

PROGRAM 108 TEASER

God's love plays no favorites. He gave His Son to redeem a lost and dying world. How would it happen? He would choose one man—Abraham—to give birth to a people—Jews and Israel—to give birth to The Man—Jesus Christ—to give birth to a people—the Church that Jesus calls His body. And He would link them inextricably with promises and warnings. He guaranteed their surviving all enemies until time is no more—something no one could do unless he had the power to back up the claim. And God does it all to make honest hearts stand in awe at His incredible Book—the Bible—and the Savior who rose from the dead. So let's go into our 4th and final program. Tom and Frank—about to explore with you “Jews, Israel and the Church—the God Connection”—on More Than Talk.

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JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH: THE GOD CONNECTION (PART 4)

PAGE 1 When Jewish Eyes Are Opened

When will we Christians finally wake up?! The Scriptures and Savior came through the Jews. Jesus said salvation comes through the Jews. Jews, Israel and the Church. We are linked to His promises and purposes.

18)) In their greatest danger, God promises to bring the Jews His salvation! While prophetic teachers argue differing scenarios concerning the planet's final days, most agree that earth's—and Israel's—most dangerous days lie yet ahead. The prophet Zechariah says that “Jerusalem will be a heavy stone burdening the nations” and that the world will unite to destroy Israel. (Zechariah 12:2,3 Living Bible) The devil's plan will backfire as God rises to defend His beleaguered people and execute His will: “For my plan is to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem”.

But if the world will be stunned at the ferocity of God's judgments, the Jews will be awestruck at the identity of their deliverer: “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” (Zechariah 12:10)

The following scriptures describe a time of grievous mourning unique in Jewish history. We unhesitatingly declare this deliverer to be Jesus Christ—Yeshua the Messiah—who has never ceased loving His Jewish people in spite of the failures of those who claimed to follow Him—whether false or true disciples.

Today, Jews and Israel would gladly accept help from the USA, UN, NATO, anyone—that is, anyone but Jesus. Tomorrow when they face the world's collective back turned against them, they will find a face of love and arms of acceptance rushing to their aid. Discussions will end; debates will be over. Hostility will cease; spiritual blindness will vanish. Pride will bow; humility will reign. Yeshua the Jew will no longer be the stumbling stone in Jewish past but the cornerstone for Israel's glorious future. And "Eiklor and Hughes must be nuts to tell us this prophecy is all about Jesus" will be replaced by, "They got it right this time."

(The Church? Suffering and fire. Persecution and martyrdom. But we win! 1 Peter 1:4-7)

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PAGE 2 Hypocrisy Pays A Price

19) Jesus pronounced judgment on Jerusalem, but also spoke of her restoration! God's rebuke of hypocrisy is never gentle. It stings, as it should, whether given to hypocritical Jewish leaders in Matthew Chapter 23 or to hypocritical Christians in our day. Those who dislike Jews—or who are just ignorant of scriptural context—point out that the Messiah prophesied that the Jewish temple would be left desolate (it came to pass in 70 AD) and that God was finished with Israel. Finished with Israel?

Nothing could be further from the truth. When the nation's leaders rejected their Redeemer, it certainly came with a price. It also came with a promise: the Jews would not see Him again until a future day when they shall welcome Yeshua with the ancient words, "Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord." (Matthew 23:38,39) That day is coming!

(And the Church? We also pay a price for disobedience, but are assured of His love. 1 Peter 4:17-19)

20) Jesus and the apostles took for granted the future restoration of Israel!

When the resurrected Messiah appeared to His awestruck Jewish followers, they blurted out their fondest hope: “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” If God was finished with physical Israel, this would have been the perfect time for Jesus to burst the Jewish bubble. Yet He intimated the exact opposite when He answered, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” God would certainly bring Israel to the forefront again—but exactly when was not to concern the disciples. Their task was to preach the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. God the Father would see to the rest. And so He is! (Acts 1:6-8)

(The Church? John 4:22 equals Romans 1:14-16)

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PAGE 3 A Call For Models Who Are More Than Talk

21) There were two men who loved the people of Israel to such an extent that one was willing to die and the other to suffer eternal damnation to save their kinsmen! Today’s Jews call Moses their champion and the Apostle Paul an enemy. Yet Moses received the same disrespect and dishonor in his day as does Paul today (God’s true prophets who denounce sin and rebellion are never popular). Yet when God threatened to wipe out a sinful Israel, Moses cried out that he, too, should be blotted out.

And Saul of Tarsus? Once he met the resurrected Yeshuah on the road to Damascus, this enemy of the Messiah became His greatest witness. And when Jewish eyes ultimately open to the love and forgiveness found only in Jesus, they will finally recognize how right was Paul—how wrong were they—and the beauty of the words of this Jewish follower of Jesus the Jew: “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were

accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises” (Romans 9:1-4)

The one who spoke of the glories of heaven—willing to be lost if only Israel could be found! What kind of love is that? It is the same type of agape love that God wants every follower of Christ to experience so that we will so model Jesus through our actions to Jews (and Gentiles) that when we open our mouths more will listen to our words.

(Church—Paul is a pattern to be copied—an example to be followed. 1 Corinthians 11:1 also 1 Corinthians 4:16 and Phil 3:17)

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PAGE 4 A Second Resurrection From The Dead

22) God warns the Church not to become proud and arrogant against the people of Israel. Romans chapter 11 contains scriptures that replacement theologians love to hate. They have no answer for what is obviously God’s ongoing love affair with Israel. In Romans 11:17-25 we Gentiles are called wild olive branches grafted into the olive tree of which the Jews constitute the natural branches. God warns us against conceit and arrogance, emphasizes His willingness to graft Israel back in when they return to Him in repentance and also tells us Gentiles that He can eliminate our branches just as easily as He grafted us in.

I’ve memorized this chapter. Today’s church would be wise to study its warnings, repent of any hostility toward the Jews and Israel and begin to build bridges rather than walls.

(Church—be careful! James 4:4-10)

23) God likens Israel’s future salvation to a resurrection from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus Christ exposed all other gods as false, conquered death and the grave, offered unrestricted access to God the Father and brought a living hope of our enjoying eternity in the Kingdom of God. The resurrection was like a

cosmic boom that yet reverberates across the universe. The very concept of resurrection is out of man's hands. Only God can pull it off. That's why I get so excited over what Scripture says about Israel's future salvation: "what shall the receiving of them (Israel) be, but life from the dead." (Romans 11:15)

Just as it took two millennia before the promise to Abraham saw its fulfillment in Jesus, even so another 2000 years have come and gone with Israel's leaders looking away from Yeshuah to other directions for safety and salvation. But the moment is coming when Jewish eyes will open to the truth of resurrection—Messiah's and their own!

(Look Church! Ephesians 2:11-18)

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PAGE 5 Two Guaranteed Futures

24) Israel's glorious future is assured by God. We can only come to the end of our story—and this series of programs—by coming to the beginning of God's guaranteed future for the children of Israel. **"And then all Israel will be saved. Do you remember what the prophets said about this? "And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." (Romans 11:26, 27)**

No more Hamans and Hitlers. No more inquisitions, pogroms and Holocaust. No more "Christianity" with its damnable "God is through with the Jew" heresy. No more jihads and suicide bombers. No more false pride—whether Gentile, Christian or Jewish. Only God's show. Redeemed Jews and Gentile riding in the front seat. Yeshuah the Messiah at the wheel. And Shalom—Peace—reigning throughout heaven and across the earth. The tears of Jeremiah ended. The celebration unending. Will it happen? Your thoughts don't count. Neither do mine. Only God's. And He guarantees it!

(And the Church? Our future is Revelation 19:6-9)

What a God! And what a divine connection—inextricable—between Jews, Israel and the Church. One can't blame the Jews for not comprehending this unbreakable biblical connection. They don't yet acknowledge Yeshua as Messiah. But true Christians have no excuses, because we claim that in our 66 books of Scripture—Old and New Testament—we have the truth. That means we ought to be the Jews' and Israel's best friends. Unconditional love and support! And it means that our not exposing and challenging antisemitism would be a disgrace to the Christian Church and fly in the face of our claiming to be a moral force! It's time to be More Than Talk. There is no shortage of people building walls of hate to isolate Jews and Israel. Let the Church tear down those walls and replace them with bridges of love—God's love. Jews, Israel and the Church—the God connection. So incredible! So true!