it was said that dominion theology has become the second largest mega-block within the Christian religion, behind only Roman Catholicism, comprising over 400 million members and that is growing faster than Islam itself. While brief research could not confirm this, again, I trust the source. Regardless, "replacement theology" is a force to be dealt with. In general it believes that the Church has replaced Israel such that the Old Testament covenants and promises to Israel are now fulfilled in the Church, largely because of the behavior of the Jews, e.g., the Jews largely rejected their Messiah at the time of Christ, persecuted the early Church and typically continue to reject him.

But as we have seen, Jewish behavior has nothing to do with the covenant faithfulness of God.

According to Romans 9:4, it is said of the Jews: "They are Israelites, and to them *belong the... promises.*" (ESV, emphasis added) Ownership of the promises is said to be true of the Israelites literally as a nation; the

subsequent discussion indicates its fulfillment also in the spiritual descendants of Abraham, both Jew and Gentile, which does not at all nullify the literal promises of God to the nation itself, e.g. when "all Israel will be saved" at the return of Christ, during the Millennial kingdom.

Indeed, given the cumulative sin of Israel from Moses to Malachi (for example 2 Kings 17:7-24, 33-41; 21:15; 24:20; Nehemiah 9), if God were going to abandon the Jews and His covenant promises to them on the basis of behavior alone, he would have done so long ago, and there would certainly be no state of Israel today, or ever. Indeed, 70 A.D. was a very fierce judgment, but God still reestablished Israel in 1948.

Given two national deportations and God in righteous judgment destroying the magnificent Jewish Temple in 70 AD., and then dispersing the nation throughout the world; given the rejection of the Jewish Messiah by most (clearly not all) Jews of the first century and the subsequent 20 centuries, and the persecution of the early Christians by Jews (cf. the book of Acts e.g. 14:2, 5, 19; 15:45, 50; 17:5, 18; 20:3, 19, 23; 21:27-36, 31; 22:22, 23:10-15, 23, 27; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16), etc., it might be easy for some to assume that God had indeed abandoned Israel permanently and relinquished his specific promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and Solomon -- despite the highly unsavory theological implications related to God's character, biblical hermeneutics, and the clear divine declarations to the contrary that we have just seen. If anything might prove that God would forever abandon Israel as a nation, it would be their own set history of virtually constant rebellion, idolatry and other sin (cf. e.g. Nehemiah 9, especially verse 31). (But, of course, Jews are hardly unique in this; all mankind is in constant rebellion to the Almighty, as the apostle Paul so powerfully declares in Romans 1:18-32 and elsewhere. All people are sinners, including Christians, and that is the essence of sin: rebellion against God, which is why all humanity needs a Savior from sin, something provided only in Christianity and no other religion.)

Yet as noted, even in the severe judgment of the Babylonian captivity, God's plans for Israel were for good, prosperity and hope both in Babylon and later, as proven by the book of Daniel and also in Jeremiah (29:7,11-12, 14; 24:4-7).

And thus, God's covenant promises to Abraham are unconditional, by grace, not by individual obedience, good works or personal merit. Even as temporary enemies of the gospel for 2000 years, the Jews are nevertheless 'beloved for the sake of the fathers.' As the apostle Paul wrote to the Gentile Roman church: "As far as the gospel is concerned, they are [temporary] enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29; emphasis added)

Again, to re-emphasize the point, many Christians today argue that because of ancient Israel's repeated sin historically and rejection of their Messiah and persecution of the early church; because Israel broke her covenant with God and also failed to be the light to the nations that God intended, and because God actually destroyed of the Temple and the nation in 70 A.D., that God abandoned Israel and so the literal promises given to Israel in the Old Testament were invalidated and are now fulfilled spiritually (non-literally) in the Christian church. God has, in essence, replaced Israel with the Church.

But for proof that God has not abandoned Israel and replaced Israel with the Church, for proof that the promises are fulfilled literally to Israel, one can simply read six verses from Romans chapter 11:

Romans 11:1 "I ask then, did God reject his people [the Jews]? By no means!

Romans 11:11: "Again I ask, did they [the Israelis] stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all!"

Romans 11:18: "You [Gentiles] do not support the root [Israel] but the root supports you."

Romans 11:20: "Do not be arrogant [against Israel], but be afraid."

Romans 11:25: "... Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written..."

Romans 11:28: "As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account, but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the Patriarchs for God's gift and his call are irrevocable."

The "replacement theology" interpretation cannot be harmonized with the above Scriptures, nor does it even come close to what Paul declares in Romans 9-11 especially 11:28-29.

If God were done with the Israel and the Jews, why would the New Testament itself, written after the majority of Jews had rejected their Messiah, often refer to placing the privileges of the Jews *before* the Gentiles or non-Jews? Jesus said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." (Matthew 15:24) We also often encounter the phrase "to the Jew first, and then the Greek [i.e. Gentile or non-Jew]." In Romans 1:16 we read that: "The gospel... is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed beginning and ending in faith." (Romans 1:16-17) Later we read that there will be difficulty and trouble for "every human being who does evil, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile... but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." (Romans 2: 9, 10)

Certainly the apostle Paul is well aware of Israel's sinful history and her rejection of the Messiah. Why then does he give Jews such priority? Moriel Danny points out the obvious fact that it is impossible for an infinitely holy and righteous God to swear an oath and then proceed to break it, and that in the Scriptures that particular oath is reiterated over 40 times:

"In addition to the everlasting covenant (which includes the Land), God swore an oath to give the Jewish people this Land: Keep in mind that it's absolutely impossible for God to break an oath (see Hebrews 6:16-18). In the Holy Scriptures, this oath is reiterated more than forty times. Here is just one example: "He has remembered His covenant forever, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations, the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac. Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion of your inheritance"" (Psalm 105:8- 11). There is no other passage in which there are so many words used to describe God's unyielding commitment to Israel: covenant, word, oath, confirm, commandment, a thousand generations, statute, everlasting covenant. A person has to have a terrible bias not to understand that God is assuring the Jewish people the perpetual right to the Land of Israel in the strongest possible language."⁶⁴

Further, consider how the New Testament compares Israel and the Church. In the following imagery, the root of the tree is the Jewish patriarchs, the branches are the Jews, and the tree itself the union of both Jew and Gentile into the church of Christ, His body.

According to Romans 11, the entire Gentile church comprises merely "a grafted in wild olive shoot," i.e., neither the root nor the branches of the tree itself. (In Romans 11:16 with the imagery of the dough, all Israel, called "the whole batch," is said to be holy, i.e. set apart to God for His purposes, despite their unlovely history, and as the NIV text note says, "Not that all Jews are righteous, (i.e. saved), but [that] God will be true to his promises concerning them.")

As a result, in Romans 11: 23-24 we read: "And if they [the Jews] do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again." Does that sound like God is through with Israel? "After all, if you [Gentiles] were cut out of the olive tree that is wild by nature, and *contrary* to nature, were grafted into a cultivated olive tree [Israel] how much more readily will these, the *natural* branches, be grafted into their *own* olive tree!" (Emphasis added) Employing the figure of speech, Paul even says that the inclusion of Gentiles into the family of God is "contrary to nature." That's why Ephesians 2:12 says, "Remember, at that time you [Gentiles] were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world." (see verse 19). Again, the first 30-40,000 or so Christians of the early church were all Jews: the message of salvation in Christ went to the Jew first, then the Gentile.

Thus, the apostle Paul sharply warned against Gentile Christians becoming arrogant toward Israel because it was only by God's sheer choice, grace and mercy that they were included in God's kingdom to begin with.

Because of this, the Gentiles should be humble not arrogant, and the last thing they should do is be anti-Semitic or opposed to the modern nation of Israel. Because as Romans 11:25-27 makes clear, God is not yet done with Israel, -- one day "all Israel will be saved" at the time of the second coming -- and indeed God will never be done with Israel. That's why Jesus will reign from Jerusalem in Israel during the Millennial kingdom and why there is a massive cubed city (approximating the size of the moon), the eternal "New Jerusalem" which descends from heaven as described in Revelation chapter 20. That's also why Jesus and the Bible teach that, "Salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22) -- the history of salvation is traced throughout Jewish history and, after all, Jesus was a Jew. Yes, the incarnate God himself was a Jew in his human nature, and it was through His incarnation and atonement that the entire believing world of both Jew and Gentile were eternally saved and reunited into one Church, the body of Christ, united in and to Christ for all eternity.⁶⁵

Even more, look at what is declared in Romans 15:8-10 (emphasis added): "For I tell you that Christ has become [present tense] *a servant of the Jews* on behalf of God's truth, to *confirm the promises* made to the patriarchs *so that* the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy,... rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people [i.e. the Jews]." Indeed, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ," a Jew. (2 Corinthians 1:20) (Cf. the NIV text note on Romans 15:8, referring to Christ's servanthood to the Jews that is: "Clearly revealed in his earthly ministry. He was sent to the Jewish people and largely limited his ministry to them (see Matthew 15:24). God gave a special priority so far as the gospel is concerned to the Jews (see 1:16 and note; 3:1-8; see also 9:4-5 and notes)... the covenant promises [were] made to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 17:7; 18:19; 22:18), Isaac (Genesis 26:3-4) and Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15; 46:2-4...).")

Romans 15:27 further declares that Christians are to share with Jews in material need, and there are many such needs throughout the world, especially in the numerous nations where Jews are persecuted, particularly Muslim nations: "For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews spiritual blessings, they owe to the Jews to share with them of their material blessings."

As far as I can determine, the book of Revelation is the only possible New Testament book written after the destruction of Herod's magnificent Temple in 70 A.D. -- although I personally believe it was composed before this -- but this last book in the Bible has no mention at all of Israel being discarded permanently by God, to the contrary. Further there is not one place in all of Scripture where God teaches that the promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David, or to the physical nation of Israel are now given spiritually to the Christian church because of Israel's sin. After all, has the Christian church ever been without sin? Isn't Romans 11:20 a warning to us? "Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches (Israel), He will not spare you either."

It seems to me that there is no way to circumvent the combined weight of the unconditional promises given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon and others plus all the Scriptures we have listed above, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, which are only a sampling. Again, how can God's promises to Israel be abandoned when his gifts and calling are irrevocable, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 11:29, "... for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."? How can God go back on an eternal covenant He has established by His infinitely holy, immutable nature? How can He go back on a promise He has sworn by Himself?

According to the material below, Israel is currently experiencing only a partial (not total) hardening, but in the future Millennial reign of Christ, Israel itself will actually rule the world and Jesus Christ, a Jew, will be King of both Israel and the whole Earth; indeed the entire universe:

"I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.' As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." (Romans 11:18, 25-29)

"The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow." "... as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.... till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." (Isaiah 62:2, 5, 7)

The Future Global Dominion of Israel

"Thus says the Lord God, 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations, ...'" (Ezekiel 5: 5)

"Israel was not created in order to disappear - Israel will endure and flourish." – President John F. Kennedy

The future dominion of Israel is discussed in many passages (such as Isaiah 60:3, 5, 11-12, 14-22). Israel will one day receive "the wealth of the nations" and indeed will rule the world: "And the house of Israel will possess the nations..." (Isaiah 14:2, cf. Isaiah 49:23; 60:5, 10-12, 16-22) "... the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations -- their kings led in triumphal procession. For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined." (Isaiah 60:5, 11-12) According to Isaiah 60:21, "they will possess the land forever." Because of God's faithfulness to His covenant, during the Messianic age, Israel will be "the foremost of the nations." (Jeremiah 31:7)

All this would be impossible if God had truly and ultimately abandoned the nation of Israel.

But the Bible teaches that God even loves the *physical* land of Israel, and that he chose it for His namesake as *his* land. God refers to the physical land of Israel as "my land." (e.g., Jeremiah 2:7). In fact, Israel is the land where he dwells. "Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell, for I, the LORD, dwell among the Israelites." (Numbers 35:34). God describes himself as "the holy one of Israel," and "the God of Israel." In the Messianic age, God himself reigns from Jerusalem. "At that time they will call Jerusalem, The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts." (Jeremiah 3:17) According to the book of Revelation, at the end of the Millennium, God's love for Jerusalem remains, for as indicated previously, what comes down from heaven is the eternal magnificent city, "the new Jerusalem."

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:1-5)

True indeed, praise God. To be sure, again, given the truth of God's sovereignty over all things, why, in 1948 would the Jews have returned to the land at all, if God were really through with the nation of Israel?

Finally, it may be well to remember that apart from God himself, the nation of Israel is the dominant theme of the Bible. Virtually the entire Old Testament is about Israel – about 77% of the Bible. God loves Israel simply because he loves Israel; it is God's perfect right to do so, as he pleases, and He has permanently wedded his faithfulness toward Israel to his own character -- after that, what else can be said?

But obviously, God is not only committed to Jerusalem and Israel; he is even more committed, if that were possible, to his own dear children who have believed in his Messiah, his one and only Son.

God's Eternal Commitment to the Spiritual Descendants of Abraham

"Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all." (Romans 4:16)

Just as God is unalterably committed to the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel because of his covenant promises to Abraham, so is he eternally committed to those who believe in his Son, Jesus Christ the Messiah, whether Jew or Gentile. All are Abraham's spiritual offspring who believe God and have his righteousness credited to them: "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness." (Romans 4:2) "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:28-29) Because believers in the Messiah are freely justified as a gift by grace through personal faith in Christ, God has declared them as righteous as Christ is righteous, as obedient as Christ was obedient. (Romans 3:21-5:11; Galatians 2:21-3:31) They possess eternal life as a present tense possession, which means their salvation is eternal and can never be lost. All their sins are forgiven – past present and future. They have been adopted as children into God's eternal family. They are spiritually united to Christ even now and have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. In fact, as far as God is concerned, every true Christian is already in Heaven. Believers are guaranteed a virtually infinite and glorious eternity in Heaven, far beyond all human comprehension, where the knowledge of the God of infinite glory and perfection increases forever, where the joy and love increase forever. And that hardly scratches the surface.

Consider merely a few Scriptures (emphasis added): "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me *has* eternal life and will *not* be condemned; he *has* crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24); "These things I have written to you who *believe* in the name of the Son of God, so that you *may know* that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13); "I give them eternal life, and they shall *never perish*; no one can snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:28); "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes *has* eternal life." (John 6:47); "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are *pleasures forevermore*." (Psalm 16:11) "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9); "God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins." (Colossians 2:13); "... the blessedness of the man to whom God *credits righteousness* apart from works." (Romans 4:6); "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper [the Holy Spirit], to be with you *forever*..." (John 14:16); "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so *that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*." (2 Corinthians 5:21); "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." (Romans 3:22) "For if, when we were God's *enemies*, we were *reconciled to him* through the death of his Son, *how much more*, having been reconciled, *shall we be saved* through his life!" (Romans 5:10); "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. *And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified*. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, *who can be against us?* He who did *not spare his own Son*, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, *graciously give us all things?* Who will bring *any charge* against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?.. For I am convinced that *neither death nor life*, neither angels nor demons, *neither the present nor the future*, nor *any powers*, neither height nor depth, nor *anything else in all creation*, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:28-38) (In this last citation, please note the three words: "life," "future," and "all creation." Nothing in the entire universe can separate the genuine Christian from the eternal love of God, and that includes themselves.)

There are hundreds of such Scriptures. The assurance of salvation is merely one of the many joys of biblical and systematic theology – the assurance of salvation beyond a shadow of a doubt, knowing with an absolute certainty that, once one has been spiritually reborn, one is literally a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians

5:17; Galatians 6:15) and can never lose his or her salvation, come what may. Because the doctrine of justification has declared us as righteous as Christ is righteous for all eternity (as righteous as God is righteous!); because the doctrine of regeneration has made us a new creation in Christ Jesus and imparted eternal life for all eternity; because the Holy Spirit is with us forever; because God has given us his abundant and precious promises to this effect, our bountiful joy can begin now and last forever. "And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life." (1 John 2:25) "God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures." (Romans 1:2); "This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began." (Titus 1:2); "Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is *impossible* for God to lie, we ... may be greatly encouraged." (Hebrews 6:17-19)

It is these kinds of promises that will help Christians endure the persecution that may be coming in the not-too-distant future. The Jewish people, unfortunately, are already beginning to experience it anew.

[Worldwide Anti-Semitism on the Rise](#)

Yet despite God's choice of Israel and eternal love for Israel, Israel is also the most hated nation in history; perhaps one major reason is because the devil is "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4) and "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19). His hatred of Israel is implacable not only because she preserved the Scriptures, the word of God, but particularly because it was through Israel that Jesus the Messiah came, the Jew who "is indeed the Savior of the world," (John 4:42) who also defeated the devil. In addition, much of the world is jealous of Israel today, especially the Muslim world, due to resentment and greed. This is one reason that so much of the enormous Muslim world wants to forever do away with this tiny little nation. (Good luck with that; taking on the Apple of God side should be no problem at all.) As one anti-Israel article observed, "Israel is fast becoming a pariah nation..." "... Several European countries that claim universal jurisdiction in war crime cases, including Spain, appear to be prepared to arrest traveling Israeli officials for civilian deaths in Gaza."⁶⁶

The United Nations has had more resolutions against the tiny nation of Israel than against all member nations combined, about 200 to 20 in one sampling. Consider a few comments by the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations: "The Human Rights Council has, in fact, passed more resolutions against Israel than all other countries — combined." "... between the Arab Group (22 countries), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (56 countries) and the Non-Aligned Movement (118 members) — all of whom vote consistently against Israel irrespective of the facts on the ground — Israel's condemnatory treatment in the halls of the United Nations is virtually assured." "Finally, no other Member State of the United Nations — even those that systematically deny their citizens the most basic freedoms — faces such a litany of one-sided resolutions. This fact reflects the sad reality that the condemnatory resolutions against Israel are a political tool used to promote a narrow, hateful agenda." "In only one of countless examples [of UN Palestinian committee bias], during the 2005 United Nations Annual Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the main ceremony featured a map of the region in which all of modern Israel was labeled 'Palestine.'⁶⁷

In Europe, anti-Semitism is relatively commonplace. For example, in Hungary, the new openly anti-Semitic Jobbik party, apparently Nazi-sympathetic, with hundreds of thousands of members, has arisen to become the third-largest political party in the nation.⁶⁸

Within the 1.5 billion member Muslim community, anti-Semitism is also commonplace. Just type in "anti-Semitism" on Google to see more illustrations.

To cite an official example, *Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism: a Report Provided to the United States Congress* is an 80-page discussion and sample documentation produced by the US State Department under the leadership of President George W. Bush.⁶⁹ This official document "is intended to provide a broad overview of the state of anti-Semitism globally" and observes that, e.g., in Europe anti-Semitism "is becoming relatively commonplace." "State-sponsored anti-Semitism currently is most prevalent in, but not restricted to, parts of the

Muslim world."⁷⁰ "Contemporary anti-Semitism is not unique to Muslims. It occurs across the globe and also within the UN system."⁷¹ Consider only two excerpts from this document:

"Over the last decade, U.S. embassies and consulates have reported an upsurge in anti-Semitism. This rise in anti-Semitism has been documented in the U.S. Department of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and its annual Report on International Religious Freedom. This same trend has been reported with concern by other governments, multilateral institutions, and world leaders. In December 2006, The European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)² published a Summary Overview of the Situation in the European Union 2001-2005, which documents an increase in anti-Semitism. In the United Kingdom, an All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism launched an investigation into anti-Semitism. The Inquiry produced a September 2006 report, which states, 'It is clear that violence, desecration of property, and intimidation directed towards Jews is on the rise.' In June 2007, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe issued Resolution 1563, which notes, 'The persistence and escalation of anti-Semitic phenomena... is far from having been eliminated; anti-Semitism is today on the rise in Europe. It appears in a variety of forms and is becoming relatively commonplace.'⁷²

Further:

"Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has actively promoted Holocaust denial; Iran's Jewish population faces official discrimination, and the official media outlets regularly produce anti-Semitic propaganda. The Syrian government routinely demonizes Jews through public statements and official propaganda. In Belarus, state enterprises freely produce and distribute anti-Semitic material. And in Venezuela, President Hugo Chavez has publicly demonized Israel and utilized stereotypes about Jewish financial influence and control, while Venezuela's government-sponsored mass media have become vehicles for anti-Semitic discourse, as have government news media in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"Elsewhere, despite official condemnation and efforts to combat the problem, societal anti-Semitism continues to exist. In Poland, the conservative Catholic radio station Radio Maryja is one of Europe's most blatantly anti-Semitic media venues. The Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, a private institution in Ukraine commonly known by the acronym MAUP, is one of the most persistent anti-Semitic institutions in Eastern Europe. In Russia and other countries where xenophobia is widespread, such as some in Central and Eastern Europe, traditional anti-Semitism remains a problem. In France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, anti-Semitic violence remains a significant concern. Recent increases in anti-Semitic incidents have been documented in Argentina, Australia, Canada, South Africa, and beyond."⁷³

In light of the above we can once more see the truth of the promise of God to Abraham that He will 'bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.' Again, consider the political, social, economic, moral and other indicators of those nations that are anti-Semitic, anti-Israel or persecute Israel, now including America. As noted earlier, this has been documented in William Koenig's *Eye to Eye: the Consequences of Dividing Israel* (through mid-July 2006) and updated on his website (watch.org) through mid-2011.⁷⁴

As we discussed, even many Christians today teach what is sometimes termed "replacement theology," that all the Old Testament prophecies to the Jews in Israel are now being fulfilled spiritually in the church. The problem with this approach is that it does not characteristically interpret prophetic scripture literally in the same way that it interprets non-prophetic scripture literally. (On the proper interpretation of prophetic Scriptures see a definitive treatment by Paul Lee Tan, *The Interpretation of Prophecy*.) Unfortunately, this approach of replacement theology can also lead to anti-Semitism within the Church. To the contrary, the Church today must stand up for Israel, not ignore or demean her.⁷⁵

Is President Obama Anti-Israel?

For over 50 years America has honored the covenant God made with the Jews and Israel and now under President Obama, America is abandoning that covenant and will certainly incur the chastisement of God as a result. If, in the future, America ever fully turns against Israel, God's chosen nation, and Jerusalem, God's chosen city, it could also be "cut to pieces" along with all the other nations that attack her (see Zechariah 12:3).

Salim Mansur is a columnist for the liberal *Toronto Sun* in Canada. He points out that President Obama, "... views Israel as a liability for America in accommodating the Arab-Muslim world." And also that Obama's reprehensible treatment of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in April 2010 "barely masked his scorn for the Jewish state."⁷⁶ Obama appears sufficiently opposed to Israel that former presidential candidate Gary Bauer, president of American Values, could write an article titled, "Obama Heads the Most Anti-Israel Administration in U.S. History." He observes: "With its diplomatic assaults on just about everything the Israeli government does, the Obama administration is establishing itself as the most anti-Israel administration in U.S. history. I have talked to foreign policy experts in Washington, D.C. and Israel today and they are using adjectives like "bizarre," "inexplicable," "counterproductive," and "outrageous" to describe President Obama's diplomatic jihad against Israel. I can't print the adjectives that I would use."⁷⁷

Congressman Peter Hoekstra goes further in asserting that, "The president has been undercutting the leadership in Israel on a regular basis; he has been emboldening radical jihadists: Hezbollah, Hamas, the Palestinians."⁷⁸

In considering President Obama's attitudes toward Jews and Israel, as with everything, one needs to look at what he does, not what he says. President Obama sent \$400 million in "aid" to Gaza, controlled by the terrorist group Hamas; he sent almost half a billion dollars, even with the odds being virtually certain that a significant amount of that money (at least) would be used for terrorism including terrorist acts against Jews in Israel, perhaps even in the US. Besides breaking U.S. law, if that isn't anti-Semitic, what is? Further, Obama's anti-Semitism is documented in the book by Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer, *The Post-American Presidency: The Obama Administration's War on America*. (See also Michael Leden, *Obama's Betrayal of Israel*.)

As a final example, according to DickMorris.com (June 30, 2011), and an article by Edwin Mora at CNSNews.com (June 29, 2011), the Obama administration has officially listed Israel as a terror sponsor. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) apparently placed the nation of Israel on its 36-member SDC list (Specially Designated Countries) which "have shown a tendency to promote, produce or protect terrorist organizations or their members." The nations are almost all Muslim. Citizens of these nations receive special attention (a "Third Agency Check") when entering the U.S. Ruth King observed, "Only in the twisted world of the Obama Administration, where allies are trashed, and enemies are embraced, could the tiny nation of Israel, on the front lines of the war on terror for decades, be on a list of 36 nations which "have shown a tendency to promote, produce, or protect terrorist organizations or their members." (Ruth King, "Obama Administration Puts Israel On List Of Countries That Support Terrorism, Removes North Korea," *Ruthfully Yours*, June 30th, 2011: <http://www.ruthfullyyours.com/2011/06/30/obama-administration-puts-israel-on-list-of-countries-that-support-terrorism-removes-north-korea/>)

Regardless of this apparent outrage, anti-Semitism is now seen globally at levels perhaps not seen since the period of Nazi Germany.

Laurie Cardoza-Moore is the producer of the Documentary, "The Forgotten People: Christianity and the Holocaust." In part, this documentary parallels the similarities between Nazism and radical Islam. Remember, 11 million died in Nazi Germany, 6 million Jews and 5 million others. Germany was, at that time, considered a "Christian" nation and was one of the most educated of nations, yet look what happened. All it took was major economic hardship, an evil leader having absolute power, and an unquestioning or willing populace. That could even be where America is headed. (See Erwin Lutzer's books, *When a Nation Forgets God: Seven Lessons We Must Learn from Nazi Germany*; *Is America on God's Side?*; *Hitler's Cross: The Revealing Story of How the Cross of Christ Was Used As a Symbol of the Nazi Agenda*.)

The film documents that today there have been 29 nations that have had not peaceful, but violent demonstrations against Israel, with thousands of people in the streets. In the US there have been over 15 cities that have had not peaceful but violent demonstration against Israel with hundreds and sometimes thousands of people in the streets. American university campuses (which are also frequently hotbeds of socialism, Marxism and anti-Americanism), are also increasingly anti-Israel and anti-Semitic, which is saying something. But this is hardly surprising, given the fact that most liberal arts college education today often encompasses an indoctrination into a leftist (and often Marxist) worldview. How could it be otherwise with up to 90% of professors holding liberal-leftist worldviews? According to former Marxist and political expert David Horwitz, there are now two dozen universities who are actively attacking Israel, even inciting Muslims against Jews by calling Israelis "murderers of innocents" and occupiers of stolen land. According to Horwitz, the Muslim Students Association, active on some 200 American campuses, is an important lobbying arm of the extremist Saudi Wahhabist sect of Islam and is part of the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood Network (now affectionately known as the "Freedom and Justice Party.")

Cardoza-Moore proceeds to point out that the instigators of the new anti-Semitism are the far left, radical Islam, the far right (the Ku Klux Klan, white supremacy groups, etc.) and billionaire atheist, globalist and leftist George Soros, ironically a Jew, who is also actually funding anti-Semitism. She points out that President Obama is proactively seeking to divide the land of Israel and especially Jerusalem, again, the city that God calls His own and a land that He has given to His chosen people, the Jews. In other words, tragically, President Obama at this point is actively opposing the will of God, and God Himself.⁸⁰ In the years to come, the following Scripture could see its fulfillment:

"I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and *divided up my land.*" (Joel 3:2, emphasis added)

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem" (Dividing Jerusalem and the Palestinian myth)

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Jesus in Matthew 23:37-39)

One of the linchpins of biblical prophecy is Israel and its capitol city Jerusalem, God's chosen nation and city. When Israel, against all odds, was reestablished as a nation state in 1948 and recaptured east Jerusalem in the 1967 war, this may have begun the end of the "time of the Gentiles," a good indication we are entering the last days of Israel (Luke 21:24; but the Muslims still hold the Solomon-Herodian temple area).

We just cited a Scripture declaring that God will stand in judgment over the nations who seek to divide His land. Increasingly, this comprises much of the whole world, including America under the Clinton, Bush I & II and Obama administrations. Of course, unless something incredibly unexpected happens, the Jews simply will not permit Jerusalem to be divided, since for Jews it has been the capital city of Israel for 300 centuries, since 1,000 BC under King David, beyond all hope anteceding any Muslim claims to the land. Indeed, such claims were never voiced at all until a couple of decades ago, merely as a ruse to assist the Palestinian cause and instigate problems for Israel.

But which nations, today, are really on the side of Israel? Few, if any.

--As we have seen, Europe is increasingly anti-Semitic.

--The UN is anti-Semitic, e.g., "If there is a single issue over which there is almost no division at the UN, it is the shared view that world peace will never be possible as long as Israel exists."⁸¹

-- The Muslim world generally is anti-Semitic and anti-Israel.

--President Obama is the first president in US history to be against Israel.

-- As a result of the so-called "Arab Spring," Israel's former "peace" partner, Egypt is in the process of turning against Israel. The Muslim Brotherhood (again, now renamed the progressive "Freedom and Justice Party") has affirmed that if it takes power in Egypt, it will declare war on Israel. Whether it is Iran, Syria, Lebanon (a Syrian satellite), Turkey, other Middle Eastern nations, or even America, Israel finds itself increasingly isolated and in trouble. According to Barry Rubin, director of the Global Research in International Affairs Center and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs Journal, Israel's back is against the wall virtually wherever it turns. "From an Israeli standpoint — and this is a non-partisan, across-the-board situation — the Middle East is heading toward crisis and disaster."⁸²

Even a significant number of liberal Christian churches are anti-Israel and some extremist right wing churches are anti-Semitic. Indeed, now some evangelical Christians are anti-Jerusalem and some are actually anti-Semitic. I know this personally. What indeed is the world coming to? Even back under President Bush, 34 prominent evangelical leaders signed a letter to President Bush emphasizing their support for a two-state solution and matters have hardly improved since then.⁸³ In May 2010 a prejudiced film by evangelical leftists in support of Palestinians ("With God on Our Side") targeted evangelicals who support Israel to rethink their position and support the Palestinians instead. It is been supported by liberal evangelicals, emergent church leaders, liberation theologians (principally Marxists) and others.⁸⁴

How ironic that professed evangelical Christians would side against the nation and city that God Himself chose for His own, in support of the enemies of Israel and Jerusalem!

Regardless, it is this kind of scenario -- the whole world against Israel, demanding that she divide Jerusalem -- which could potentially play a part in end times prophecy. For all we know, before long it might, in part, be Israel's intransigence on this point that would eventually causes the armies of Ezekiel 38 to march on Jerusalem. In order to truly divide Jerusalem, it might even require someone having the power and authority of an Antichrist, but even if such a division occurred, it would only be a temporary situation.

The European Union is currently one of the most powerful blocs in the world and it is pushing hard for the Palestinian cause. In December, 2009, 27 member states of the European Union led by Sweden, officially called for a division of Jerusalem; this EU Council Resolution is in its 9th draft. According to The Jewish Community Online, the draft asserts: "The goal is an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable state of Palestine, comprising the West Bank and Gaza and with East Jerusalem as its capital. If there is to be a genuine peace, a way must be found to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the capital of two states."⁸⁵

According to the International Middle East Media Center, "Foreign Ministers of the European Union declared Tuesday support for dividing Jerusalem to be the capital of both Israel and the future Palestinian State. They said that a solution should be found to enable this concept. EU Foreign Ministers issued a statement calling for finding a solution through peace talks to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and Palestine."⁸⁶

It's only a matter of time before this resolution, or something like it with teeth, passes, setting off a possible firestorm. When he spoke before the U.S. Congress in June 2011, and afterward, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made it abundantly clear that Israel will never concede East Jerusalem to the Palestinians. In September 2011 when the UN opens, the Palestinians may force the issue if it hasn't been forced by then. Only the Lord knows what will happen.

But remember, who does Jerusalem really belong to? It certainly doesn't belong to the Palestinians. Jerusalem belongs to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and He gave it to the descendants of Isaac, not Ishmael, i.e., to the Jews, not the Arabs. And again, God says He will enter into judgment with the nations who divide His land, whether sooner or later: "When I restore the fortunes of Jerusalem [in the last days] I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance Israel whom they have scattered among the nations and they have divided up My land." (Joel 3:1-2) "For the Lord has chosen Zion [Jerusalem]; He has desired it for His habitation. 'This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.'" (Psalm 132:13-14)

Of course if there should be a UN/US/EU/OIC [the 56-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference] unilateral declaration founding a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capitol (especially going back to the 1967 borders, which president Obama publicly supported despite the horrendous cost to Israel), it doesn't mean that Israel would have no options, only that Israel would become even more isolated from the rest of the world than it is currently. And that is what we find predicted for the end times -- the world against Israel, with God alone defending her. As the Rev. Dr. Pat Robertson noted, commenting upon Turkey's increasingly Islamist and anti-Israeli positions, "Israel, according to the Bible, is going to be isolated; if you read the prophet Zechariah it is clear that in the latter days, Israel is going to be isolated and all the nations of the earth will come against her, and that's exactly what's happening. Israel is becoming more and more isolated, more and more the victim of opprobrium from all the nations, and it's biblical, and it's one of these things where God himself has got to defend them, because they're in trouble."⁸⁷

If such a unilateral declaration occurred, but war did not erupt, Israel would then be free to ignore the Oslo accords and everything else and reset the clock at zero, operating under the legitimate assumption that neither the Palestinians nor Muslim Arab states have any interest in peace to begin with, which is largely true regardless. As biblical prophecy specialist Hal Lindsey points out, prior to 1967 the only "Palestinians" were almost all Jews. After the six Day war, the former citizens of Syria, Egypt and Jordan who were all abandoned by their respective governments became known as the self-proclaimed Palestinians. That's why the Palestinian cause is largely a deception foisted upon the world to oppose Israel. (This is not to ignore the plight of the Palestinians, simply to note that they are callously and cruelly being used by the Arab nations against Israel and that the responsibility for their plight lies with the Arab states and not Israel.)

The Palestinian Deception

"However, there is no legal and legitimate state called Israel." --Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary-General of Hezbollah

"You still can't find Israel on a map of the Middle East in a Palestinian schoolbook." -- Political columnist Suzanne Fields

In other words, put bluntly, the whole Palestinian issue is little more than a ruse of the Arab states to cause problems for Israel and to ultimately be rid of Israel. Those who impartially study the history of the Palestinians will see that they have become used and abused by Arab Muslim nations as a terrorist weapon against Israel. Israel is a better friend of the Palestinians, and has done more for the Palestinians than all the Arab states combined, yet the Palestinians (not to mention Hamas and Hezbollah) repeatedly respond with vicious educational propaganda, unbelievable hatred and violent terrorist attacks against Israel.

The vitriolic hatred that is spewed out daily on Palestinian media only exists because the Israelis gave the Palestinians those very airwaves. In the Palestinian and Arab worlds, one message is given in English for the world's consumption (we want peace) and an entirely opposite message is given for internal Palestinian and Arab consumption (Israel must be destroyed.) Just listen to the teachings of the Muslim clerics in the Middle East and around the world. To support their cause, the Arabs, Muslims and Palestinians have regularly rewritten history out of whole cloth in order to support their evil goals, utterly ignoring historic facts.⁸⁸

Unfortunately, Israel today, as was so often in the Old Testament times is primarily looking to its own power to protect it or making alliances with other nations for its security, rather than trusting in the God who chose it for His own, who is it's only source of guaranteed protection; ironically even the reborn state has to a significant extent continued its own form of idolatry. Nevertheless, it does seem that more and more Jews may be coming to Christ, their Messiah and more secular Jews are turning to the God of the Old Testament.

Regardless, even with three major peace treaties (with Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians), brokered by the most powerful nations on earth, how's that working out? On June 17, 2011, Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas called upon the EU to recognize a Palestinian state while Israel in turn warned that it would harm peace

efforts beyond repair, and, as noted elsewhere, it would probably bring an end to the Oslo Accords, which would be something good.

The truth is that there will never be true peace in Israel until her Messiah returns in person because the hatred that has existed for 4,000 years can only end when something more powerful than the hatred comes to power. "This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

Besides, Israel is the only party that wants peace; all that the other parties want is the end of Israel. Even when Israel signs a peace treaty, the treaty largely becomes an implement to make gains at the expense of Israel: look at what happened in the Oslo Accords (and in Gaza). And today, given the "Arab Spring," Egypt is once again Israel's enemy, potentially threatening war, and even Jordan, within its own educational system, refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist. In fact, to my knowledge, none of Israel's neighbors in the Middle East recognize Israel's right to exist. The push for a return to the 1967 borders and so-called return of the Palestinian refugees are likewise merely a ploy for the destruction of Israel. That is made very clear by looking at what Arab and Muslim leaders say in Arabic to their own people, not to the world. Because the world so desperately wants peace at any cost, the world listens to what it wants to hear, the lies spoken in English, and ignores the truth spoken in Arabic. And thus, truth is at a premium.

Even the term Palestinian has a story to tell. By around 140 A.D. the Romans had had enough with the Jews (for example, the Jews had destroyed the 12th Legion), so in return they destroyed not just Temple which happened in 70 A.D., but the entire city of Jerusalem and they built a Roman city on top of it and pronounced the death penalty on any Jew caught in Jerusalem. To add insult to injury, they named the entire region after the Philistines, the key historic enemies of Israel (remember Samson?). In Latin, the word Philistine is *Palestina* from which we get Palestinian. In other words, "Palestine" is a name intended to deny Israel any place in the land. The very word itself is an insult to Israel.

Israel's Messiah and Palestinians' Hope

But there is true hope for both Palestinians and the Jewish people. Fighting can go on endlessly, but what of individuals, and what of eternity? What of the forgiveness of sins before God? Just as for modern Israelis and Jews outside Israel, their one true hope is in Jesus Christ their Messiah, this is also true for the Palestinian people as well. Of course, the Palestinians should be given the dignity due all men created in God's image, but as with everyone, the only ultimate hope is to embrace Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior.

As noted, devout Jews in Israel and around the world are still looking for their Messiah, which is one reason preparations exist for the rebuilding of the third Temple. Unfortunately, Israel generally missed its Messiah in the first century because it was looking for a political deliverer rather than the spiritual deliverer prophesied in Isaiah 53 and elsewhere. (Israel's Messiah fulfills both roles, first spiritually and then politically.)

It is clear from Old Testament messianic prophecy and history that Jesus Christ was and is the Jewish Messiah. This is because the Old Testament prophecies are of a very specific nature. Dr. John Ankerberg and I documented some of them in *The Case for Jesus the Messiah: Incredible Prophecies That Proves God Exists*. For example, these prophecies include the *specific* time of the Messiah's appearance. Consider the detailed research of Sir Robert Anderson who was Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department, Scotland Yard and Knighted by Both Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. In *The Coming Prince* he examined Daniel 9:24-27, indicating the Messiah had to die [referring to his atoning death] by the end of the first third of the first century. (A few corrections were provided by the late scholar Dr. Harold Hoehner in his excellent *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* and possibly by Bob Pickle in his article at: <http://www.pickle->

publishing.com/papers/harold-hoehner-70-weeks.htm. Pickle arrives at the "70 weeks" of Daniel ending in 34 AD, not 33 AD.)

Regardless, there were many claimants to being Israel's Messiah at the time of Christ and later, but none of them fulfilled the specific prophecies given in the Old Testament – in contrast, Jesus fulfilled every single prophecy concerning the first coming of the Jewish Messiah. In other words, because of the strict limits that Old Testament prophecies place upon the Messiah, if Jesus was not the Messiah, no Jewish Messiah exists. (The argument is similar to what the Apostle Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 15:13-19 -- if Christ did not physically rise from the dead on the third day, there is no Christianity.) The arguments made against Jesus today by the rabbis are no more convincing than they were at the time of the apostle Paul, e.g. "For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ [Messiah]." (Acts 18:28)

Unfortunately, today, Israel continues to reject its Messiah. "God has saving purposes for ethnic Israel (Romans 11:25-26). But for now, the people are at enmity with God in rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ, their Messiah (Romans 11:28). God has expanded his saving work to embrace all peoples (including Palestinians) who will trust his Son and depend on his death and resurrection for salvation." (John Piper, *Taste and See: Savoring the Supremacy of God in All of Life*, p. 405)

As indicated earlier, Israel's rejection of its Messiah has implications for the conditional promises of the Old Testament, but not the unconditional ones. The Abrahamic covenant involved unconditional promises to Abraham and his seed relative to the eternal possession of the promised land. However the promises of blessing were conditioned upon obedience. As a result of Israel's disobedience, the nation experienced three deportations, by Assyria, Babylon and Rome. As we've seen, some have argued that a non-covenant keeping people do not have a divine right to hold the land of promise. Clearly, in judgment for disobedience, God can temporarily remove the Jews from the land, but this does not abrogate the eternal covenant given to Abraham. Thus, a divine right to the land in perpetuity depends on whether or not the Abrahamic covenant relative to the possession of the land was conditional or unconditional. Again, it was unconditional. There will be an eternal Israel and an eternal covenant people composed of both saved Jew and Gentile who comprise the Church. The three deportation-judgments were a result of Israel's idolatry and other disobedience but did not affect God's promises that Abraham's (believing) seed would inherit the Promised Land forever.

This brings us to another point – Abraham's believing seed. Who is the true Jew? Remember, according to Scripture, it was the line of Isaac (not Ishmael) and Jacob (not Esau) that God had blessed (Genesis 17:18-25; 25:23 Romans 9:10-13). According to Scripture, the true Jews are the Christians and the Jews who believe in Jesus as their Messiah. As John Piper says, "If you are a Christian, you are Jew. If you are not a Jew, you are not a Christian. There is no salvation outside Israel." (John Piper, *Taste and See*, p. 92) As Dr. Piper proceeds to point out, a true Jew is one inwardly and spiritually not outwardly and physically. In Romans 2:29 a Jew is defined as one who is a Jew inwardly and circumcision is of the heart by the Holy Spirit, not by the flesh. (This is the teaching of the Old Testament: Leviticus 26:41-42; Deuteronomy 10:16-17; 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4; 9:25-26; cf. Romans 2:25). In Ephesians 2:11-19 the Gentiles are said to become "fellow citizens" in the "Commonwealth of Israel." In Romans 11:17-25 this occurs by being "grafted into" Israel. According to Galatians 3:7, 29 Christians are Abraham's descendents "heirs according to promise." According to Romans 9:8-13 it is not necessarily the physical descendents of Abraham who are children of God or genuine Jews, but the children of promise – those who believe just as Abraham believed – "Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6.) "It is not the children of the flesh who are children of God but the children of promise are regarded as descendents." (Romans 9:8) In other words genuine Jews are not exclusively the physical descendents of Abraham, but only those with circumcised hearts who love the God of Abraham and his descendent, Christ the Messiah, whether Jew or Gentile. Nevertheless, God's saving purposes for ethnic Israel will stand (Romans 11:25-27).

In the end, Ephesians 2:17 declares that the promise of salvation is to both those who are near (the Jews) and those who are far off (the Gentiles, including Palestinians): "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be

saved." (Acts 16:31) And not just saved now, in time, but saved forever; and not just saved generically, but saved to be with the ultimate Person in the universe, a God of infinite glory and love far beyond all comprehension. In light of these truths, even today there are many Jews and Palestinians who are spiritual brothers in Christ; and there will be many more!

Outspoken Bravery

To tell the truth in the Middle East today requires bravery. In contrast to the modern Palestinian myth, consider the words of Shech Professor Abdul Hadi Palazzi, a rare but outspoken Zionist Muslim clergyman – who actually argues for the Jews from the Koran!: "There is no Palestinian people. They have never existed and they never will exist.... The Land of Israel was given to the Jews. It is clear, according to the Koran that Jews would be brought back to Israel before the 'end of days.' According to the Koran, any state which protects the religious rights of Muslims [which Israel does] must be obeyed. The Muslims in that state must be loyal citizens. Any Arab who cannot accept Jewish rule in Israel must leave. Rejecting Jewish presence and sovereignty in Israel is against the Koran."⁸⁹

Even some Palestinians reject the concept of a two-state solution, conceding that the land does indeed belong to Israel by divine right. Consider the former Palestinian terrorist and sniper, Tass Sada (also known as "the Butcher"), who joined Fatah at age 17, later becoming Yasser Arafat's personal driver. He murdered and killed many Israelis and once attempted to assassinate the Crown Prince of Jordan. But after coming to personal faith in Jesus Christ, he declared: "I don't believe in a two state solution because I believe that land belongs to the Jews. *It doesn't belong to us.*"⁹⁰

The Jews generally just want to live in peace with the "Palestinians," and their Arab neighbors (who always seem to want the opposite), and one day God says this will be true. But the land *belongs* to Israel, because God gave it to them as, literally, an eternal possession, ca. 1800 BC -- He did not give it to anyone else. Based on divine right, I am reminded of the truth of what the Prophet Nehemiah told his Horonite, Ammonite and Arab enemies, who were opposing his rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem in order to encourage the Babylonian exiles to return to Judah: "I answered them by saying, 'The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, *you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.*'" (Nehemiah 2:28, emphasis added). This remains true today -- and forever.

Thankfully, many Arab Muslims (and Muslims worldwide) are coming to Christ, even dramatically through dreams and visions. *Once an Arafat Man* recounts Tass Sada's story cited above. Sada points out the wonderfully good news that "Millions of Muslims around the earth, especially the Arabs, in Saudi Arabia, in Qatar, in all these 12 nations of Ishmael... In all of these nations there is so much conversion [to Christ]."⁹¹ To further illustrate, Coptic priest, father Zakariah Botros, perhaps the most hated man in the Muslim Middle East, has a \$60 million bounty on his head from Al Qaeda for leading thousands of Muslims to personal faith in Christ. His Middle Eastern television show is watched by an estimated 60 million Arabs, perhaps the source of the bounty figure. His older brother, a committed Christian, was murdered by the Egyptian terrorist group, the Muslim Brotherhood as a teenager – typically, they cut out his tongue and cut off his head. Nevertheless, by studying the fourth century writings of Bishop Searle, Bishop of Jerusalem, Botros was saved and has absolutely no fear of Al Qaeda. "I would be so happy, I would be so happy to have my life ended on earth because I will start my eternal life with Jesus Christ, whom I love."⁹²

But, returning to the Palestinian deception, consider the following material, most of it excerpted from Hal Lindsey's "The Hal Lindsey Report" for December 7, 2009, which discusses a number of interesting points:

- In all human history, there never has been an Arab nation or state called Palestine.
- For almost 4,800 years the Jews have lived continuously within the geographical area known as Palestine, and the Jews have been a majority population since the 19th century.

-- By far, Israel has the oldest claim to both Jerusalem and Palestine -- going back to King David in 1000 B.C. for Jerusalem [as a capital city], and extending back to Abraham and his descendents in 1800 B.C. with the Abrahamic covenant and the later conquest by Joshua.

-- The Jews have been the most persecuted people on earth. Hitler's Holocaust was only a small part of their overall suffering. And now, irony of ironies: Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad denies the Jewish Holocaust ever existed, yet wants to create one himself, a nuclear one no less, one that would annihilate the Jews forever, with resulting consequences that could destroy most of the world. Thankfully, neither Iran nor any other nation will ever be able to destroy the Jews.

-- The land of Israel constitutes a mere 1/6 of 1% of the Middle East, yet the implacable animosity of the Muslim Arabs, who control hundreds of times the geographical landmass of Israel, won't even allow the Jews to live on a minute sliver of land in the area. (Talk about irrationality and hatred.) Jews have provided the Muslim Arab citizens of Israel more general freedoms and benefits than Muslims themselves have. (But what have Muslims done for the Jews, besides persecute them?) Israeli Arabs have far more rights than the rest of the Muslim world and polls indicate they do not want Islamic rule in Jerusalem. So who is the real oppressor?

-- Palestinian leadership is among the most corrupt in history.

-- From the day Israel was founded, Arab Muslims have conducted one war after another to conquer (or exterminate?) the Jews, interspersing the peaceful times with terrorism, despite Israel receiving a mandate from the League of Nations (later the UN) called the British Mandate of Palestine to give a homeland to the Jews.

-- Muslim nations are routinely at the top of the list of nations that persecute not only Jews, but Christians as well, yet ironically Muslims are often more barbaric to one another than to others. They have treated the Palestinians more ruthlessly than Israel ever has. It is the Arab Muslim nations that have forced the Palestinians to live in concentration camp-like conditions; not Israel or the rest of the world -- just the Arabs.

-- In the end, the 60 year-old crisis in the Middle East is isn't really about land, the plight of "Palestinian" refugees, a Palestinian homeland or a Palestinian state, or about justice -- it's about one thing only -- the annihilation of the State of Israel and the Jewish people, exactly what Hitler wanted. Indeed, there is more than a passing connection between Nazi anti-Semitism and Muslim anti-Semitism.⁹³ Again, the Palestinians are merely pawns that the Muslim Arab states use to foster global hatred against Israel. Ironically, it is the mutual hatred for Israel that has brought Muslim Arab states together in a unity that has rarely been seen historically, with both Sunni and Shiites working together, for example as we see in Egypt and Iran. In the words of Glenn Beck, it's all a trap for Israel and undeniably, "elegant in its evil." Unfortunately, even Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is willing to make major concessions to get the peace talks started again. He is obviously under massive US pressure, even though his "peace partners," in the end, only want to destroy Israel. Does that make any sense at all?

-- The Palestinians were offered statehood in 1948 and again in 2000 and each time they refused the offer and responded with terror against Israel. From 1948-1967 Egypt owned Gaza and Jordan owned the West Bank, yet neither offered to give this land to the Palestinians for a Palestinian state or homeland. Why not, if they're so concerned about the Palestinians? But now the Palestinians demand the same of Israel, knowing this will simply set up additional terrorist bases to war against the Jewish state, just as Gaza recently became. The Palestinian people in Gaza are the ones who freely voted to place terrorists over them as their political leaders (Hamas), not Israel, and polls reveal they would do it again. Some polls also indicate that a slight majority of Palestinians are in favor of terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens.

In sum, Israel is a miracle nation, God's chosen people, and yet today the whole world is turning against Israel, particularly the Muslim world. Nevertheless, all this is in fulfillment of biblical prophecy, and suggestive of what may be on the horizon.

[American Taxpayer Support for Palestinian Terrorism?](#)

A question was raised on the David Asman show, Scoreboard, on June 10/11th, 2010, as to whether President Obama was seeking to use taxpayer funds that would indirectly fund terrorism. This would happen by sending \$400 million to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for "humanitarian aid" – to help offset the Israeli blockade of self-defense (against terrorist weapons, supplies etc., flowing into Israel), and humanitarian aid to the West Bank to shore up the corrupt government. In fact, president Obama went ahead and sent the \$400 million to Gaza and the Palestinians, thereby funding terrorism.

As everyone knows, Gaza is run by the terrorist group Hamas, while the West Bank is run the terrorist group, the Palestinian Authority. It would seem apparent that sending money directly to either group is sending money to terrorists. Back in 2010, Asman said it could be "one of the most serious breaches of US law since 9/11," which it was. (Thus, President Obama obeys US law when it suits his purposes and goes around it when it doesn't.) Even when some of the money ended up going for humanitarian aid, such as to schools, it only meant that US taxpayer dollars were funding the hateful teaching of Hamas terrorism to children.

I always thought it was illegal -- against US law -- to funnel money to terrorists; apparently not always. I also thought people had gone to jail for doing so; apparently not everyone.

President Obama presumably thought he could keep that money restricted to humanitarian use when the truth is that an unknown portion of that money, probably a significant or greater part, certainly went to support terrorism due to the corruption of Hamas and the Palestinian Authority -- and as proven through many other financial contributions to the Palestinians from the UN and various countries, especially the EU (See www.eufunding.org) In Gaza such humanitarian funds end up in the Hamas treasury regardless.⁹⁵

The point is that that Obama administration was so willing or naïve to send that massive amount of money to a terror organization, when all available data indicates that an unknown amount would clearly be used in support of terrorist goals. Aaron Klein, author of *The Late Great State of Israel*, points out that the Palestinian Authority or Fatah's military brigade, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade is actually responsible for more terrorism than Hamas. Klein claims that the Obama administration gave the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade the money directly. Ordinarily, I would find that incredible, but not with this Administration. According to Klein (and others), Obama even has the US army training certain members of both terrorist groups. Again, ordinarily, I would find that incredible.⁹⁶

A definitive article in the *Middle East Quarterly* concluded: "... it seems likely that increased aid helps sustain Palestinian violence in several ways: by creating the opportunity to divert funds for militant activities; by insulating the Palestinian leadership from the fiscal consequences of the economic fallout from terrorism; and by creating a revenue surplus that allows the Palestinian government both to pay for salaries and programs and to funnel money to terrorists."⁹⁷

Some have claimed that the Palestinians are the largest single recipients of Western aid in the world. Since 1950 the US has directly or indirectly funneled some \$7 billion to the Palestinians (the EU has apparently given about \$2 billion) that, in my opinion, has been largely wasted. For example, according to James Phillips of the Heritage Foundation it has only accomplish three things: 1) contributed to the welfare of the Palestinians, who largely hate Israel; 2) contributed to a culture of victimization and anti-Israel, anti-Western radicalism; and 3) allowed some Palestinian groups to focus on destroying Israel rather than helping the Palestinian people (i.e. supported terrorism.)⁹⁸

According to Barry Rubin, director of the Global Research in International Affairs Center and editor of the *Middle East Review of International Affairs* journal: "Note that [as a prerequisite for receiving the funds] Obama did not mention the conditions for easing the [Gaza] blockade -- that Hamas abandon terrorism and accept Israel's existence -- nor did he say that anything the Palestinian Authority or Hamas is doing is

"unsustainable." Only Western and Israeli policy are said to be unsustainable. In effect, Obama is saying that the policies of Hamas, Iran, Hizballah, and Syria, among others, are infinitely sustainable, especially because of his reluctance to do things to make them unsustainable."⁹⁹

Finally, according to Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, consider the absurdity of the US military actively training Muslim terrorists:

"News reports now say that in addition to sending over \$500 million in United States tax dollars to the new terrorist-run "Unity Government" of Palestine, our American military - the best trained military force the world has ever known - will provide training to the army that the terrorist group, Hamas, will now control... Hamas admits they will use our military training and our tax dollars for terrorism against Israel."¹⁰⁰

[Radical Islam in America](#)

The United States itself has a much bigger Radical Islam problem that most Americans apparently realize. (Please see Appendix 2 for documentation.) Apart from a few brave souls, moderate Muslims generally remain silent while radical Muslims continue to use American freedoms against it and are making great progress. Mosques are sprouting up everywhere across the land using the guise of religious freedom to support radical Islam and Sharia law. Not every mosque is radical, but it appears that most of them are. In America today, despite Muslims experiencing wonderful political, religious and other freedoms unique to this nation (indeed unique to history; only about 5% of all people in world history have experienced our freedoms¹⁰¹), most mosques prefer instead to promote violent Sharia law and even jihad. For example, to illustrate part of the problem: "Imams at 82 of the 100 [representative] mosques surveyed recommended that worshipers study violence-positive materials."¹⁰²

Perhaps one day, we will wake up to what's happening in our nation before it is too late. America currently faces so many threats from so many quarters it is hard to envision a positive outcome, at least apart from God's mercy.

On a more positive note, I have mentioned in other articles that significant numbers of Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus Christ through dreams and visions. Consider the aftermath of one former Muslim jihadist/terrorist who had a dream in which Jesus appeared to him. If the reader were able to hear him in person, his inflection, nuance and manner of speaking, it would bring tears to your eyes. The very day after the dream: "I began to change from that day forward... I'd been a hateful, murderous man. I burnt down churches, robbed stores; *so many* violent acts. But *Christ* changed my life. I begin to act according to what the Bible says. I became a loving person. I am *free* now; the Son has set me free. Life is Christ and death [normal death] is gain. The past - that was an ugly, fearful ghost. But that no longer rules. I am now in Christ and all things are new."¹⁰³

This man had been challenged to disprove the Bible by his Muslim spiritual leader; he could not; he only found it to be true. He was trained to be an expert sniper -- and I can only imagine the number of lives saved (both Jewish and Christian) because this man is now a Christian.

[A Nuclear-Free Middle East Ruse?](#)

The White House, the UN, Russia and other nations are now calling, in various ways, for a "nuclear free zone" in the Middle East that essentially becomes an attack upon the security of Israel. It seems like sheer lunacy that a terrorist state such as Iran can continue to build its offensive nuclear weapons arsenal to destroy Israel in a nuclear second -- but Israel must give up her nuclear weapons, her only means of defense. "Russian President Dmitry Medvedev just completed an historic three-day tour through Syria and Turkey. It was the first visit by a Russian leader to Damascus since the end of the Cold War. His top agenda items arms sales and helping both countries build nuclear power facilities. Ominously, Medvedev in Damascus called for Israel to give up its nuclear arsenal and help create a "nuclear free zone" in the Middle East. The visits come at a time when Russia is steadily building diplomatic, economic and military alliances in the region that are consistent with the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecies about the coming "War of Gog and Magog" against Israel..."¹⁰⁴

"In a move ripped from the pages of *The Ezekiel Option*, the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday unanimously announced that they want to see "full implementation" of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), requiring a "nuclear free Middle East zone." To the uninitiated, that may sound good on the surface, but it's actually a direct attack on the State of Israel.... And as amazing as it is to say it, the events of this week could theoretically set into motion the fulfillment of the End Times Bible prophecies found in Ezekiel 38-39 - i.e., the "War of Gog and Magog" -- if the leader of Russia begins to emerge as the leader of the anti-Israel coalition and requires Israel to comply with the treaty or face an international military coalition prepared to force her to comply.... How soon will it be before some nation (Russia?) calls for a U.N. Security Council resolution to force Israel to disclose and dismantle her weapons?"¹⁰⁵

President Obama, Middle East Peace and Jerusalem

President Obama's use of the term "Palestinian East Jerusalem" is shameful and has never been used by an American president in Israel's history; the phrase informs us of both his priorities and intentions, e.g., being pro-Palestinians and anti-Israeli. Obama is somehow more outraged at Israel's building a few apartments within their own sovereign territory (-- imagine Israel *demanding* America not build any apartments in Washington DC, with viable and serious threats yet) -- than he is over Iran building nuclear bombs that threaten to destroy the world. Now that's truly something amazing. Going back to Obama's 20-year tenure under radical Marxist/liberation theology, Louis Farrakhan supporting, anti-Semitic pastor Jeremiah Wright, he obviously sees Israel as a major cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict, buying into the Palestinian myth, and other falsehoods propagated by Islam and Islamists over the last decades. Again, the source of the Palestinian problem and its continuation lay with the Muslim Arabs nations, not with Israel -- one only need go back and examine the history.¹⁰⁶

Hal Lindsey once made a good point -- if President Obama never agreed with Jeremiah Wright's hate filled teachings against America and Israel, as he claimed, he could hardly have sat in Wright's "church" for a month, let alone 20 years.

Consider a few facts that the president might consider, assuming he is willing. As we have seen, God himself has already warned the entire world about Jerusalem -- He made it; it is His city; it belongs to Him, Jesus will rule the earth from it, and He gave it to the Jews forever.

Jerusalem was founded as the capital of Israel by the Jewish King David in 1000 BC -- 15 centuries before Mohammed and Islam ever existed. For over 35 centuries the Jews have continuously lived in Israel. (The Palestinian cause didn't appear until after 1967; that's 35 centuries for the Jews and three decades for the Palestinians.) The Bible mentions Jerusalem 660 times in the Old Testament (the sacred book of the Jews) and about 150 times in the New Testament -- but not once in the Qur'an, the holy book of the Muslims, except for a falsely claimed mention in Sura 17.¹⁰⁷ Another name for Jerusalem, Zion, appears in the Old Testament 850 times. But again, Zion does not appear a single time in the Qur'an.

So why do Arab Muslims think they deserve East Jerusalem, indeed all Israel? They think they deserve it because according to Sharia law and Muslim tradition, at any point a given territory is conquered by Islam, it becomes, by definition, a permanent territory of Islam forever, regardless of its current status. And because, according to the Qu'ran, everything belongs to Allah regardless. (For all practical purpose, since Allah does not exist, it all "belongs" to those who rule in Islam and for whatever purpose they deem appropriate to Islam). (This also explains why Muslims wanted to build their massive 14-story Córdoba mosque just two blocks from Ground Zero, because it had become conquered territory.) As a result, every devout Muslim is duty bound to regain all of Jerusalem, and all of Israel.

Regaining the Gaza Strip and subsequently East Jerusalem are only the first steps of a much broader plan -- to remove the Jews from Israel entirely or even destroy them. Given all we have discussed and more, Jerusalem could become the single issue that will one day ignite the war of Armageddon, and today we may be seeing the shadows of that reality.

Regardless, Obama's so-called "peace plan" for the Middle East is destined to fail, just like every other "peace" plan that gives in to the irrational, hateful desires of those who want to destroy the Jews and Israel, rather than allowing Israel to exist as a free and sovereign state, the prerogative of every other nation on earth. Somehow, the world thinks Israel hasn't the rights that every other nation has. Why is that? In essence such "peace" plans play into the hands of the devil and a hoped-for elimination of the Jewish state, exactly what the Arab nations and most Muslims apparently desire. Again, why? Because the plan requires Israel to cede East Jerusalem to the Muslims, which will become another terrorist enclave, as Gaza is now, but this time it will exist in Israel's very capital city, and because it requires Israel to return to defenseless pre-1967 borders. No other nation on earth would permit a permanent terrorist entity bent upon that nation's destruction to reside within its own capital city, let alone allow itself to become defenseless as a nation. Obama's plan entrusts Israel's future supposed security to the UN, US and/or the European Union, none of which are now friends of Israel. Further, Arab Muslims have routinely broken their promises to Israel, so Israel has no reason to trust any claims of future promises, whether or not they are guaranteed by the US, NATO, the European Union, the UN or anyone else. Again, what other nation on earth would sign a "peace" treaty with terrorists bent on its own destruction? Yet the world demands this of Israel.

Obama and his administration are simply playing dangerous, extremist politics in the Middle East in the midst of a highly volatile and potentially catastrophic situation. Obama seems to wish to remove Israel as an obstacle to an alleged peace either by imposing a Fiat peace settlement against Israel's security and interests, or by making Israel defenseless and subject to much worse terror attacks, forcing peace and the world's "guarantee" of Israel's security.

In one sense, those who oppose Israel may eventually win, if only for a short period. Sooner or later, Israel is going to give in to the pressure because, according to the prophet Daniel 9:24-27, Israel will at some point enter into a seven year covenant with the Antichrist, the most imposing figure the world has ever known, hoping that that this will finally "guarantee" her security. Unfortunately, the peace will be short and will soon lead to Armageddon; on the other hand, thankfully, in the end, all Israel will finally learn who her true Messiah is.

In sum, given the beliefs of Islam and the fact that the Israelis will never cede Jerusalem (at least prior to the arrival of the Antichrist, and even then this is not certain), every peace plan predicated upon irrational and anti-Israel demands is destined for failure.

Remember, for the Muslim world, Palestinian statehood is not the true goal. The true goal is the permanent removal or annihilation of Israel, with a Palestinian statehood as the means toward that end, and then a caliphate. Eventually, Islam wants the whole world; of that there is no doubt (see Appendix 2). The animosity toward Israel (and infidels) that so many Muslim clerics have been teaching around the world ever since the Jewish state was born speaks for itself.

Israel survives for only one reason. In the face of a hostile world and its many surrounding enemies Israel survives because of God's covenant promises to Abraham. Indeed, without God's sovereign actions at all times throughout her history, Israel would have ceased to exist long ago, as the apostle Paul acknowledges in Romans 9:29, "And as Isaiah predicted, 'if the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.'"

This is also why only Israel's Messiah, Jesus Christ, will bring true peace to the nation, and indeed, the whole world as well.

Conclusion

Israel is God's chosen nation and Jerusalem his chosen city. The New Jerusalem which comes down from heaven at the end of the book of Revelation lasts forever as a massive, eternal city (roughly the size of the moon). In the end, "all Israel will be saved." Despite God's many judgments upon the nation of Israel for its idolatries and other sins (e.g., the judges, the prophets, the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, the Roman destruction and dispersion) most had a redemptive purpose in mind: "then they shall know that I am the Lord."

And, indeed, after the Babylonian captivity when Israel returned to the land the nation never again returned to idolatry. Today, after a long national absence and its rebirth, Israel waits for its Messiah.

The devil and much of the world have hated Israel from the beginning and done all in their power to destroy the Jewish people and their homeland. But because they are God's chosen people, they cannot be destroyed. Because Israel is a genuinely miraculous nation, it remains a powerful confirmation for the existence of God, the God that every one of us must one day stand before to give an account of the life we have lived.

Only one religion in the world can say "God is love," and prove it – because the biblical God is the only God who has demonstrated his love at the Cross when Christ died for sin, taking the punishment due us in his own person. Indeed, no other religion even *has* a God of love. Only one religion in the world offers salvation as a free gift, entirely apart from personal merit or good works, conditioned only upon faith in what God has already accomplished. Even the worst of sinners can be freely forgiven, even the most evil of individuals. Only one religion in the world offers genuine historic and other evidence for its truth claims. For both Jew and Gentile, the historic fact of the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and many other proofs provide adequate reasons for faith in Jesus Christ as one's personal savior from sin. If Christ did not rise from the dead, Christianity is worthless.¹⁰⁸ For Jews in particular, the scores of Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament clearly identify Jesus Christ as their Messiah: if Jesus isn't the Jewish Messiah, there is none.¹⁰⁹

Only those found to be "in Christ" will survive that coming Day of Judgment, because their faith in Jesus Christ and his righteousness has been eternally credited toward their account; they will enter a glorious heaven beyond all comprehension -- and they will experience, in John Piper's words, "the infinite treasury of his glory" forever and ever. Those found to be apart from Christ because of their lack of faith in Jesus will be required to personally pay the perfectly just penalty of their sins in the face of a God of infinite holiness and righteousness; sadly, they will enter an eternity of darkness and torment. (Matthew 25:46)

What a terrible price was paid to redeem men, the cost of Calvary, partially illustrated in Mel Gibson's film. And yet how free is the cost of forgiveness and how infinitely great the reward. In all eternity the worst possible fate will be to miss it. As the Messiah declared: "This is eternal life, to know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3) and, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

If there were ever a time for non-Christians to know the truth, it is now; if ever there were a time for Christians to be committed to their faith and involved in Jewish evangelism and evangelism generally, not to mention prayer for Israel, it is now.

No man is guaranteed tomorrow and "today is the day of salvation." "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..." (Hebrews 3:15)

Appendix 1: Some of the Miracles in Biblical Israel

After the global flood of Noah and the tower of Babel, God called a pagan named Abram from Ur of the Chaldeans to "the land that I will show you," which was later revealed as Israel. (Sodom and Gomorrah were south of the Dead Sea; remember Abraham's nephew Lot and his wife?) God made a sacred covenant with Abram, changed his name and promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation, that he would bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him and that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3) The book of Genesis largely concerns the Jewish Patriarchs and the story of Joseph, who was sold as a slave to Egypt. He later brought his family and relatives to Egypt that eventually resulted in Israel becoming a great nation of 2 million people. What Joseph's brothers had meant for evil, God meant for good. (Genesis 50:20)

-- Just after the miraculous Exodus, there was the supernatural conquest/judgment of Canaan under Joshua so the Jews could inherit the Promised Land – who hasn't heard of the walls of Jericho?

-- The mighty divine judgments upon Israel as a nation and the surrounding nations for their various evils, including the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities and the subsequent divine judgment of Assyria and Babylon. These judgments, like Sodom and Gomorrah¹¹⁰, continue to serve as a warning to all nations.

-- The Old Testament details the long struggle between sin and righteousness, helping to preserve and prepare Israel for their Messiah and the profoundly marvelous New Covenant that united both Jew and Gentile into one Church, the body of Christ. The divinely inspired Mosaic Law revealed God's holy character but the Israelis' repeated lapses into idolatry and even apostasy required judgment at the hands of a not infrequent supernatural ministry of the biblical prophets. This included the highly dramatic encounter between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. Or, imagine the famous exploits of the godly and fearless Daniel while in captivity – again, who hasn't heard of Daniel in the lion's den or Shadrach Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace? Among students of Scripture, who hasn't been amazed at the detailed prophecies in Daniel's writings, some of which refer to the exact time of the arrival of the Messiah or even, it seems, to the events of the present day (chapters 4, 7-11)? What of the frustrated Jonah, swallowed by a huge fish or whale and forced by God to bring repentance to the great but evil city of Nineveh far away.

It is impossible to calculate the impact upon the world of the Jewish prophets and their visions, ministries, miracles and writings (Isaiah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezra, Joel, Ezekiel, etc.). Daniel alone greatly influenced the neo-Babylonian Empire under Kings Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar as well as under Kings Darius and Cyrus the Persian of the Medo-Persian Empire – so much so that at least two proclamations were sent throughout the known world about the one true God. (Daniel 3:29; 4:1-37; 6:25-27)

-- Or, consider the fact that every Jewish Old Testament book reveals something about Jesus the Messiah, 400-1500 years before he was born¹¹¹; or the inspired writings of the unique wisdom literature of Job and Ecclesiastes, the Psalms and Proverbs, widely considered literary masterpieces;

-- There are hundreds of specific prophecies throughout the Old Testament concerning the future, such as the fact that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) or that he would be God incarnate and yet die by crucifixion for the sins of the world (Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 53);

-- Consider the miraculous preservation of the Jewish race by Queen Esther who foiled the nefarious genocidal plot by the evil Haman. As Mordecai told her at a highly dramatic and critical moment, "For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)

-- Reflect on the great monarchy of the divinely chosen Jewish Kings Saul, David and Solomon; David's military exploits are legendary and Solomon's kingdom and wisdom amazed even the Queen of Sheba. King David is a classic example of the cause-and-effect of sin in human history – although godly for the majority of his life, his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah logically and ultimately brought about the Jewish Civil War and division of the nation into the northern and southern kingdoms.

-- Think about the building of King Solomon's magnificent temple, whose architect was God, and whose archaeological remnants will become part of the perhaps soon to be rebuilt Jewish third Temple;

-- Consider the partial return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity by the unexpected decree of King Cyrus, precisely fulfilling the biblical prophecy of a specific 70 year captivity (Jeremiah 25:2; 29:10; Ezra 1:2-4; Daniel 9:1-2);

-- Whether or not they believe it, almost the whole world has heard about the virgin birth, ministry, miracles, atoning death, and/or physical resurrection of the Jesus the Messiah, the most influential man who ever lived, a Jew far surpassing Einstein in influence and knowledge. Yes, when God became incarnate, He became a Jew in fulfillment of messianic prophecy.

-- Without the dramatic supernatural conversion of the great skeptic and persecutor of the earliest Church, the Jewish apostle Paul, there would have been no dramatic growth of the early church, which eventually changed the world.

-- And, one hopes, the soon and glorious return of Jesus Christ from Heaven to the city of Jerusalem itself (Acts 1:11), to rule the world in a Millennial Kingdom of unparalleled global peace, prosperity and joy.

[Appendix 2: Bibliography on the Perils of Islam](#)

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Resource List

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Notes

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26. No historian has ever given an adequate explanation other than the Christian one, and the existence of a church of 2 billion people must be explained somehow. For example, as New Testament professor Ben Witherington III observes, "A historian has to explain how the high Christology of the church could have arisen after the unexpected and precipitous demise of Jesus through crucifixion... On any showing the crucifixion should have put an end to the Jesus movement once and for all in an honor and shame culture like early Judaism." (Ben Witherington III, "Jesus the Seer," in Paul Copeland, William Lane Craig (Eds) *Contending with Christianity's Critics: Answering New Atheists and Other Objectors* 2009, 112). See the books on Christ's resurrection by Dr. Gary Habermas, esp. Habermas and Michael Licona, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*; Also, Licona's *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach* and NT Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Factual in the sense of "verified information about the past," "something known to have happened," having "the quality of being actual." So much of what passes for modern scholarship today, even the best of scholarship, isn't that at all, but simply a core bias covered in seeming scholarship. As three authentic biblical scholars conclude in *Reinventing Jesus: How Contemporary Skeptics Miss the Real Jesus and Mislead Popular Culture*, "There is simply no room for uncertainty about what the New Testament originally taught." And "... all of the evidence points to the biblical Jesus as the real Jesus." (Page 117, 260) The truth is that the available historical evidence is conclusive – we can know with certainty that what we read in the New Testament is what was originally written. Therefore Jesus rose physically from the dead and is the Savior of the world, and because he alone died on the cross for human sin, the only way to God.
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all, but simply a core bias covered in seeming scholarship. The truth is that the available historical evidence is conclusive – we can know with certainty that what we read in the New Testament is what was originally written. As three authentic biblical scholars conclude in *Reinventing Jesus: How Contemporary Skeptics Miss the Real Jesus and Mislead Popular Culture*, "There is simply no room for uncertainty about what the New Testament originally taught." And "... all of the evidence points to the biblical Jesus as the real Jesus." (Page 117, 260) No historian has ever given an adequate explanation for the resurrection other than the Christian one. For example, as New Testament professor Ben Witherington III observes, "A historian has to explain how the high Christology of the church could have arisen after the unexpected and precipitous demise of Jesus through crucifixion... On any showing the crucifixion should have put an end to the Jesus movement once and for all in an honor and shame culture like early Judaism." (Ben Witherington III, "Jesus of the seer," in Paul Copeland, William Lane Craig (Eds) *Contending with Christianity's Critics: Answering New Atheists and Other Objectors* 2009, 112).

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