

PROGRAM 67 TEASER

The secular world laughed out loud. Even many a theologian who “believed the Bible” had little faith that there would again be another Israel. After all, 70 AD into the 20th century? Some 1900 years of a world map minus Israel? You think that’s going to change? Get real! Those Bible promises of a restored Israel? They can’t be literal—can they? And then explosion after explosion as God wiped the smiles from the faces of the mockers and struck awe into hearts of those who believed His Word—the Bible. Discover God’s heart for Israel and you will never be the same. Here we go—part 3 of our adventure called Jews, Israel and the Church—People of Prophecy. It’s More Than Talk!

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JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 1

PAGE 1 Groaning, Punishment And Testing

Israel front page. It’s hard to believe, isn’t it. Unless you believe the Bible. A land so miniscule—a people whose numbers are so insignificant. One would think that after the Holocaust the world’s heart would be so broken that the word “antisemitism” would disappear and Israel would be accepted and cheered as the ultimate survivor. Not so. Jews are still despised and Israel is the nation the world loves to hate. But what about God? How do His thoughts differ from those of the world? The pages of Scripture contrast the vast difference. We begin the first of twenty four points.

1) In Israel’s groaning, God brought compassion.

“And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect (compassion) unto them.” (Exodus 2:24,25) Israel is groaning again. Enemies grow stronger. Hope placed in “friends” is dashed again and again. The double-standard is used shamelessly (“Other nations can—Israel cannot”). No one can guess where the next suicide bomber will strike. Yet God’s intervention—in His time—shall come.

2) In His punishment of Israel, God promised their preservation.

Even in the midst of all the curses promised a rebellious and arrogant Jewish people, His love for His wayward son stands out: “And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God.” Jews have tried to cooperate in their own demise by melting in with Gentiles. Still there are Jews. Israel has embraced the West’s sins, trusted man’s promises and not God’s, and opted to be “like the other nations”. Still there is an Israel. To most Jews, God doesn’t really exist. To others, He is silent and aloof. But Scripture decrees the opposite—a sovereign, living God involved in His world and bringing it—and Israel—to His predetermined will and plan.

3) In Israel's tribulation, God offers mercy. Jewish pain has not come about solely through Gentiles.

Today, most Jews are ignorant of their own Scriptures. Prior to the Holocaust, a broken hearted Jabotinsky traveled across Europe begging his Jewish people to get out and return to Palestine (Israel) before it was too late. They laughed him to scorn. When Israel gained Judea and Samaria (in 1967), one million Jews (of the ten million living outside of Israel) returning to the land would have ended all of Arafat's and the PLO's quest today to steal it. Most Jews opted for the juicy West—and still do—even while arguing Israel's case with many words but few deeds. Still God follows them with this loving promise not to abandon them: “When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.” (Deuteronomy 4:30,31)

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JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 1

PAGE 2 Aloneness, Vulnerability And Brokenness

I know what it is like to have a rock crush a car window in Jerusalem and miss my head by some twelve inches. I have observed the Israeli army in battle outside of Beirut, spent five days in Lebanon when terrorists ruled that land, hunkered down in a gas mask with Israelis as SCUD missiles landed around us and even served with the Israel Defense Forces for some three weeks along with my Christian team as we packed medicines and freed up soldiers for what looked like an impending war. Yet none of this is comparable to what Israelis face today—everyday—the suicide bomber who can appear on a bus, in a store or even at a wedding—and blow himself and innocent people to bits of flesh and bone. Yet somehow Jews press on and Israel survives. Their very existence over the past four millennia, including today, should make honest hearts beat in awe at the faithfulness of God to fulfill His Word concerning Israel and the Jews. We continue our series.

4) In Jewish aloneness, God used a Gentile to guarantee His presence.

Many Christians today are speaking and living the words of Ruth as they combat antisemitism and prove to be Israel’s staunchest allies. “And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.”
(Ruth 1:16,17)

5) In Israel’s vulnerability, God guaranteed their deliverance

The Herods, Hamans and Hitlers of this world arise to obliterate the Jewish people—only to meet their own demise. Mordechai was well aware of God’s promise to preserve the Jews. Before Queen Esther rose to the occasion, Mordechai told her that if she missed her golden moment of destiny, God would find someone else whom He would use to deliver His suffering people. One thing was certain—the Jewish people would not disappear. Now this scripture has

challenged me and many others to confront today's Hamans of history. "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)

6) In Israel's brokenness, God brings healing.

From the destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 AD until the founding of the Jewish state in 1948, the whole world—potentates, politicians, priests and preachers—could declare open season on Jews. The only places of refuge would be in other lands—run by other Gentiles—who could also target Jews at a whim. Then came Israel, the one place on earth where Jews are in authority and not under Gentile lords and laws. Jews continue to return "home" from the four corners of the earth. It is more than a human-inspired desire to make aliyah (a going back to Israel). It is a God-inspired move that is directing a people and nation to His predetermined destiny. His love for Israel is more certain than tomorrow's sunrise. "The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." (Psalms 147:2,3)

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JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 1

PAGE 3 The Boomerang And The Call For Friends

God did not first “choose the Jews”. There were no Jews—only people. He chose a faithful man—Abraham—and created a people (Jews) and a nation (Israel) to receive and live out His light, law and love before a world in rebellion. Since the evil in puny man could not destroy the Creator, the created and chosen people became the target for Satan’s contempt for God. Eliminate the Jews—which God promised will never happen—and make God a liar—unworthy of trust. Simple strategy. A 4,000 year conflict. Yet the Jews survive—because of the Father’s heart for Israel. Our study of 24 points continues.

7) To those who curse the Jews, God brings the boomerang.

It should make the skin crawl just to contemplate what has happened (and happens) to individuals or nations that set out to curse and destroy the Jews. Yet the Hamans and Hitlers arise in every generation to continue the age-old assault to separate, subjugate and eliminate the Jews. Today’s bulls-eye for would-be executioners is Israel. The Arab call for Israel to compromise is bogus. It’s not compromise—but Israel’s demise—that the agents of evil crave. While Scripture is clear that God chastises His people for their sin, it is equally clear that He then destroys those whom He allows to cause that pain even while He preserves the Jews. Weapons of destruction hurled at Israel become boomerangs that lop off the heads of those who send them. It’s been the case over millennia. It still is today. Take the case of the Assyrians. God used them as His rod to humble hypocritical Israel: “O Assyrian, the rod of my anger...I will send him against a hypocritical nation..” (Isaiah 10:5,6). But when this world power chose to gloat over Jewish suffering and defeat, the boomerang effect took over: “It shall come to pass that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem (chastising His Jewish people) I will punish...the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks” (v 12).

8) For His friendless ones, God called for friends.

He still does. Just as cursing the Jewish people results in trouble with the Almighty, so comforting them in their sufferings results in His blessing. I have

been in the forefront of combating antisemitism for nearly 35 years. When neo-nazis denied the Holocaust, we debated them. When Jews were singled out for hate—when Jewish institutions were desecrated—we ran to their side in verbal and action support. When Israel fought war, missile attack and suicide bombers, we were there to bring the warmth of comfort and the hope that comes when others care.

And so it is to this day. When will the Church ever get it—God’s plaintive cry for Christians to be the Jews most reliable friends? “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.” (Isaiah 40:1) If the Church obeys this command, blessing will follow. If we use excuses—mostly based on fear of militant Islamists or even old roots of antisemitism in our hearts—the God who can’t be bought will surely exact a fearful price—from the Church!

**JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY
THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 1**

PAGE 4 Going Home, Feeling Helpless

The secular world laughed out loud. Even many theologians who “believed the Bible” had little faith that there would again be another Israel. After all, 70 AD into the 20th century? Some 1900 years of a world map minus Israel? You think that’s going to change? Get real! Those Bible promises of restored Israel? They can’t be literal—just a good chuckle for the skeptic and, to a believer, perhaps symbolic of a deeper mystery. Then...

9) In their wanderings God called the Jews home.

He wiped the smiles from the faces of the mockers and put cheers on the lips of those who still believed that with God a promise made is a promise kept. Along with hundreds of other scriptures speaking of a restored Israel, God had said “Fear not, for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth. (Isaiah 43:5,6)

A remnant of Jews had clung to the land from time immemorial. Then in the late 19th and early 20th centuries the trickle became a stream. By the time independence was proclaimed in 1948, the stream had become rivers of Jews coming home from around the world. When the Soviet Union said, “No Jews will leave here!” God said “No more Soviet Union!” (“the north”). Israel’s rescue of some 15,000 emaciated black Jews from Ethiopia (“the south”) proved a modern miracle of compassion. Now Israel is home, though far from safe. And the God who keeps promises prepares new moves for future days that will render the world’s wise men mute.

10) In Israel’s helplessness, God proves His nearness.

Suicide bombers with hate in their hearts and a phony promise of “martyrs’ heaven” in their minds strike terror across Israel. Arguments rage on how to stop the carnage. “Land for peace” remains the central theme. But how much land? And what kind of peace? Anti-Israel forces have consistently pushed one ABC plan:

Anesthetize world opinion by repeating lies and distortions, Bite off Israel in chunks, Consume the whole. Islamic warriors want it all.

Will they get their wish? Many Jews are not optimistic. Most Christians are ignorant of the battle being played out. Much of the world wants Israel dead. But then there is the only opinion that counts—that of God. And this is what He says: “But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.” (Isaiah 49:14-16)

Some women do indeed forget, abuse and even kill their children, just as God said was possible. But His promise to Israel? “Yet will I not forget you.” A promise made—a promise kept.

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JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 1

PAGE 5 The Guarantee

If I was fool enough to be an atheist, there could be one issue that might cause me sleepless nights—Israel. If the Bible isn’t true, why is there an Israel? Why are there Jews? Super powers tried to erase them from history. People still try. All fail. Jews are back in Israel. Surviving precariously. Victims of unending attacks. Looking for friends. Finding few. Scolded by fellow Jews. Ignored by most Christians. And yet actual proof that God is God and the Bible isn’t bluffing. We continue our 24 points that will take us through both the Hebrew Scriptures and the equally Jewish New Testament.

11) In His termination of all the nations, God guarantees Israel will not disappear.

What a crazy guarantee to give—unless you can back it up! Read the following scriptures thoughtfully. “For I am with you (the Jews) says the Lord, to save you: though I make an end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet will I not make a full end of you: but I will correct you—and will not leave you altogether unpunished...all they that devour you shall be devoured; and all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil you shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon you will I give for a prey. For I will restore health unto you, and I will heal you of your wounds, says the Lord; because they called you an outcast, saying, this is Zion, whom no man seeks after.” (Jeremiah 30:11,16,17)

So the Jews are back. Israel is on the map. If God did not utter the above words, Israel’s perverted foes and pretentious friends will soon weaken the nation sufficiently for the kill. Peace talks abound. Settlement uprootings, Jerusalem divided, even the Temple Mount handed over permanently to the Arabs. All may soon come to pass. If so, that’s part of God’s punishment. All of Israel’s hoped-for solutions will explode and evaporate. Israeli reliance on the USA. Their hope that the UN might one day like them. Even the “peace agreement” spoken by Daniel their ignored prophet and the prophesied big boy himself coming with all his charisma and phony promises.

But if God means what He says, nations like the USA will probably disappear—drowned in our own immoral filth and material lust. The Jews and Israel, however, have a date with destiny, promised by God to Abraham and reconfirmed to Isaac and Jacob. Fact is, God is so certain of His guarantee that Israel will one day seek only Him, that He goes a step further in challenging the world as to what it must accomplish if it wishes to witness the final disappearance of Israel. But this must wait until our next time together.