

What is the Significance and Justification of the War with Iran?

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HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

What is the Significance and Justification of the War with Iran? That is a topic we'll discuss today right here on *The Christian Worldview Radio Program*, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. The Christian Worldview is a nonprofit listener-supported radio ministry. Our website is TheChristianWorldview.org, and the rest of our contact information will be given throughout today's program. As always, thank you for your notes of encouragement, financial support, and lifting us up in prayer.

After weeks of a massive US military buildup in the Middle East, and after several rounds of failed negotiations with the Islamist Iranian regime to abandon their nuclear weapons program, Americans woke up on Saturday, February 28th, to learn that their country and Israel had begun a joint war against Iran.

Audio Sound Bite: Donald Trump:

A short time ago, the United States military began major combat operations in Iran.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

President Trump delivered a message in the middle of the night, outlining the justification for attacking Iran, which centers around eliminating the regime's ability to construct nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. The first day of the war had the stunning result of killing Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and 50 high level leaders through an airstrike as the regime gathered to meet in the capital city of Tehran.

Now, just one week into this war, the US and Israel have systematically degraded Iran's military leadership and infrastructure. Even as Iran has launched hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel and American naval ships, military bases, and other US interests in the region. There have been six American casualties so far. While many Americans support the demolishing of Iran's capability to follow through on its longtime objective of quote, "Death to America and death to Israel," others, including almost all on the political left and many on the political right even, are against this war for a variety of reasons as they assert, "The US is fighting another war for Israel. There is little strategic interest for America in Iran halfway across the world." Or, "This is illegal without a congressional declaration of war." Or, "Trump promised to not get us into wars and we have bigger problems at home." Or, "There's no way to bomb our way to peace in the Middle East."

From a biblical standpoint, this is not just another war between nations who are at odds with each other. This is a war between two of the nations, Israel and Iran, historically called Persia, who are explicitly referenced in scripture to face off in the lead up to the return of Jesus Christ to Earth. And so this weekend on *The Christian Worldview*, we will discuss the significance and justification of this war and why Christians should be paying very close attention. So what are some reasons this war is significant?

Number one is that this war may impact the balance of superpower influence in the world. The US and China are the world's superpowers, and to some degree Russia. They all have huge militaries, nuclear weapons, economic power to varying degrees. Now, China is aligned with Russia, Iran, Venezuela, all in opposition to the United States. So now with the US dismantling Iran, and then having previously decapitated Venezuela with Nicolás Maduro being extracted out of that country and brought to the United States, the superpower influence in the world may be altered in ways we don't even know yet. It looks like the US may be ascending, at least while we have strong leadership, or circumstances could go sideways in this war or in somewhere else around the world where the US becomes spread out and somewhat weakened.

Second reason this war in Iran is significant. This may impact not only the balance of superpower influence in the world, but it will likely impact the balance of power in the Middle East. So before October 7th, 2023, when Hamas in Gaza came across their border and attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people, Israel had been in their decades old position of being isolated from their Arab Muslim neighboring countries and threatened in their own historic homeland in Israel, whether it was Hamas in Gaza or Hezbollah to the north in Lebanon or was the Houthis in the country of Yemen, all of them were plotting and exacting pain on Israel and taking away Israel's ability to live in peace.

Iran was the home base of it all, instigating these attacks, funding them, arming these groups. So what's notable is that these groups hold to different branches within Islam. Just like there's different beliefs within Christianity, it's the same within Islam. But these groups, these Islamic groups, are united in their hatred and their mission to destroy the Jews in Israel. So Hamas is Sunni Muslim. That's the largest sect of Islam. Hezbollah in Lebanon is Shia Muslim. That's the minority sect in Islam. And they're specifically part of what's called the Twelver Shia, which I'll explain in a minute.

The Houthis in Yemen are also Shia, but they're a distinct sect known as Zaydism. And I went to just an online summary of this just to get an explanation, a basic explanation of this, and it said that Islamic eschatology, so their view of the future, shares core elements across these sects. Key differences emerge in the role of the Mahdi, who's called the Messianic Redeemer, the Dajjal, who is a deceptive false Messiah akin to the antichrist, and the return of Jesus, who they call Isa. It's incredible, but do you see the similarities here to biblical eschatology and how the world will be so easily deceived? They have their own Messiah called the Mahdi. They have their own antichrist called the Dajjal. They have their own unbiblical, wrong, false version of Jesus called Isa.

It goes on to say this, "All three of these sects share belief in ultimate divine judgment, the defeat of evil and Jesus' role, but differ sharply on the Mahdi, their Messiah. Sunnis see a future leader, not a hidden leader while the Twelver Shia," the 12th Imam, they wait for the Mahdi, "they await their supernatural 12th Imam's return as the central eschatological event. That's what the Iranian regime believes. And the Zaydis, the Houthis, what they believe, downplay a singular hidden Mahdi in favor of ongoing righteous leadership."

Little confusing, but the point here is that distinct Islamic groups in the Middle East, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, and the source of it all Iran are united in their death mission against the Jews and Israel, which perfectly aligns with the Satanic mission to destroy God's chosen people that we've seen throughout all of history, from Ancient Egypt with Pharaoh trying to kill the Jews to Persia with Queen Esther saving the Jews from Haman's plot there to kill them, to the Russian pogroms, to Nazi Germany, to Iran screaming, "Death to America and death to Israel."

Now, since October 7th, 2023, Israel has largely defeated Hamas in Gaza. They've greatly diminished Hezbollah to the north and Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen. And now with a US partnership, they are dismantling the Iranian military capability in Iran. Meanwhile, Israel is coexisting at least with other Arab Muslim countries in the Middle East, such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and others. And some of these countries, by the way, are even supporting their fight against Iran because Iran has been firing missiles at these neighboring countries trying to attack American interests there and these Arab countries do not like that.

You have to remember that Iranians are Persian, not Arab. And Iran is the second-largest country in the Middle East by landmass after Saudi Arabia. Take a look on your map. It has a second-largest population at 90 million plus people after Egypt and before Turkey. So even though it seems like things are going well for the US and Israel in this war after one week, we don't know how this will turn out, but it will have major effects on the Middle East. It looks like Israel will be living in a much less dangerous Middle East, at least for a time.

The third reason that this war has significance is that this war may impact life and economies around the rest of the world. 20% of the world's oil and 20% of liquid natural gas goes through the Strait of Hormuz, which is just off the West Coast of Iran. So US taking action over there may lead to major disruptions if we don't have protection for that sort of shipping lane. All kinds of global trade goes through this region and interruptions to that will have impacts, not only on fuel prices, but on semiconductors and shipping vessels and all the products they carry.

So beyond the significance of superpower geopolitics, the Middle East balance of power and the economic impact on the world, there is one issue that towers above the significance of these, and it is this. There are two events that are tied as the most significant events in human history. One of the events has already occurred, and that was the first coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to live, to die on the cross for sin, to rise again, and then ascend to the right hand of the Father in heaven. The other most significant event has not occurred yet, and that is the second coming or the return of Jesus Christ to save, to judge, and to reign.

Revelation 19 describes that return of Christ. "And I saw heaven opened and behold, a white horse and He, Jesus, who sat on it is called Faithful and True. And in righteousness, He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire and on His head are many diadems and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood and His name is called the Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From

His mouth comes a sharp sword so that with it, He may strike down the nations and He will rule them with a rod of iron. And He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Skipping down to verse 20 of Revelation 19, "And the beast, the antichrist after Christ returns, was seized and with him the false prophet, the religious leader who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone and the rest, those that followed them were killed with the sword, which came from the mouth of Him, Christ, who sat on the horse and all the birds were filled with their flesh." And this is the prophecy about the return of Christ coming to defeat the kingdom of the beast, to defeat them, to put them in the lake of fire for a thousand years, and then for Christ to begin his literal 1000-year reign on this earth, in righteousness and in justice.

This is why this war is significant and why we need to pay attention. It involves Israel, God's chosen people, who He has not forsaken, whom He will save as a nation, and many of them He will save spiritually in the lead up to the return of His Son. It involves Iran, a nation who will come against Israel before the coming of Christ. It involves America who is helping and partnering with God's chosen people to defeat a shared enemy. So how will this turn out? Will it lead to peace in the Middle East and with Israel and set the conditions for the future invasion of Gog and Magog and God's rescue? Or will it just inflame further conflict in the Middle East? We don't know yet, but we need to be paying attention and praying.

Now, every true Christian believes that Christ is coming again as He promised, but what precedes the return of Christ or the events leading to the second coming of Christ is debated amongst Christians. And there are three main views. There's the amillennial view, there's the post-millennial view, and there's the pre-millennial view. The amillennial view means a means no, so there's no future 1000-year reign of Christ, amillennial. The millennium to a millennialist is a symbolic long period of time. They will consider that the age we're in right now, the age of the church right now. And Christ is actually reigning spiritually now in the spiritual millennium. And so they believe there's a mix of the advance of the church and the gospel at this time and there's opposition the church faces right now and then Christ will at some point return for final judgment. There's no seven year tribulation period that precedes that time.

The post-millennial position is that Christ returns after, post the millennium. And the millennium again is a symbolic long time right now that we're in, during which Christianity increasingly advances in the world through the church, in nations, in laws, in institutions through the growing influence, maybe even a dominance of Christianity in the world, and then Christ eventually returns to judge. Again, there's no seven-year tribulation. Now, both of these views, amillennial and post-millennial, do not see Israel as prophetically significant. They see Israel as just another people group who can be saved spiritually through the gospel, but promises that were made to Abraham of land, seed and blessing are not relevant for modern day Israel. And they see the church as the new Israel, consisting of both saved Gentiles and saved Jews, who the church will be the object of God's blessing. So there's not a separate entity of God's chosen people, the Jews, that have a future purpose and plan by God for them.

The last prophetic view, generally speaking here, is the pre-millennial view. This is where Christ returns before, pre, a literal 1000-year millennial reign on Earth. And in this view, the lead up to His return, there is increasing tribulation in the world, and there's particularly a seven-year period of time before His return, called the tribulation. And during this tribulation, there's a rise of the antichrist, the one who is inspired by Satan and he opposes the Jewish people, the Jewish nation. There's a turning against Israel halfway through this tribulation. There are these judgments of the seals, the trumpets, and the bulls during this time of the tribulation, it gets increasingly worse. Two thirds of the Jews die in judgment during the tribulation, but one third are spiritually saved during the tribulation, and then Christ returns to defeat the antichrist, to judge unbelievers and begin a literal 1000-year reign.

So those are the prominent eschatological views within Christianity. And there are others, subsets of those, but those are the main ones. Now, what about Iran? I'd like just to read a passage from Ezekiel 38 and 39 to give us some insight as to why Iran is such a significant country, both in the past, they've been around for millennia, but also in the future when it comes to eschatology or God's promise of the end times. Ezekiel 38 talks about this prophecy of the future invasion of Israel by Gog and Magog.

And the Word of the Lord came to me saying, this is Ezekiel, the prophet writing, "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the Prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, behold, I am against you, oh Gog, Prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws and I will bring you out and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them, splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords, Persia, Iran, Ethiopia, and put with them, all of them with shield and helmet, Gomer with all its troops, Togarmah, and the remote parts of the north with all its troops, many peoples with you.'"

So the first paragraph saying that God is going to draw all these different nations against His people, Israel. Verse 8, "After many days, you will be summoned. In the latter years, you will come into the land," that's the promised land, "that is restored from the sword whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel." So the Jews are back in the land here. "They've been regathered, which had been a continual waste as it has been, but its people were brought out from the nations and they are living securely," notice this, "all of them, you will go up, you will come like a storm, you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."

Verse 10, "Thus says the Lord, it will come about on that day that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan. And you will say, 'I will go up against the land,' this is Israel, 'of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates, to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited and against the people who are gathered from the nations.' And you will come up against my people, Israel, like a cloud to cover the land. It shall come about in the last days that I will bring you against My land so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, Oh Gog, with pestilence and with blood. I will enter into judgment with him and I will reign on him and on his troops and on

the many peoples who are with him, a torrential reign with hailstones, fire and brimstone, I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself and make Myself known in the sight of many nations and they will know that I am the Lord."

So there's a little longer passage, but as you read through that, it's just unmistakable that Israel has been gathered back into the land and God draws these enemies of His people to come against Israel and then He miraculously saves them. So why is this more significant? Back to our original question. Well, Persia, Iran is part of the Gog and Magog coalition that invades Israel, and this probably takes place in the early to mid-portion of the seven-year tribulation. And this coalition is supernaturally defeated by God and everyone knows that God did it. Even the Jews start turning to God as a result of it.

Now, leading this invasion, Gog, I believe that's a reference to the antichrist, the beast, this human who's satanically inspired during this time of tribulation. Apparently, he survives this invasion of Israel. Because at the midpoint of the tribulation, he sets up an image of himself in the temple to be worshiped. And then later in the tribulation, he returns to lead the armies of the world against Israel, known as the battle of Armageddon, and that is the point at which Christ returns to earth to save Israel, to judge the world, and to begin reigning in the millennium.

Now let's bring this to modern day. The rise of Israel currently in the Middle East, the great reduction of their enemies, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and then most importantly, Iran. Perhaps the signing of the Abraham Accords, the peace agreement amongst the nations of the Middle East. This could be leading to a time of peace and security for Israel, heading into the time of the tribulation, and then this invasion of Gog and Magog comes. In other words, we might be heading toward a more peaceful time in the Middle East, because that is what the Bible says precedes this invasion of Gog and Magog.

So what happens to Iran in this war? Whether it's a complete defeat and regime change to a more favorable regime, or even just reducing their power for a time, this is very significant because someday they're going to revive to join in that Gog and Magog invasion of Israel. And we don't know the timing yet, but we do know this. Every day, God is moving circumstances around the world toward His plan of snatching up of his church at some point, saving Israel physically and even spiritually, and the return of His Son. And most of the world doesn't know about this and certainly doesn't believe any of this. Most Christians don't even believe this.

Most Christians are either amillennial or post-millennial and don't see the significance of the nation of Israel and Iran. They just think it's about the church and the propagation of the gospel at this point, and then Christ will return at some undefined point in the future. Now, there may be some post-millennial Christians who see this war as a Christian war against Islam, and that's certainly how Muslims are seeing it as a Christian war against them. And they actually see this favorably as Christians taking dominion, perhaps, in the Middle East and the world. I don't think the Bible teaches that, but I think it's unmistakable that Israel, God's chosen people, is His special object of affection and blessing, despite the fact that they're an unbeliever and even in a kind of judgment right now for rejecting their God. But will God utterly reject His chosen people?

Well, let's let the Bible answer that question. Romans 11, it's so clear. "I say then," Paul writes, "God has not rejected His people. Has He? May it never be." That's the strongest way of saying no way. "For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin," Paul writes, "God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew, or do you not know what the scripture says in the passage about Elijah? How Elijah pleads with God against Israel? 'Lord, they have killed your prophets. They have torn down your altars and I alone and left and they are seeking my life.' Elijah thought he was the only one." Verse 4, "But what is the divine response to Elijah?"

God says, "I have kept for myself 7,000 men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." In the same way, verse 5 then, "There has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice." Now skipping down to verse 25 of that chapter, "For I do not want you brethren to be uninformed of this mystery." And what is that mystery? That a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. What that means is yes, the Jewish people are largely in rejection of God and their Messiah, Jesus Christ, and that has then opened a door of opportunity for the Gentiles to be grafted in to salvation.

And then he says in verse 26, "And so all Israel will be saved. Just as it is written, the deliverer will come from Zion. He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. This is My covenant with them when I take away their sins." Then he says this in verse 28, "From the standpoint of the gospel," Paul writes, "they, the Jews, the unbelieving Jews, they are enemies for your sake," enemies of the gospel, "but from the standpoint of God's choice, they are beloved for the sake of the fathers, for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." They cannot be changed what God established and chose for His people in the Old Testament. They were disobedient a lot of the time in the Old Testament, they were disobedient during the time when Christ was here.

They were primarily responsible for the rejection of their Messiah along with the Romans to crucified Christ. They have rejected Him across the ages since then. They were cast out of their land in '80, '70. They've been miraculously regathered in 1948 and they're still in a state of a hardened rejection of Christ as their Messiah, but it won't last forever. God's plan is irrevocable. And this is why this war is significant. It doesn't mean that the tribulation begins tomorrow, but I think it doesn't take very much imagination to see that this is a major move that is going on, a restructuring of the Middle East that could be putting Israel in a position of peace and prosperity and strength, that may go forward to having some peace in the Middle East and then everything changes with His Gog and Magog invasion when Israel is not expecting it.

In light of all the opposition to this war from the left and even many on the right, let's discuss whether there is justification for this war. As we heard earlier in the program, this is what Americans woke up to on Saturday, February 28th, just a week ago, that our nation, partnering with Israel, had begun a war with Iran. President Trump gave a very carefully worded eight-minute message to the nation that started this way.

Audio Sound Bite: Donald Trump:

A short time ago, the United States military began major combat operations in Iran.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

When a president announces a military action, their statement is dissected because it reveals the justification for war. Now, there may be further motivations beyond what's stated, but at least this is the official purpose. And so here's what the president went on to say.

Audio Sound Bite: Donald Trump:

Our objective is to defend the American people by eliminating eminent threats from the Iranian regime, a vicious group of very hard, terrible people. Its menacing activities directly in danger the United States, our troops, our bases overseas, and our allies throughout the world. For 47 years, the Iranian regime has chanted, "Death to America," and waged an unending campaign of bloodshed and mass murder, targeting the United States, our troops and the innocent people in many, many countries.

Among the regime's very first acts was to back a violent takeover of the US embassy in Tehran, holding dozens of American hostages for 444 days. In 1983, Iran's proxies carried out the Marine barracks bombing in Beirut that killed 241 American military personnel. In 2000, they knew and were probably involved with the attack on the USS Cole. Many died. Iranian forces killed and maimed hundreds of American service members in Iraq. The regime's proxies have continued to launch countless attacks against American forces, stationed in the Middle East in recent years, as well as US naval and commercial vessels and international shipping lands. It's been mass terror and we're not going to put up with it any longer.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

Did you hear the justification? Quote, "To defend the American people by eliminating imminent threats from the Iranian regime," unquote. That's a loaded sentence. In other words, Americans are in danger whether they know it or not from this Iranian regime. And then he said, "Well, here's why. For 47 years, the Iranian regime has chanted, 'Death to America,' and waged an unending campaign of bloodshed and mass murder targeting the United States.'"

And then he listed many of the aggressions of Iran against the US. And this has been the case. I remember as a child, when Iran held US hostages for well over a year during the Jimmy Carter administration, and the Carter administration failed to get them out in a botched rescue attempt, and then Ronald Reagan came in and was able to bring the hostages home. And then President Trump gave further justification that involved our ally, Israel.

Audio Sound Bite: Donald Trump:

From Lebanon to Yemen and Syria to Iraq, the regime has armed, trained, and funded terrorist militias that have soaked the earth with blood and guts. And it was Iran's proxy, Hamas, that launched the monstrous October 7th attacks on Israel, slaughtering more than 1,000 innocent people, including 46 Americans while taking 12 of our citizens hostage. It was brutal. Something like the world has never seen before.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

So here's another justification, that we need to support our key ally in the Middle East, Israel. And this is what anti-Israel people jump on, that we are going to war for Israel. Well, Genesis 12, when God speaks to Abraham and gives him this covenant promise, He says, "Go forth from your country and from your relatives and from your father's house to the land," this is the promised land," which I will show you and I will make you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great, and so you shall be a blessing, and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you, I will curse. And in you, all the families of the earth will be blessed."

So scripture says, God's blessing comes to those who protect and support and bless the nation of Israel. Now, this doesn't mean that anyone has to support its current sinful culture or its rejection of God in Christ, it means to support and bless their existence in the land. And you could easily make the case that that is what the US is doing by helping Israel in this war against Iran, not only protecting ourselves, but protecting Israel as well.

Audio Sound Bite: Donald Trump:

Iran is the world's number one state sponsor of terror and just recently killed tens of thousands of its own citizens on the street as they protested. It has always been the policy of the United States, in particular, my administration, that this terrorist regime can never have a nuclear weapon. I'll say it again. They can never have a nuclear weapon. That is why in Operation Midnight Hammer last June, we obliterated the regime's nuclear program at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. After that attack, we warned them never to resume their malicious pursuit of nuclear weapons, and we sought repeatedly to make a deal. We tried. They wanted to do it. They didn't want to do it. Again, they wanted to do it. They didn't want to do it. They didn't know what was happening. They just wanted to practice evil.

But Iran refused just as it has for decades and decades. They've rejected every opportunity to renounce their nuclear ambitions, and we can't take it anymore. Instead, they attempted to rebuild their nuclear program and to continue developing long-range missiles that can now threaten our very good friends and allies in Europe, our troops stationed overseas, and could soon reach the American homeland. Just imagine how emboldened this regime would be if they ever had, and actually were armed with, nuclear weapons as a means to deliver their message.

For these reasons, the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this very wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests. We are going to destroy their missiles and raise their missile industry to the ground. It will be totally, again, obliterated. We're going to annihilate their navy. We're going to ensure that the region's terrorist proxies can no longer destabilize the region or the world and attack our forces and no longer use their IEDs or roadside bombs as they are sometimes called to so gravely wound and kill thousands and thousands of people, including many Americans. And we will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon. It's a very simple message. They will never have a nuclear weapon.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

All right. Here's further justification. Our own security, the US security and our allies in Europe and elsewhere will be at grave risk if we allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. And of course that's the case. It's like dealing with North Korea now. We have a very difficult time trying to deal with them because they have nuclear weapons.

Audio Sound Bite: Donald Trump:

This regime will soon learn that no one should challenge the strength and might of the United States armed forces. I built and rebuilt our military in my first administration, and there is no military on Earth even close to its power, strength, or sophistication. My administration has taken every possible step to minimize the risk to US personnel in the region. Even so, and I do not make this statement lightly, the Iranian regime seeks to kill. The lives of courageous American heroes may be lost and we may have casualties.

That often happens in war, but we're doing this not for now. We're doing this for the future, and it is a noble mission. We pray for every service member as they selflessly risk their lives to ensure that Americans and our children will never be threatened by a nuclear-armed Iran. We ask God to protect all of our heroes in harm's way, and we trust that with His help, the men and women of the armed forces will prevail. We have the greatest in the world, and they will prevail.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

So here's the president's setting expectations, and he's asking for God's help, good for him in doing so. And then finally, this portion at the end, where he speaks directly to the Iranians.

Audio Sound Bite: Donald Trump:

To the members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, the armed forces, and all of the police, I say tonight that you must lay down your weapons and have complete immunity, or in the alternative, face certain death. So lay down your arms, you will be treated fairly with total immunity, or you will face certain death.

Finally, to the great proud people of Iran, I say tonight that the hour of your freedom is at hand. Stay sheltered. Don't leave your home. It's very dangerous outside. Bombs will be dropping everywhere. When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations. For many years, you have asked for America's help, but you never got it. No president was willing to do what I am willing to do tonight. Now you have a president who is giving you what you want, so let's see how you respond.

America is backing you with overwhelming strength and devastating force. Now is the time to seize control of your destiny and to unleash the prosperous and glorious future that is close within your reach. This is the moment for action. Do not let it pass. May God bless the brave men and women of America's armed forces. May God bless the United States of America. May God bless you all. Thank you.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

I thought that was a very powerful speech by President Trump that established really an airtight justification for this war with Iran. Iran has been at war with us for 47 years and our chief ally, Israel, and they can't be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. They're a threat to us and others. And notice that he didn't mention regime change from Islamists as one of the goals of the operation, but he's clearly hoping that will occur, for Iran to have a new governing leadership that is at least capable of working with the US and Israel. It's very hard to do regime change without troops on the ground and a long occupation. I don't think the president and Americans want to get involved in that. The Iranian people don't have weapons while the most radical Islamists do over there. So I'm very skeptical that regime change can happen.

So perhaps the best result we can hope for is that they're at least defeated for a time. And so the bottom line is, any nation that feels threatened by another nation like this has every right to do whatever it takes to protect itself. Iran has been threatening death to America, death to Israel for decades. They've been killing Americans, taking us hostage, attacking our ally, Israel. We tried to negotiate a deal that they wouldn't develop a nuclear weapon. We offered to give them nuclear energy. They refused that. This war is fully justified.

Really the better question is the war a wise decision though? Because there are lots of risks here. American deaths, and there's already been some, being taken hostage, other countries getting involved, Russia and China aggression elsewhere, spurring Islamic attacks here in America. So the question is, would it be better to manage this as we've been trying to do for decades with sanctions and subterfuge and giving them cash and trying to negotiate with them? Well, that has been tried and nothing changes with them. And frankly, it's a moot point now because we're into this war now and now we must win. And it's going very well. A lot of their leadership have been killed, their military and navy have been devastated. Iran has alienated their neighboring Arab nations, but the outcome is far from clear in the very early stages.

I mean, will a favorable leadership take over? Perhaps unlikely. Or will another radical Islamist lead the country, maybe worse than the one that was killed on the first day? Will Iran simply rebuild to fight another day? Because that's what all radical Islamists live for, to kill infidels, to fight, to destroy Israel and be martyred for Allah. Their worldview is totally different than Americans. We need to understand this. We think about raising families and having our kids be educated and get jobs and buying a home and the recreational things we do and getting together with friends and traveling. They don't think that way. These true Muslims dream about converting the world to their satanic religion of Islam by whatever means necessary. That's their purpose in life.

So the American mind and the Iranian Islamist mind are like on completely different wavelengths. And so are the minds of many Americans. Minnesota Congresswoman and Somali leftist Ilhan Omar said, "President Trump is unilaterally dragging this nation into an illegal and unjustified war with Iran without congressional authorization, without a clear objective and without any imminent threat to the United States." And her sentiments are representative of almost the entire left in this country. Shane Claiborne, who is a quote unquote "progressive Christian", in other words, theologically liberal, he said, "Killing is wrong. Attacking Iran

is terribly wrong. We will never build a better world by killing other people's children. Violence only begets more violence. When we live by the sword, we die by the sword. Two wrongs, never make a right. It is impossible to love our enemies as Christ commands and simultaneously prepare to kill them. War no more," unquote.

By his reasoning, there's never a time for war, which the Bible specifically says there is. It says in Ecclesiastes, "There is a time for war. God ordered Israel to militarily take over the promised land." And then there's Candace Owens, anti-Israel on the right who said, "We will never forget that they murdered Charlie Kirk for this war, and he knew they were going to do it. In honor of Charlie, I stand against Israel in capital letters." She's saying that Charlie Kirk was beginning to understand that Israel is the problem and that he was murdered because of that. There's no evidence of that. And by the way, those who stand against God's chosen people, God will stand against them.

So here's my exhortation. Christians don't need to be pro war to understand why degrading the threat of Iran is justifiable for the US and our allies in Israel. I wish the conflict could have been solved without war. Efforts have been made for decades and in the lead up to do that, but it didn't resolve anything. So let's not be persuaded that there's no justification for this war because there is plenty.

And so let's pray to close today's program.

Omnipotent Father in heaven, your Word says, "You have established Your throne in the heavens and Your sovereignty rules overall." We believe that, that You are powerfully moving events toward the salvation of Your people and even more toward the return of Your Son. So help us to trust You as You work through imperfect leaders and nations to bring about Your plan. Let us not be drawn into opposing Your people. Instead, let us pray for their turning to You. Our nation is sinful and we don't deserve Your favor, but we pray for Your favor, Lord, in our opposition to this Iranian regime, which is even more evil, who desires to destroy us and Your chosen people of Israel.

We pray that You would protect Iranian believers and open up many hearts in Iran to believe the gospel. We pray for wisdom and salvation for President Trump and our other leaders and for the protection, the peace and salvation of the members of our military and their families. Help us, Lord, to be faithful as we eagerly anticipate the return of Your Son, to save Israel, to judge those who reject You and to reign over the Earth. And it's in His name we pray. Amen. Thank you for joining us today on the Christian Worldview and for your support of this nonprofit radio ministry. Until next time, think biblically, live accordingly and stand firm.

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The March-April issue of the Christian Worldview Journal features a special section on Easter in the resurrection of Christ, an article by Pastor Joe Rigney, on how untethered empathy is used to manipulate and advance leftist power. Journalist Alex Newman writes about the godless globalist tentacles of the Jeffrey Epstein scandal. The Christian Worldview Journal is a bimonthly print and digital publication designed to sharpen your biblical worldview on current events and issues of the faith. It also includes a resource catalog and ministry updates. The Journal is sent to Christian Worldview partners as a thank you for their support of this radio ministry. To become a Christian Worldview partner or order an individual issue of the journal, go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call 888-646-2233 or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota, 55331.

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