



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Iran Is Not Israel's Greatest Threat...Then Who or What Is?

The greatest enemy of and threat to Israel is not Iran. Although some may say so. You may see the news on TV, hear it on the radio, and read articles online. Israel is about to be attacked. They are surrounded. Another round of rockets. Hezbollah. Hamas. The Palestinians. **I've heard it myself. But it's not true. It really isn't.** Is there danger? Sure. But Iran is not Israel's, or the Jewish people's, greatest threat.

Please don't misunderstand me. Iran is threatening Israel and the people of Israel on some level. As is Hamas, Hezbollah, and any country or organization that has as a part of its mandate the destruction of the nation of Israel or the Jewish people as a group. Yes. All of the above are threats. But not the greatest threat. Not even close. And I'm not concerned. Not worried in the least. Because...

God is sovereign. Has been and always will be. Israel has been threatened before. Countless times. God has faithfully kept his promise to protect and preserve them. **Against all odds, and all threats, my people have survived attempted annihilation for thousands of years. Survived because God is a God who makes promises and keeps them.** Here's a promise from Jeremiah chapter 31 vs. 10. Read carefully.

"Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'

And then vs. 35 and 36

"This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar the Lord Almighty is his name: "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the Lord, "will Israel ever cease being a nation



before me."

God has and will forever protect Israel and the Jewish people. Not for their sake. But for his honor and glory. This is what God says through the Prophet Ezekiel...

"Therefore say to the Israelites, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.'" Ezekiel 36:22-23

One day Israel will be judged harshly. All the nations of the earth will come against Jerusalem. God will be the one to gather those nations against Jerusalem. He will gather them for judgment and Jerusalem will be attacked. Consider Zechariah 12:1-3...

"A prophecy: The word of the Lord concerning Israel.

The Lord, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and

who forms the human spirit within a person, declares: 2 "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. 3 On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves..."

God is going to bring judgment to Israel and Jerusalem. There's nothing we can do about it. However, God will also, because of his mercy, protect Israel and show himself true to his covenant faithfulness and promises. Jesus will then be enthroned as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will take his rightful place ruling over all nations.

Until that time...

Are we commanded by God to stand with any nation or group of people who are targeted by others for destruction? **Especially Israel?** Yes.

Are we commanded by God to help those in need in any nation with support? **Especially Israel?** Yes.

Back to the question at hand. *Is Iran, Hezbollah, or Hamas, Israel's greatest threat?* No. Not in my opinion.

So then who or what is Israel's greatest threat?

To my answer...

The greatest threat to Israel are those who neglect to take (Yeshua) Jesus back to Israel.

My people need him.

Some facts:

- **Antisemitism is on the rise. Even in**

the church. Recently a ministry colleague reported at a conference that in his 35+ years of ministry he has not experienced vitriolic anti-Semitism in the evangelical church. Until the last few years. I can say I've experienced the same thing.

- **Young people who are professing Christians have a negative bias towards Israel and the Jewish people.** The media war is being won by those who see Israel as the perpetrators and the Palestinians as the victims. This narrative is winning the war both around the world, in the church, and in the minds of our young people.
- **Taking the gospel back to the Jewish people isn't on most people's radar.** The Jewish people/Israel are usually last on the list of unreached people groups targeted by the church; though Jewish outreach was prioritized in scripture. By Jesus, Paul, and all of the early Jewish Christians. **Today Jewish evangelism has been replaced by a "let's love them but not talk to them about Jesus" mentality.** Jewish ministry has been coined, and truly is, *"The great omission of the great commission."*
- **Israel is a nation in need of the gospel of Messiah Jesus. Most people in Israel are lost and societal issues are a reflection of that condition.** As I reported in a recent newsletter society in Israel is no different than society in the United States or any other country around the world. Israel is one of the world's top destinations for the LGBTQ+ community. Abortion is legal, even encouraged to some degree. Drug addiction, prostitution, spousal and child abuse, pornography, poverty, and homelessness, are real and urgent concerns for Israel. Israel is threatened from within.

What can you/we do?

- **Teach our children and grandchildren about God's covenants, his faithfulness to his promises, and specifically his eternal covenant with Israel and the Jewish people.** Stand firmly against the evils of antisemitism. The battle will be fought most aggressively on the front line of the minds of young people. If children are taught correctly and biblically



about God's faithfulness to his promises, including his promises to an unfaithful Israel, we can at least begin to gain some ground.

- **Raise up young leaders in ministry with an understanding of Israel's role in God's plan and a heart for the Jewish people.** We are working on this as a ministry. Along with other organizations committed to the gospel to the Jewish people, we are embracing and encouraging the next generation working in the Jewish vineyard.
- **Educate yourself, your children, and your church, about Israel and the Jewish people.** Don't believe everything you hear on TV or read on the internet. Do your own due diligence. News reports are often, if not always, biased and inaccurate. **We are here to help. I will speak to any size church, group, school, or gathering.** We are committed to helping others navigate deep and difficult issues relating to Israel and the Jewish people.
- **Support Israel by making taking the gospel to Israel and the Jewish people a priority!!** Bring our mission to your church. Introduce me to your pastor or missions committee. I will plead our case and cause. For those

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of you who know and support our work you know we have stayed zoned in on our mission and calling. Taking Jesus back to the Jewish people and helping others do the same. **Urge your church and those you know to support a Jewish mission.** The Jewish people have given us so much. We owe it to them to give them Jesus. **To love them is to share Jesus with them!!**

The Jewish High holidays are now upon us. The Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) begins on September 29th and Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) 10 days later, October 8th. This season is a time of reflection, introspection, repentance, and spiritual openness. There is no other time of the year when Jewish people are more open to discuss spiritual issues.

Please pray for us during this busy time. Specifically pray for open Jewish hearts to the message of God's forgiveness, grace, love, and hope. We live in a world full of negative news, struggles, and for some, despair. **Only in Messiah Jesus can the root of despair and hopelessness be addressed.**

Join Us In Israel May 30th-June 9th, 2020

JOIN US FOR A LIFE CHANGING TOUR OF ISRAEL IN MAY OF 2020!!

Space is limited to 25 people. See the enclosed brochure and visit our website for more details.


If you are interested give us a call!!

Thank You!!

Our ministry is here to encourage you to pray for the Jewish people and to help them hear the message of Jesus.

As always, thank you for caring enough, and trusting us enough, to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of Messiah Jesus!

In His service,


Murray Tilles, for
the staff
Light of Messiah
Ministries

