

PROGRAM 68 TEASER

No more Hamans and Hitlers. No more inquisitions, pogroms and Holocaust. No more damnable “God is through with the Jew” heresy. No more jihads and suicide bombers. Jews have a date with their Messiah—yes, Yeshuah—Jesus. Shalom—peace—will reign across the earth. Will it happen? Your thoughts don’t count. Neither do mine. Only God’s and He guarantees it! This is our final adventure in this series of four programs on Jews, Israel and the Church—People of Prophecy. There’s no book like the Bible—God’s own infallible Word. And His Word is so much More Than Talk!

PROGRAM 68 PAGE 1

JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 2

PAGE 1 The Challenge

12) To Israel’s enemies, God offers a challenge.

What could be more precarious than a peanut-sized nation of eight million souls surviving in an Islamic world of over a hundred million sworn to swallow the peanut? And who could be more vulnerable than a 4,000 year old people called Jews trying to survive and maintain their identity in a world where they are outnumbered 99 to 1?

Israel and Jews remain a puzzle to those with ample brainpower but insufficient Bible knowledge. Take Mark Twain in 1899: “If statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly be heard of; but he is heard of, has always been heard of...the Egyptian, the Babylonian and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed...they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished...All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

The answer to Mark Twain’s question is uncomplicated—emblazoned across the pages of Scripture. How God Himself must marvel at us stupid—yes, stupid—mortals trying to figure out what a child of faith grasps in a moment. Jeremiah, a holy man, wrote down exactly what God told him—he dared write nothing else but truth. “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 wave roar—the Lord Almighty is his name: Only if these decrees vanish from my sight, declares the Lord, will the descendents of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me. Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendents of Israel because of all they have done, declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 31:35-37 NIV)

What a God. Prophecy after prophecy fulfilled so that men would stand in awe, eyes wide, mouths muzzled and hearts pounding in the presence of the invisible God. Why do Jews thrive—why does Israel survive—though attacked like no other? Because God said that they would in order to prove His faithfulness, certainly not theirs. And He challenges anyone to prove Him wrong!

**JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY
THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 2**

PAGE 2 The Defender

13) In their being mocked, God becomes their defender.

Remember Nazi depictions of Jews—hooked noses, evil eyes, puffed and dripping mouths—the personification of evil? To teach a nation to hate and murder, it is first necessary to reduce the adversary to less than human. That tactic has been practiced against Jews from time immemorial. The Nazis merely perfected what political, civil and religious authorities had pulled off through centuries of human madness.

It is still happening. Old images of Jews as evil monsters are again appearing in Europe and the Mideast—even in the USA and Canada. Israel, of course, is at the top of the mockery list. The Arab world openly hates Israel. The United Nations barely tolerates the Jewish state. The USA scolds and spansks Israel as we would not dare do any other sovereign nation.

Why should Christians be different and insist on fairness and justice toward today’s Israelites? Because we ought to value the opinion of the only one whose word will outlast all others—God. In Jeremiah’s day, Jewish religious and royal leaders broke the heart of God. Powerful enemies pounced on the Jews. Just imagine—pagans who worshiped devils claiming Jewish suffering was justified by Israel’s sin against the true God! God told Jeremiah, “My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray...whoever found them devoured them; their enemies said, ‘We are not guilty, for they sinned against the Lord, their true pasture, the Lord, the hope of their fathers.’” (Jeremiah 50:6,7 NIV)

So Assyria and Babylon made Israel their whipping boy—and so it is today with the Arabs acting as modern Assyria and the USA, Canada and Europe taking Babylon’s place. But at what price? Read on. “I will punish...Babylon...as I punished...Assyria. But I will bring Israel back to his own pasture. The people of Israel are oppressed...Yet their Redeemer is strong; the Lord Almighty is his name. He will vigorously defend their cause so that he may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon.” (50:18,33,34 NIV)

God is bending—even breaking—Israel’s spirit of rebellion against Him. Repentance and faith are in the Jewish future. That spells rest. But unrest—judgment—awaits the modern Babylon of those today who crave the humiliation and disappearance of Israel. As Scripture says, “Let God be true and every man a liar.” So it was. So it shall be!

**JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY
THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 2**

PAGE 3 Israel’s Foolish Choices And Spiritual Whoredom

14) In Israel’s foolish choices, God insists that He is their only choice!

God called Israel to demonstrate to all nations His reality. They were to be different from all peoples. Instead, from the very beginning the Jews chose the opposite—take us back to Egypt—give us a king like other nations (God wasn’t enough!)—and let us worship the world’s idols and demon gods (even sacrificing their children like the heathen did.

Nothing has changed. To most Jews, “God” is only a word. Most are ignorant of their Scriptures and are reluctant, embarrassed and even loathe to discuss the things of God. And Israelis look in all directions except up for their help—though disappointed times without number.

Yet there is no getting off the hook. In all the Jewish and Israeli foolish choices, God insists He is their only choice. Here is what He says to the Jewish nation: “And that which comes into your mind shall not be at all, that you say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone. As I live saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you...And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant”. (Ezekiel 20:32,33,37)

Suffering, chastening and discipline followed Israel in biblical days. They are now part of modern Israel’s days. And one day, no matter what they say, God will finally have His way. He insists on it!

15) In their spiritual whoredoms, God remains Israel’s suitor.

It would be easy for some students of Scripture to think of God more as a vengeful tyrant determined to force His way and will on the Jews and Israel. Of course, the opposite is true, as God showed the prophet Hosea.

I shall put my thoughts in parenthesis in the following verses as God the faithful Husband cries after His unfaithful wife or a broken hearted Father calls out to a prodigal son: “When Israel was a child I loved him as a son and brought him out of Egypt...my people are determined to desert me...Oh, how can I give you up, my Ephraim (another name for Israel and the Jews)? How can I let you go? How can I forsake you like Admah and Zeboiim (cities that perished with Sodom and Gomorrah)?

My heart cries out within me; how I long to help you!...I will cure you of idolatry and faithlessness (today Israel seeks out fickle friends, international sympathy and a restraint from their enemies—all in vain), and my love will know no bounds, for my anger will be forever gone! I will refresh Israel like the dew from heaven; she will blossom as the lily...Her branches will spread out as beautiful as olive trees...Her people will return from exile far away and rest beneath my shadow (though there is a restored Israel today, there is no rest—only turmoil, fear and grasping for an elusive peace).

O Ephraim (the Jews)! Stay away from idols (anyone or anything that takes the place of God)! I am living and strong! I look after you and care for you...My mercies never fail. Whoever is wise, let him understand these things. Whoever is intelligent, let him listen. For the paths of the Lord are true and right, and good men walk along them.” (Hosea 11:1,7,8; 14:4-9 Living Bible)

The straight paths of God—not the twisted paths of the world—will be Israel’s future. Their faithful lover—God Almighty—won’t let up until His wayward wife comes home.

PROGRAM 68 PAGE 4

JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 2

PAGE 4 Israel’s Weakness And Insignificance

16) In Israel’s weakness, God becomes their champion!

Israel has always been a David in a world of Goliaths. Gentiles outnumber Jews ninety to one. In a world of eight billion people, Israel numbers some eight million souls and is surrounded by more than one hundred million Muslims who would gladly swallow the Jewish nation. Still, Jews have survived for four thousand years and modern Israel for over six harrowing decades.

Why? Jewish will to survive? Superior brain power? Don’t believe it. It is simply God’s will that Israel shall not perish from the earth and His superior power that carries out that will. “True, many nations have gathered together against you, calling for your blood, eager to destroy you. But they do not know my thoughts nor understand my plan, for the time will come when the Lord will gather together the enemies of his people like sheaves upon the threshing floor, helpless before Israel.” (Micah 4:11-13, Living Bible)

17) In their sense of insignificance, God proves to the Jews their worth!

If a Pharoah tried to drown you, and if a Haman received permission from the world’s most powerful king to hang you, and if a Hitler who appeared to be the new ruler of all of Europe swore he would annihilate you, wouldn’t you feel unimportant and alone?

The Jewish trail of tears has been long. Yet there is something obvious though mysterious in their sufferings: the Jews live on and their tormentors disappear. Why? Corrie ten Boom’s father saw it clearly. When Hitler declared himself the enemy of the Jews, ten Boom said the fuhrer was finished—history. When the incredulous told Mr. ten Boom that Hitler was unstoppable, he replied with a scripture that cannot be broken: “he that touches you (the Jews) touches the apple

of his (God's) eye." Or as the Living Bible says: "he who harms you sticks his finger in Jehovah's eye." (Zechariah 2:8)

The self-appointed "significant" Nazi regime perished. The "insignificant" Jews and Israel prosper. Incredible, no?

PROGRAM 68 PAGE 5

JEWS, ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH—PEOPLE OF PROPHECY THE FATHER’S HEART FOR ISRAEL PART 2

PAGE 5 A Resurrection And A Future

18) 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)

19) 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 have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from

Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: who are Israelites...”
(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.