

SHOULD WE SUPPORT ISRAEL

Conclusion

Tonight we're going to talk a little bit about what's happening in Israel *politically*. Then we'll look at what's ahead, according to the Scripture. The political situation in Israel may seem complex, but once you have a grasp on the over all situation regarding the positions and goals of the Jews and the positions and goals of the Arabs, the rest of what goes on over there is not that hard to understand.

It's like watching a chess game. The goal is to check-mate the opponent and there are many different strategies chess players use to do this. Also, it takes many different kinds of individual moves to execute those strategies. You may not understand the strategy of the men who are playing the game. But in the end, *the goal* is always the same. That's the way it is regarding the Israeli/Arab conflict. Details change; faces change; strategies and individual moves change; but *the goals* of the Jews and *the goals* of the Arabs remain the same.

The goal of the Arabs is very simple: the destruction of the Jewish State and the return of every inch of Israel to the rule and authority of Islam. The *size* of Israel is immaterial to the Arabs. The location of the *borders* of Israel is immaterial to the Arabs. At the root of the matter is the fact that the very existence of the Jewish State in the center of Islamic territory is an *affront* to Allah and a *daily humiliation* of the religion of Islam. Until a person understands this fact, they will never be able to grasp the strategies and moves of the Arabs regarding Israel.

In January of 1994, after the signing of the September 1993 agreements between Israel and the PLO in Oslo, a Hamas leader was interviewed on the BBC. The correspondent asked him how he felt about the new situation (ie: of prospective peace between Israelis and Palestinians). His reply was honest and insightful. He said: "*You don't understand...Islam can never negotiate with or recognize Israel*".

He didn't say the *Arabs* in the Middle East can never recognize Israel. He didn't say the *Palestinians* can never recognize Israel. He didn't say Hamas, or Hezbollah, or the PLO, or any of the other terrorist groups can never recognize Israel. What he said was, **ISLAM** can never recognize Israel. Islam will never accept a sovereign Jewish State in the heart of the Muslim Arab world, regardless of it's size. Those who refuse to understand and accept this basic fact are doomed to be deceived by the strategies and political moves of the Arabs and the Palestinians. No faithful Muslim can accept Israel on a permanent basis—ever!

For this reason, the Jewish victory in 1948 became the day of the *greatest shame* in the modern history of the Arabs. The creation of a sovereign infidel state in the middle of Islamic territory is the ultimate challenge to the Islamic world. The face of both the Arab nation and its "god" was blackened by the creation of Israel. Every day the Jewish State of Israel survives, it is a testimony that Jehovah is greater than Allah. All those millions of Arabs, with the whole world on their side, can't defeat the Jews. This is a daily humiliation to Allah, to Islam, and to every Muslim and Arab in the world. Once you understand this basic reality, the statements that have been made over the years by Arab leaders will begin to make more sense to you.

"Our war against the Jews is an old struggle that began with Mohammed ...**It is our duty to fight the Jews for the sake of Allah and religion**, and it is our duty to end the war that Mohammed began."

Al Ahram – November 26, 1955

"I promise to crush Israel and **return it** to the humiliation and wretchedness established **in the Koran**.

Anwar Sadat – April 25, 1972

"Surely the judgment of Allah is reserved for them [Jews] **until Palestine is transferred** from Dar al-Harb to Dar al- Islam."

Yasir Arafat

"Israel will exist and continue to exist **until Islam eliminates it**, just as it eliminated what preceded it [referring to the defeat of the Crusaders]."

Imam Hassan al-Bana
Former Head of Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood

"**We shall only accept war**—jihad—the holy war. We have resolved to drench the lands of Palestine and Arabia with the blood of the infidels [primarily the Jews, but also all Westerners] or to accept martyrdom for the glory of Allah."

King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud

"The Jews in Palestine must be exterminated. There can be **no option for those of us who revere the name of Allah**. There will only be jihad."

King Farouk -- Former President of Egypt

"The Zionist conquest of Palestine is **an affront to all Moslems**. There can be no compromise until every Jew is dead and gone."

King Idris -- Former President of Libya

"Every problem in our region can be traced to this single dilemma: **the occupation of Dar al-Islam by Jewish infidels**."

Hashemi Rafsanjani -- 1991
President of Iran

"The enemies of God have committed aggression on Moslem lands and desecrated our sanctuaries. **It has become the duty of every Moslem to make the sacrifice to liberate Moslem territories**."

Dr. Abdul Halim Mahmoud
Grand Sheik of Al-Azhar
October 8, 1973

"Fighting the Jews and Israel is **a religious obligation** and a divine duty."

Ibrahim Ghousha -- January 2, 1993
Senior Hamas Leader

Since the destruction of Israel and the return of the land to Allah is *the goal* of the Arabs (and the Palestinians), everything they say and do is toward the accomplishment of that goal. When they talk about wanting a Palestinians State, the *purpose* of that state is to eventually destroy Israel. Every move they make is just a *tactic* to reach their goal. They do not want peace with Israel and they have no intention of living in peace with Israel.

The goal of the Jews is to have their own sovereign state and live at peace with the surrounding Arab nations. They want their state to be a Jewish state, just as Germany is a *German* state and France is a *French* state. This

is not racism. It's the normal desire of every national people. The Jews are willing to compromise on many issues to gain a true peace with the Arabs in and around their country. They have returned land they won in defensive wars to achieve peace with Egypt. They have *proven* that they are not militaristic and imperialistic. Imperialistic nations do not give huge portions of land up for peace with their neighbors. They have already made many substantial compromises for peace and they've got very little in return—a shallow peace with Egypt and Jordan and nothing from the Palestinians.

Indeed, the "Disengagement" (ie: Gaza expulsion) of 2005 proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Palestinians do not want a permanent peace with Israel. That plan was carried out in August 2005. The Israeli government paid the Jewish residents of Gaza to relocate. Those who refused to relocate voluntarily by the August 15th deadline were evicted by Israeli security forces over a period of several days.

The eviction of all residents, the demolition of the residential buildings and the evacuation of associated security personnel from the Gaza Strip was completed by September 12th, 2005. Israel also dismantled four settlements in the northern West Bank ten days later. The results of disengagement have not only been worthless as far as peace is concerned, they have been *disastrous*. Professor Gerald M. Steinberg, who is the director of the Program on Conflict Management at Bar Ilan University in Israel, and who was an ardent supporter of the disengagement, had this to say about it, after the results became clear for all to see:

"As an early Israeli supporter of unilateral disengagement, **I admit that this plan, like the earlier Oslo "peace process," has failed. Hopes** that the unprecedented move, including the dismantling of all Israeli military bases, checkpoints and even civilian houses in Gaza would reduce the violence and promote mutual accommodation **were naive** .

The role of the Palestinian population in supporting terror is central, but the international community also bears considerable responsibility for the latest disaster. For years, the Europeans, the UN and others had provided massive support -- financial as well as political -- to PLO leader Yasser Arafat in the hope that he would make peace. After that proved to be a mirage and Arafat died, the members of the Quartet (the European-inspired framework designed to push hopes for peace co-operatively) pressed numerous schemes to prop-up Arafat's successors. These failed to achieve anything of significance.

Without skipping a beat, **as soon as** the Israelis left, the Palestinians extended the terrorist infrastructure to encompass the resources they had gained. A few months later, the entry of Hamas officials, pledged to radical Islam and the eradication of Israel, sped up this process."

Just a few months after the Israelis pulled out of Gaza, the Palestinians began firing rockets, almost daily, into towns in Southern Israel. The Israeli government allowed this to continue for *8 years* before finally invading the area to stop it. And of course, a Jew hating world went ballistic and condemned Israel for protecting itself.

Just a few years after Israel pulled out of Gaza, a free election was held between the (supposedly) "moderate" PLO party—which was (supposedly) willing to make peace with Israel, and the much more radical Hamas party—which publicly vows that it will never make peace with Israel. The Palestinian *people* freely elected Hamas to be their *official* representatives.

This then, is the game. Everything the Palestinians do is a *strategy* and a *tactic* to gain enough territory, power and weapons to eventually destroy Israel and return all that land to Allah. Everything the Jews do is in order to

secure a real and permanent peace in the region. Israel means what it says when it makes offers and concessions. They have *proven* that they are willing to give up land for peace. The Palestinians do not make concessions and even if they did, those concessions would simply be a tactic of war. Nor do they want peace. Any Palestinian leader who stood up and *permanently* recognized Israel as a legitimate Jewish state would be killed.

This constant refusal to permanently recognize Israel has been highlighted in the most recent round of peace talks. On June 14 of last year, the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, gave a speech at Bar-Ilan University. In that speech he did something that no Likud leader has ever done before. He *publicly* accepted the idea of a Palestinian state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean. But he laid down *two* conditions for that acceptance. One was that the Palestinian state be effectively demilitarized. The other was that “the Palestinians recognize Israel as the State of the Jewish people.” Mr. Netanyahu has reiterated this second condition more than once this month. In fact, he offered to extend the freeze on Jewish home-building in the West Bank in return for an *official* Palestinian recognition of Israel as the State of the Jewish people.

You see, for many years the Palestinians have been accusing Israel of not being serious about peace. They have accused the Israelis of doing precisely what *they* are doing—using various strategies and tactics to avoid a peace settlement. Prime Minister Netanyahu’s decision to *publically* accept the idea of a Palestinian State *if* the Palestinians would publicly recognize the Jewish State was a brilliant move because he knows they are not serious about peace. The problem is getting the world to recognize this truth. Asking the Palestinians to recognize Israel as a Jewish state, after Netanyahu had done the equivalent for their prospective state, is the epitome of fairness and reciprocity. Yet Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas has consistently rejected the offer. Just the other day he said: “We’ll never sign a deal demanding recognition of Israel as a Jewish state”. Thus, Palestinian leaders have put themselves in a light that to any *fair-minded* spectator, is not good. Unfortunately, the nations of this world are not fair-minded when it comes to the Jews and Israel.

If you want to understand what’s going with this present round of peace talks, you have to understand what America’s first *Muslim* president has done. His hatred of Israel made him do something very stupid. He wanted to give the Palestinians the upper hand in the peace talks and at the same time, ham-string the Israelis. However, what he did instead was to make it impossible for them to sit down and talk.

From the very beginning of his presidency, Hussein Obama has put the total freeze on housing construction in the settlements at the center of his Middle East policy. His public advocacy of this freeze, even in Jerusalem, put both the Palestinians and the Israelis in a bind, giving both parties little room to maneuver. President Hussein repeatedly demanded a construction freeze in home building in the West Bank as a *condition* for the renewed peace talks. He thought he was helping the Palestinians but this kind of public rhetoric made it impossible for the Palestinians to compromise, even if they wanted to—which they don’t. If the President of the United States demanded a complete freeze on all housing as a condition to start peace talks, could the Palestinians demand *less*? This whole debacle encouraged the Palestinians to take a harder line.

After Israel agreed to a 10-month building freeze, Abbas used delay tactics for *nine* of those months in order not to come to the table. This showed, once again, that he wasn’t really interested in genuine peace talks. President Hussein rewarded Abbas by publicly demanding an extension of the housing freeze *before* the 10 months had even expired. The effect of all this was to put Mr. Netanyahu in a box with only two choices: (1) capitulate to Abbas—in which case his coalition government would have fallen; or (2) have an open confrontation with the United States. When Netanyahu refused to extend the freeze, Abbas walked out of the talks and hasn’t returned. A Palestinian commentator, named Rani Urabi Mustafa, had this to say about the situation:

“Unfortunately, we Palestinians have a fourth rate statesman at the helm for us, compounded by the fact that a pack of short sighted Arabs [the Arab League] are our support. My feeling is that Netanyahu is a frighteningly skilled devil. But devil or not, **he never made any public promises of a settlement freeze extension before the direct talks began** and the Arab League endorsed Abbas to enter the talks **under that guise**. Now, after the freeze has expired, Abbas is once again crying about resigning all together. Naturally, the Arab League has forgotten their original endorsement, as well as their responsibility to ‘the Palestinian people’ to sit on the chest of Abbas to continue with the direct talks. I think it’s ridiculous that we are even sitting at any bargaining table, **for the simple fact that with regard to Hamas, Abbas can’t guarantee any deal he signs on**. It’s for this very reason I was against direct talks until we were unified and could truly guarantee our part of any deal. All that said, we started direct talks and need to continue.”

Mustafa is absolutely correct. Netanyahu never said the freeze would extend past ten months. He initiated the freeze under great pressure from our Muslim president. Moreover, the surrounding Arab nations gave their blessing for the talks to begin under *that* situation. The freeze was supposed to give Abbas and the Israelis some time to hammer out a genuine peace deal. But of course, Abbas not only has no desire to hammer out a deal with Israel, he *couldn’t* hammer out any kind of a deal with them even if he wanted to (which he doesn’t) because he doesn’t have the power to make any deals. Any deal he makes with Israel (short of it’s own voluntary suicide) will be torpedoed by Hamas.

By the way, Mr. Mustafa is an avowed atheist—though he is proud of his Arab heritage. Since his first allegiance is *not* to a religion which refuses to tolerate any infidels on Allah’s territory, his mind has not been warped and closed. As long as he can have his own state, he doesn’t mind having a sovereign Jewish State in the Middle East. The problem is, people like Mustafa are a very small minority. For probably 90% of today’s Arabs and Muslims, their first loyalty *is* to Islam and its *fanatical intolerance* of all things un-Islamic.

A few days ago, Egypt’s top diplomat and the head of its intelligence branch were in Ramallah in an effort to persuade Abbas to return to the peace talks in exchange for another *partial* Israeli settlement freeze. The Egyptian offer was based in part on a recent U.S. initiative in which President Hussain Obama would apply pressure to Israel to end the occupation and reach a peace agreement within the next year.

Meanwhile, in an interview with a reporter from Italian daily news paper (Corriere Della Sera), the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister, Salam Fayyad, said the PA will declare an independent Palestinian state in 2011. Fayyad said: “*The deadline is next summer, when the Israeli occupation of the West Bank must end. In 2011 we will celebrate 66 years of the United Nations and the United Nations will celebrate the birth of our nation*”. Fayyad said he will give Israel “*one more year of grace...but these colonies can no longer be there. They are illegal everywhere, here and Jerusalem*”.

This is the reason the Palestinians have been stalling and using every kind of excuse and tactic for the last 30 years, in order not to enter direct peace negotiations with the Israelis. A peace agreement between the two parties, that has been negotiated by those two parties, requires them both to publicly recognize each other on a permanent basis. The Palestinians do not want this because they cannot recognize Israel as a permanent Jewish state in the region, ever. What they have been trying to do for the last 30 years is to get the nations to declare a Palestinian State for them—or at least officially recognize their proclamation of their own state—*without* making them recognize Israel as the legitimate, permanent state of the Jews.

The current plan is to appeal to the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, and the signors of the Geneva Conventions, and unite them all in opposition to Israeli settlements and occupation. This will lead to a kind of *global assertion* of Palestinian statehood that will tie Israel's hands. Hanan Ashrawi, a former peace negotiator who is a part of the inner ruling circle of the PLO, recently said: "*We cannot go on this way...the two state solution is disappearing. If we cannot stop the settlements through the peace process, we have to go to the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and every international legal body*". In a recent interview, she said that the PLO was holding high level discussions on these options.

Of course, Israeli officials are against this tactic because it's a violation of the 1993 Oslo accords that govern Israeli/Palestinian relations. It would also preempt any efforts by Israel to keep some settlements and negotiate modified borders. The Israelis say that what is really going on is a Palestinian effort to secure a state *without* having to make the difficult decisions on the borders and settlements that negotiations would entail. This is exactly what's going on and the Israelis are worried that such a strategy will work. They have good reason to worry. No government in the world supports their settlement policy and *all* the nations want to see a Palestinian State erected in the heart of Israel with East Jerusalem at its capitol. Israel fears that a majority of nations, including many in Europe, would back the Palestinian's game plan.

At this point, anyone can open their Bible and see how relevant its prophecies are regarding today's political situation because the Bible tells us very clearly that in the last days, after Israel has returned to it's own land, the nations will *attack* Jerusalem. Why would the nations attack Jerusalem?

They will attack Jerusalem because they will try to force a peace settlement on Israel which gives the Palestinians a state with East Jerusalem as their capitol, but which will *not* require the Palestinians to permanently recognize the Jewish State. Although many Israelis *are* ready to give up East Jerusalem for a *true* peace with the Palestinians at this point; they will never give up East Jerusalem for an imposed peace by Jew hating nations which is a sham, and is just one more phase in their own destruction. They will unite across the political spectrum and resist this kind of imposed settlement.

The Old Testament prophets declare God's plan for the close of this age, regarding Israel and the nations. They tell us that God will re-gather Israel to their own land and restore them to His favor. They also warn that God will intervene in judgment against the nations that oppress Israel and resist His purposes regarding Israel. The issue of re-gathered Israel is *the* issue that will confront *all* nations at the end of the age. For instance, Joel says:

For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people [the Jews] and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

Joel 3:1-2

It's interesting to note that there is no Valley of Jehoshaphat recorded in Scripture. The only valley in which Jehoshaphat was historically associated or involved (*See: II. Chron 20:26*) was subsequently named the Valley of Berachah (ie: blessing), in honor of God's victory over the combined enemies of Israel. Jehoshaphat means "the Lord judges". In that same chapter of Joel, God makes two further references to this valley:

Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.

Joel 3:12

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

Joel 3:14

Various interpretations have arisen regarding the identity of this mysterious valley. One interpretation is that it's just a *representative name* of the place where God will judge the nations. Wherever that judgment takes place, it will be known as the "Valley of Jehoshaphat". Since this passage of Joel is linked to other prophetic passages which speak of the same event, and the place where this event happens is "Jerusalem"—others have *connected* the Valley of Jehoshaphat with the Kidron Valley, between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives.

*Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **In that day when** my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And **thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days**, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.*

Ezekiel 38:14-16

*Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: **for my determination is to gather the nations**, that I may assemble the kingdoms, **to pour upon them mine indignation**, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*

Zephaniah 3:8-9

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Zachariah 14:2-3

Many prophetic passages predict that at the close of this age, God will judge the nations on the basis of their attitude towards Israel. God is going to fight against, and pour out His indignation (ie: wrath) upon all the nations which come against Israel, and He is going to do this in *the land* of Israel. So in the last days, the Jewish State will become a watershed or a line of separation between nations. The nations do not realize it, but their own destiny will be determined by *how* they respond to what God does for Israel.

Since the “valley of decision” is directly linked to the Valley of Jehoshaphat in Joel chapter three, my view is that the Valley of Jehoshaphat is both a spiritual and a literal valley. Through the pressure of world events, God will compel all nations to enter this spiritual valley. In that valley they will either submit to God’s Word regarding the Jews or they will reject it. If they submit, they will align themselves with God’s purposes for Israel. If they rebel, they will oppose His purposes for Israel. Those who *reject* God’s Word regarding Israel will eventually be brought down into a *literal* valley as they attempt to force Israel to submit to their own will and designs.

That God would make Israel a dividing line is not a new idea. In a measure, this has already happened in history. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, for example, Spain was the dominant nation of Europe, with a high level of culture, a powerful army and navy, and an empire that spanned both hemispheres. Within a century of expelling all Jews from her territories, Spain declined to a struggling, second rate power.

The same thing happened to Britain. Britain emerged victorious from two world wars, retaining intact an empire that was perhaps the most extensive in human history. But in 1947-1948, as the mandatory power over Palestine, Britain opposed and attempted to thwart the rebirth of Israel. From that very moment in history, Britain's empire underwent a process of decline and disintegration so rapid and so complete, it cannot be accounted for by merely the relevant political, military or economic factors. Today, less than a generation later, Britain, like Spain, has lost her world supremacy.

God’s dealings with the nations over the issue of Israel illustrates a basic principle that underlies His dealings with mankind as a whole. When God deals with people, He doesn’t step down from His throne and confront each individual in His own Person. Rather, He confronts man *indirectly* through His Word. In this way, our response to God’s Word becomes our response to God Himself (even though we ourselves may not recognize it). Whenever God confronts a man or a nation with His Word, it is He who chooses the issue—and the issue God has chosen in these days is the issue of Israel.

That goes for Christians too. Like the nations, all Christians will be brought into the “valley of decision” by God and they will have to decide whether or not they will accept or reject His Word. Those who reject it will be in serious trouble when they stand before God. Their judgment may be different or come at a different time, but they *will* be judged and punished. Therefore, the question—*Should we support Israel?*—is very important question indeed. The only sane answer is *Yes*—unless you want to experience the wrath and judgment of God!

How then can we support Israel? Well, one way is to *financially* support Zionist organizations which gather Jews from all over the world. Another way is to buy Israeli products or take a trip to Israel and spend some money there. There are so many companies, organizations, (including “Christian” ones), and entire nations *boycotting* Israeli goods and services in an attempt to hurt their economy, helping their economy by buying their products is a good way to support them. But there are other ways to support God’s plan for Israel.

For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters

in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

Jeremiah 31:7-10

Jeremiah tells us three ways we can support Israel: (1) praise; (2) proclaim; and (3) pray. Just to make sure the historical context of these admonitions is clear, he paints a picture of the Jewish people being re-gathered to their land in the last days: “Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth”. This can only be a reference to the re-gathering in our day. So the first response God is looking for from us Gentile believers is that we praise Him for what He is doing with the Jews.

The second response God is looking for is that we *declare* the truth of what He is doing, with regards to Israel, among the nations. The term “declare” means to make some kind of public, official statement. It suggests in particular the activity of a herald. The kind of proclamation we are to make is defined for us in this passage. We are told the nations: “He that scattered Israel will gather him and keep him”. The Bible is very clear. The God who scattered Israel will gather Israel. The presence of a Jewish State in the Middle East is not Satan’s work. Nor is it man’s (ie: the United Nations; Jewish political leaders) work. It is God’s work!

The third response God is looking for is prayer for Israel. The prayer can be very simple: “O Lord; save thy people, the remnant of Israel”. Save them from physical destruction by the surrounding nations who are intent on wiping them off the face of the earth; and also, save them spiritually from their blindness and sin.

There is a fourth response that God is looking for as well. This response is much like the one Paul talked about in the book of Romans, when he said: “For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy” (Rom. 11:30-31).

*Comfort ye, comfort ye **my people**, saith your God. **Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem**, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*

Isaiah 40:1-2

The term which is translated “comfort” in this verse is a plural Hebrew term. That means, this exhortation is not addressed to an individual (such as the prophet Isaiah). It’s addressed to a *group* of people. There are *two* distinct groups of people being referred to in this passage. God calls one group “My people”—“Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people (ie: the Jews). The other group consists of those who are charged to be the comforters of the Jews. The question is: who is this *other* group? Clearly, they are not Israel. Yet, they believe in the God of Israel. Indeed, God says He is *their* God! “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people says your God”. The only group that fits this description in the last days is genuine believers who accept the Bible as God’s Word. God asks this group of people to *comfort* the Jews!

Aside from the fact that God has asked us to comfort the Jewish people, we should also comfort them in repayment of the debt we owe them. First of all, if there had been no Israel, there would likewise have been no patriarchs, no prophets, no apostles, no Bible and no Savior!

Secondly, not only have Gentile believers *not* re-paid the debt we owe the Jewish people, we have compounded that debt a thousand times by boasting against the Jews, by despising them, by rejecting them, by hating them, by persecuting them, by remaining silent while people murder them, and by butchering them *ourselves* in cold blood—all in the name of Christ and Christianity!

There is no segment of humanity whose *need* of comfort can even be compared with that of the Jewish people. It is true that throughout the course of history, many racial and/or religious groups have been the victims of prejudice and persecution. But the fact is, the sufferings of the Jewish people *far exceeds* all others in scope, intensity and duration, and much of the misery they have experienced has come from the hands of Christians, from those who claim to love God and follow His Word.

When confronted with the reality that anti-Semitism has been propagated by *much* of the Church for *most* of its history, many of today's Christians react by disclaiming any responsibility. The attitude is that such anti-Semitism was practiced by members of *other* religious groups and churches. We would never tolerate anti-Semitism in our church—they say. But listen to what Jesus said to the religious leaders of His day, who said the same thing about their forefathers (who had killed the prophets):

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that **ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.***

Matthew 23:29-31

The very fact that these leaders disclaimed responsibility for the crimes committed by *their* forefathers constituted an acknowledgment that they were *the descendants* of those who killed the prophets. I believe the same principle applies to the crimes committed by the Church against the Jews. We cannot claim to be part of the Church, and at the same time disclaim responsibility for the way the Church has treated the Jews. Simply saying that we are not Roman Catholics is not good enough. The Protestant Reformers treated the Jews no differently than the Catholics did and most all of today's Christians identify themselves as the children of the Reformers.

Besides, it wasn't the Roman Catholics who *started* Christian anti-Semitism. It was the Church Fathers, many of whom today's Protestant Christians revere. Furthermore, many of *today's* Protestant (and even Evangelical) Christians are just as anti-Semitic as the Roman Catholic organization has been. Recently, a group of *Evangelical* religious leaders published an "open letter" to their fellow (pro-Israel) Evangelicals in which they said the Jewish people do not "have any divine promise or an earthly land" apart from Christ.

"Recently a number of leaders in the Protestant community of the United States have urged the endorsement of far-reaching and unilateral **political commitments** to the people and land of Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, citing Holy Scripture as the basis for those commitments. . . At the heart of the political commitments in question are two fatally flawed propositions. First, some are teaching that God's alleged favor toward Israel today **is based upon ethnic descent** rather than upon the grace of Christ alone, as proclaimed in the Gospel. Second, others are teaching that the Bible's promises **concerning the land** are fulfilled in a special **political region** or "Holy Land," perpetually set apart by God for one ethnic group alone. As a result of these false claims,

large segments of the evangelical community, our fellow citizens, and our government are being misled with regard to the Bible's teachings regarding the people of God, the land of Israel, and the impartiality of the Gospel. . .

. . . Moreover, apart from Christ, there is no special divine favor upon any member of any ethnic group; nor, apart from Christ, is there any divine promise of an earthly land or a heavenly inheritance to anyone, whether Jew or Gentile. To teach or imply otherwise is nothing less than to compromise the Gospel itself.

The inheritance promises that God gave to Abraham were made effective through Christ, Abraham's True Seed. . **These promises do not apply to any particular ethnic group**, but to the church of Jesus Christ, the true Israel.

The entitlement of any one ethnic or religious group to territory in the Middle East called the "Holy Land" **cannot be supported by Scripture**. In fact, the land promises specific to Israel in the Old Testament **were fulfilled under Joshua**. The New Testament speaks clearly and prophetically about the destruction of the second temple in A.D. 70. No New Testament writer foresees a regathering of ethnic Israel in the land, as did the prophets of the Old Testament after the destruction of the first temple in 586 B.C.

Lamentably, **bad Christian theology is today attributing to secular Israel a divine mandate to conquer and hold Palestine**, with the consequence that the Palestinian people are marginalized and regarded as virtual "Canaanites." This doctrine is both contrary to the teaching of the New Testament and a violation of the Gospel mandate. In addition, this theology puts those Christians who are urging the violent seizure and occupation of Palestinian land in moral jeopardy of their own bloodguiltiness. Are we as Christians not called to pray for and work for peace, warning both parties to this conflict that those who live by the sword will die by the sword?"

The 26 signers of this open letter are all Reform theologians who come from Reform seminaries like The New Geneva Seminary and the Knox Seminary. These "Evangelicals" are simply carrying on the teachings of their Reformation forefathers, which is the lie of Covenant Theology.

Once again, in order to maintain this kind of doctrinal trash, you have to indulge in intentional blindness and intellectual dishonesty. The prophets clearly refer to the land of Israel as the Jew's land. Those same prophets tell us that in the last days, God is the one who will restore the Jews to their own land. The land of Israel is THEIR land according to the Scripture. It was God who drove them out as a result of their sin, and it is God who has regathered them according to His plan and purposes.

*Thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen, then shall they dwell in **their land** that **I have given to my servant Jacob**.*

Ezekiel 28:25

*But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in **their own land**.*

Jeremiah 23:8

Those who can read the above statements and still say—“*The entitlement of any one ethnic or religious group to territory in the Middle East called the Holy Land cannot be supported by Scripture*”—are wicked people because they hold the truth in unrighteousness. They intentionally ignore the plain and obvious meaning of the Scripture regarding who’s land it is because they don’t like what the Scripture says. Whatever they don’t like, they simply ignore. This is called “handling the word of God deceitfully” (*II. Cor. 4:2*).

Notice how these Protestant theologians twist and distort the Scripture when it comes to the term “seed”. They said:“*The inheritance promises that God gave to Abraham were made effective through Christ, Abraham's True Seed. . . These promises do not apply to any particular ethnic group, but to the church of Jesus Christ, the true Israel*”. When they say that Christ is Abraham’s “true” seed, what they mean is that Christ is Abraham’s *only* legitimate seed. The Jews are no longer Abraham’s “seed”. They base this view on a perversion of what Paul said in Galatians 3:16, while ignoring what Paul said in Romans chapter nine, which is that the promises “pertaineth to” (ie: belong to) his kinsmen “according to the flesh”. The term “according to the flesh” is an undeniable reference to *ethnic* Jews!

These theologians also said: “*Lamentably, bad Christian theology is today attributing to secular Israel a divine mandate to conquer and hold Palestine, with the consequence that the Palestinian people are marginalized and regarded as virtual ‘Canaanites’*”. Well, the fact is, the Biblical terms “Philistia” and “Philistines” are the roots from which we derive the modern names “Palestine” and “Palestinian”. I don’t know if the Palestinians are actual, biological descendants of the Canaanites (Philistines), but they have certainly identified themselves with those people by name in their attempt to claim the land as their own. It’s also interesting to note that in the prophesy we looked at last week, the prophet Isaiah predicts that Israel will conquer that very area and people:

*And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. **But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.***

Isaiah 11:12-14

When the Lord sets His hand to recover the Jews the “second time”(from the Roman scattering of 70 AD.), the Jews will “fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines towards the west”. This is a reference to taking control of the area of the Sinai and the Gaza Strip—which the Israelis have done. Therefore, it’s certainly not wrong to identify today’s Palestinians as “Canaanites” because God’s Word calls them Canaanites (ie: Philistines)! Neither is it morally wrong to call them Canaanites because they are a very wicked and vicious people, just like the Canaanites of old. The original Canaanites sacrificed their children to gods of stone and today’s Canaanites sacrifice *their* children to the demon god of Allah! They send them to Israeli public places with vests full of explosives so they can blow themselves to bits and kill as many Israeli men, women and children as possible.

The Scripture very clearly commands us to comfort and support the Jewish people in the day that God re-gathers them to their own land. Do you think God knew when He spoke through Jeremiah and Isaiah and told *us* to support the re-gathered Jews in this hour that there would be a people living in that same land who are at war with

them? When God told us thousands of years ago to support Israel today, do you think He knew that supporting Israel would *mean* supporting their acquisition of (supposedly) Palestinian land? If we are supporting God's plan to restore the Jews to their own land, doesn't that support necessitate that we be *against those* who are trying to thwart God's plan to give them that land? Can you be *for* the Jews of Israel and at the same time, also be for those who are trying to butcher them and return the land to Allah?

If the Bible is true, then God has given the Land of Israel back to the people of Israel, the Jews. It doesn't matter who was living on the land before God brought them back *this* time, any more than it mattered who was living on the land the *first* time He gave it to them. The only thing that matters is what God is doing. Regardless of what the Palestinians think, regardless of what the Arab League thinks, regardless of what the world thinks, regardless of what deluded Christians think, the land belongs to the Jews because God has given it to them. Moreover, He wants them to fight to keep every inch of it!

The people who wrote that "open letter" are Jew haters who are using religion (ie: a corrupted form of Christianity) to justify their Gentile pride and racism. Not only do they reject the Scripture, morally speaking, they treat the actions of Israel and the actions of the Palestinians *equally* when the difference between the two is like night and day. Palestinians deliberately murder *civilian* woman and children to spread terror. They openly boast of destroying Israel. Their schools and text books and media are filled with the most virulent anti-Semitism. They teach their children to hate and kill Jews from the age or 2 years old and up. Not one aspect of their society is geared towards peace with Israel. Everything they say, everything they write, everything they do, is for one end and one end *alone*—the total annihilation of the Jewish race and the return of the land of Israel to Allah.

Anyone who *equates* this kind of behavior with the way the Israelis have comported themselves over the last 60 years is a Jew-hating scum-bag and they *deserve* the wrath they will receive when the Lord pours His wrath out upon the nations. The deluded Reform theologians who wrote that "open letter" are not only setting themselves up for eventual destruction, they are *compounding* the dept Christians already owe the Jews. The only way Protestant Christians can begin to repay that dept is to correct the warped theology that has *produced* Christian anti-Semitism for nineteen centuries. In order to do that, the first thing that needs to be corrected is the idea that it was the Jewish people *alone* who were responsible for the death of Jesus.

*For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, **both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel,** were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.*

Acts 4:27-28

Who is guilty of the death of Jesus? For those who still accept the authority of God's Written Word, the truth is crystal clear: Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel are guilty. Remember, it was Gentile Roman soldiers who were responsible for scourging and mocking Jesus, thereby adding their own sadistic contribution to the guilt of the human race. It was also the Romans who endorsed and carried out the death sentence. Yet, the *Roman* Catholic organization has conveniently overlooked this fact for 1900 years!

For centuries the hearts of Gentile Christians have been hard and callous towards the Jews because there has been an over-emphasis of the fact that God's judgment rests upon them because they killed Jesus. Christians were taught by the Church Fathers, then by the Roman Catholic organization, and then by the Reformation Church that

the Jews have been getting *exactly* what they deserve. This is pure *hypocrisy* because Gentiles were just as guilty of the death of Jesus as the Jews were. Yet Gentile Christian leaders never say all the suffering Gentiles have experienced for the past 2000 years is because *they* killed Jesus! The idea that 2000 years of persecution and murder is God's just punishment on the Jews for killing Jesus is made even more hypocritical and cynical when you realize that *Christians* have been responsible for much of that persecution and murder!

The people who have the most Jewish blood on their hands, stand behind their pulpits every week and say the judgment (persecution, pogroms, rapes, murders, etc.) the Jews have experienced over the last 1900 years (many times at the hands of Christians) is well deserved and is in exact proportion to their sin. This is a perfect example of twisting and perverting the truth. It is true that God blinded and scattered the Jewish people because of their sin. But it's also true that He has *re-gathered them* in our day. It is also true that He has commanded us to pray for them, support them, show them mercy, and comfort them at this time. Again, you have to indulge in intentional blindness and intellectual dishonesty to ignore this fact.

In any case, it was never God's will that we base our *attitude* towards the Jewish people on the judgements that befell them as a result of their sin. Neither was it God's will that Christians become the instruments of that judgment upon them. It is God's will that our attitude towards them is based on what the Scripture teaches. The issue here is not so much whether or not God has judged the Jews for their rejection of Jesus. Clearly, He has. The issue is that we cannot make this fact *the basis* of our response to the Jewish people because if we do, our hearts will become callous and hard towards them. We will be recreating the very same theological atmosphere that hardened the hearts of Gentile believers in the first place.

The difference between viewing the Jewish people according to what the Scripture actually teaches, and viewing them through the lense of *deserved* punishment, accounts for the difference between those Christians who saved Jews during the Holocaust and those Christians who murdered them (by turning them over to the Nazi's). When you view the Jews through the lense of deserved punishment, then atrocities like the Holocaust mean nothing. After all, they are just getting what they deserve—right?

Thank God there were some Christians in Europe who, as a result of actually believing what the Bible says about the Jews, tried to save some of them. Thank God for people like Corri Ten Boom, who risked their lives to snatch Jews out of the jaws of death. The knowledge that God uses people and nations to judge the Jews should never be translated into a nonchalant attitude towards their suffering. It should never produce an attitude that says: "Well, since God is using this nation or that circumstance to judge the Jews, we must not interfere or try to stop that judgment". That is the opposite of what the Scripture teaches!

Just because we know God must judge Israel and that He uses wicked nations to judge them, that does not mean we should be callous about the whole thing! Listen to what the Psalmist said about Babylon. He knew God had raised Babylon up to be an instrument of judgment against sinful Israel. Yet he said: "*O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.*"(Ps. 137:8-9).

The fact is, if we truly love God, then we will honor what He has written in His Word, and that Word commands us to love the Jewish people, show them mercy, pray for them, and comfort them. In short, it commands us to *support* them as and their Jewish State, regardless of all the lies and hypocrisy of a Jew-hating world and an anti-Semitic Church. Moreover, we will despise the evil that God *must* use to judge them. Listen to what God Himself says in the book of Jeremiah:

My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment. How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

Jeremiah 4:19-22

“My bowels! My bowels!” said God—when watching the destruction He Himself was forced to bring upon His own people. “I cannot hold my peace” said the Lord. “I have to express the anguish that is in my heart as I watch the judgements which must be poured out on my people”.

The prophets who foresaw the coming destruction of Judah and Israel, and who had to deliver that message to the people, lived continually with *broken* hearts. Does anyone remember that Jesus *wept* when prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem? Those who are close to God feel the same way He feels about the Jewish people. They do not rejoice over the judgment of the Jews. Nor are they callous or neutral regarding those judgments. Every time they turn on the television and see body bags on the streets of Tel Aviv or Haifa or Jerusalem, something deep down in their spirits will begin to cry: “*My bowls! My bowls! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace!*”

The second lie that needs corrected is that Jesus Christ is the *only* seed of Abraham. As I have shown from the New Testament, the Jews are still Abraham’s seed and the promises still apply to them. Anyone who denies this is walking under the influence of Satan. Instead of trying to exclude the Jews from the promises God made to them through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; instead of calling them “Christ killers” and charging them with “decide” (ie: killing God); instead of boasting against the broken branches; instead of supporting the Palestinians who want to destroy them; we should be trying to *make amends* for all the evil we have done to them for 1900 year!

Right now, we have before us an opportunity that is unique to *our* generation. We have an opportunity (and I believe an obligation) to do everything the Scripture asks of us in order to help the Jewish people regain the fullness of their inheritance—both natural and spiritual. We have the privilege and the opportunity to become co-workers with God in bringing about the fulfillment of His purposes regarding the Jewish people.

*Come near, **you nations**, and listen; pay attention, **you peoples!** Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it! **The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies.** He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter. . .For the LORD has a **day of vengeance**, a year of retribution, **to uphold Zion's cause***

Isaiah 34:1-2 & 8 NIV

God’s attitude towards those who oppose “Zion’s cause” is very clear. The nations who oppose what He is doing with the Jews will eventually experience his unmitigated wrath. If this is His attitude toward *the nations* who come against Israel, how do you think He will react to *Christians* like Robert Begnaud (who teaches Replacement Theology) and Rick Frueh (who advocates un-involvement in the interests of Israel)?

Many of today's Christians are in for a rude awakening when it comes to Israel. Paul said: "*There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins*" (Rom. 11:27). When he says there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, he is talking about the end of the Church age. At the beginning of the Church age the Deliverer did come out of Zion, quite literally. But at the end of this age, Jesus is not going to come from Zion to save Jacob. He is coming to Zion (from heaven) to save Jacob.

Moreover, He is not coming alone. In other words, there is going to come forth a corporate deliverer. When Paul says the Deliverer will come out of Zion, he is referring to a people not a place. Zion is both a people and a place. Out of a first fruits warrior remnant of saints, out of spiritual Zion, the Deliverer will come. Through that warrior remnant the Lord will save and liberate natural Zion. As we already saw, the prophet Zechariah described what will trigger the return of Christ. When the nations invade Israel and attack Jerusalem: "...*the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations [which came against Jerusalem], as when he fought in the day of battle*". When the nations attack Jerusalem in order to enforce their false peace plan, the Lord will come and deliver the surviving remnant of Jews and slaughter the armies that invaded them.

One wonders what goes through the average Christian's mind when they read these verses. Exactly *who* do we think will be *with* Jesus when He goes out to "fight against those nations as when he fought in the day of battle?" Who do we think will be with Jesus when He comes to slaughter the enemies of Israel?

*And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and **shall gather together his elect** from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.*

Mark 13:26-27

*For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain **shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord** in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

1. Thessalonians 4:14-17

When God sends His angels to gather the saints from the uttermost parts of the heaven and earth, He's not going to whisk us off to a seven-year-long smorgasbord in a Gentile Paradise. We are going into battle with Messiah. We are going to fight for the Jewish city of Jerusalem, for the Jewish Land of Israel, and for the Jewish people who live on that land. We will be with Messiah as He destroys the armies that tried to destroy Jerusalem.

No doubt there will be many Arabs and Palestinians that are part of the armies that come up against Jerusalem. So we will definitely be "taking sides" on *that* day. We will be on the side of the Jews! We will follow the Lord Jesus into battle to free Natural Israel from her Arab enemies. We will be part of an angelic army and host that is going to slaughter people! Are you *ready* to go into battle against the enemies of the Jews?

For most of us, the answer is *No*.

Most of today's Christians can't bring themselves to defend the Jews even in the realm of politics and morality, let alone defend them the way we will be defending them when the Lord comes! Most of today's Christians are too busy trying to be "fair" to the poor Palestinians to be made ready to fight against them in the day of battle. They are too busy trying to show them love and mercy to let God prepare their hearts for the day when God will slaughter them! No, we are not ready to ride with Messiah into battle against the enemies of Israel when He comes. We are too moral. We are too "Christian" for anything like that!

This is why there will have to be a *sovereign move* of the Holy Spirit in the last days to make us ready. There will have to be a sovereign move of the Spirit to free us from false love and our warped view of Christianity so we can be prepared to ride with Messiah when He comes. And such a move was predicted in Scripture:

*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that **she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.***

Micah 5:2-3

The prophet Micah gave this astonishing prophesy thousands of years ago! He foresaw that the "ruler" of Israel would come out of Bethlehem at the beginning of the Church age. He also foresaw the Jew's rejection of Jesus and their subsequent cutting off. He says the Lord will "give them [the Jews] up" and turn to the Gentiles. He saw that God would take out of the Gentile nations a people for His name (*Acts 15:14*).

But even more incredible is the fact that Micah also saw a remnant of those Gentiles coming out of the Church. He saw that National Israel would be given up until the time when "she which travaileth hath brought forth". She which travaileth is the Church. She is in travail to bring forth a first fruits company of mature sons. When she has brought those sons forth, "the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel". The remnant of His (Messiah's) brethren (the first fruits) shall return unto the (natural) children of Israel.

In other words, the hearts of God's first fruits will be turned towards the broken branches because they will be walking in present truth. The Spirit of God will put iron in our spirits so we are ready to go into battle with Jesus on the Day of Battle. The first partakers of the deliverance that is destined to come out of *spiritual Zion* (ie: God's overcomers) will be *natural Zion*.

When God gets ready to send that deliverance forth, all those who are caught up in Replacement Theology, all those who harbor animosity towards the Jews, all those who don't want to be bothered with the Jews, all those who equate the behavior of the Jews with the behavior of the Palestinians, and all those who *cannot stomach* the battle that is to going to be fought because they are good "Christians", will be set aside. They will not be part of that army of deliverers.

More than any time in history, the Jewish people should have a special place in the hearts of those who claim to be *closest* to God. We who claim to have spiritual insight, we who claim to have great end-time revelation, should understand that the "times of the Gentiles" are now closing. We should perceive that "Jacob's Trouble" is close

at hand, and that natural Jerusalem is about to be purged with fire and blood. The Jewish people are going to go through more hardship before they are delivered. We should understand that when this happens, God wants *spiritual* Zion prepared to liberate the surviving remnant of *literal* Zion. The redemption of Jerusalem and the natural seed of Abraham is very dear to God's heart, and He intends to fulfil His promise to Abraham.

So we must make a choice. Either we will allow God to prepare us to participate in that deliverance, or we will reject that preparation—in which case God will simply raise up another people to fulfil His will. It's so tragic that the people who should have been showing mercy to the Jews these many centuries are the very ones who have never wanted to be bothered with them, or worse, have persecuted and butchered them.

We are not trying to absolve the Jews of all the evil they have done. Nor are we trying to say they are somehow more righteous than the Gentile nations. Yes, the Jews have committed *their share* of evil down through the centuries. But have the Gentiles committed *less* evil? What kind of spiritual condition were *you* in when God saved you? Was *your* sin and rebellion any better than Jewish sin and rebellion? Is Gentile pride and wickedness any less offensive to God than Jewish pride and wickedness?

Why are Gentile Christians so quick to look past the sins of their fellow Gentiles and intercede for their salvation, but very slow to look past the sins of the Jews and intercede for their salvation?

The answer is very simple. We are hypocrites!

As I said in the first part one of this series, the Bible makes it clear that whatever God is doing with the Jewish people in this hour, He is doing it for His great name's sake. He is also doing it for the sake of Abraham, who was his "friend".

The preparation God wants to do in us is to soften our hearts towards Paul's kinsmen according to the flesh and recognize that as a result of being grafted into their heritage and destiny, they are now our people. He wants to return some of the feeling of kinship that has been destroyed over the centuries and put an anticipation of their deliverance in our hearts. He wants us to realize that their land is our land too. He wants us to live in the reality that when our preparation has been completed, we are going to liberate that land and destroy all the enemies of the Jewish people.

In short, God wants us prepared and ready to bring the life and power of the New Creation Man to geographical Zion first, and then from there, to all the saved nations.

Amen!