

The Dark Spiritual Contagion of Anti-Israel, Anti-Jewish Enmity - Part 2

SATURDAY, March 21, 2026 at 8:00am CT

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

The Dark Spiritual Contagion of Anti-Israel, Anti-Jewish Enmity. Today is part two of that topic 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.

Before we preview today's program, we are excited to announce that *The Christian Worldview Journal*, which is our bi-monthly print publication that features articles on current events and issues of the faith is now available in digital format, which means that it can be read on a tablet, computer, or smartphone. The *Journal* is published every other month and is sent to Christian Worldview Partners as a thank you for their support of this radio ministry. For the just released March, April issue, Christian Worldview Partners will receive the print version of the journal through the mail and the digital version via email. They can then choose for future issues to continue to receive both print and digital or choose one or the other.

Now, if you're a Christian Worldview Partner and didn't receive an email earlier this week about the digital version, we likely don't have your email address. So you can go to your account at TheChristianWorldview.org to update your email address there or just give us a call. Right now we have both issues from this year, 2026, available in digital format. And in the coming months, all the 2025 issues will be available in digital as well. If you're not a Christian Worldview Partner during the breaks today, you can find out how to become one and receive the *Journal*.

And one other *Journal* update, we now have available to order a special Navy blue three ring binder that is debossed with *The Christian Worldview Journal* logo that contains all 12 issues of the journal from 2025. You'll get all the articles from the contributing columnists on the topics ranging from geopolitical events, prophecy, spiritual growth, and much more. To order this, just go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call us to order what we're calling the 2025 *Journal* All-in-One binder. So that's the good news.

Some disappointing news is that we are not going to hold the Overcomer Course for young adults this coming June. And the reason is, is that we had become too overextended with doing the radio program weekly and publishing the *Journal* monthly and hosting the Overcomer Course in June and the Golf and Dinner Event in September last year.

And in the background of all that was a lot of caregiving that was taking place for both my mom and Brodie's mom. You may recall Brodie's mom went to heaven this past October. Well, my mom, who is 92, has had a lot of health problems over the past year. Although she's now home and doing fairly well, she still needs lots of help from family and friends.

So we had to make some hard decisions. One was to transition the journal from being published monthly to now every other month. That's reduced the workload some and even given us the opportunity to include more content in it. You'll notice that this current issue is going to be 16 pages instead of the typical 12. Then taking this year off from the Overcomer Course was another hard decision. We love this two-day course. We strongly believe in the content and we so enjoy interacting with the young adults at Stone House Farm in Jordan, Minnesota, where it's held. But the reality is the course requires months of preparation and promotion and is intensive for our staff to pull it all together. So after much

prayer and discussion, we decided to hold off on the course in 2026, but we do plan on considering it for 2027, so stay tuned for that. We will be holding the 11th annual Overcomer Foundation Cup Golf and Dinner event this September on Monday, September 14th at White Bear Yacht Club near Saint Paul, Minnesota. So save the date for that. Now, I don't like taking time away from the program to make announcements, but we feel the responsibility to keep you updated when changes occur.

Today's program is Part two of the dark spiritual contagion of anti-Israel, anti-Jewish enmity with guest Chris Katulka from Friends of Israel Ministry. Now, if you miss part one from last week, I encourage you to go here at our website, The ChristianWorldview.org. But in that program, we discussed the division that is occurring amongst conservatives and Christians over Israel and the Jewish people.

A lot has changed since October 7th, 2023, when the Islamic group, Hamas, based in Gaza, crossed the border into Israel and executed a barbaric attack, killing about 1,200 Israelis, including dozens of Americans, and kidnapping and torturing hundreds more. So one might think Israel's military response in Gaza to dismantle Hamas after that attack would be widely supported, but the opposite occurred. Demonstrations all over the world and alarmingly on American college campuses as well against Israel and in favor of Hamas and Palestine took place. Now this was ostensibly because of the "disproportionate response" by Israel and the destruction of vast urban areas in Gaza and the loss of thousands of lives. But the reality is how to defeat your enemy when they entwine themselves and fight among civilians in densely populated urban areas like Gaza. There will be widespread human suffering in a situation like this, but that is actually the goal of Hamas, to elicit sympathy and get world opinion on their side and against Israel. They don't care about their own civilian suffering, as long as it helps them in their objective to destroy Israel.

After this war in Gaza started, other fronts opened up with Israel against Islamic Hezbollah to the north of them in Lebanon and with the Islamic Houthis to the East in Yemen. Then war with the head of the snake who funds and facilitates it all, Iran. Even US bombs to "obliterate" Iran's nuclear weapons program last year in 2025 apparently weren't enough to dissuade Iran from their goal of death to America and death to Israel. So they were starting to rebuild already. So now America and Israel are in a joint war against Iran. It's been going on for about three weeks now, trying to degrade Iran's ability to attack the US, Israel, and our allies in Europe. And it seems like the war is accomplishing these objectives, but whether a new regime will arise in Iran that the US and Israel can work with, or whether something could go very wrong in this war, this is all unknown at this point.

No one knows what's going to become of this. In fact, even figuring out the truth about what is going on is very difficult. President Trump and his administration say the US is dominating, but then you read alternative sources that say the US is doomed for failure in this. I would just encourage you to read different sources, keep an open mind, and be preparing your own mind and life for whatever happens, and also be in prayer over this. Now, one major fault line that has become very evident since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7th, 2023, and has even become more apparent today during this war with Iran is the very strong burning resentment against Israel and the Jews. While the left is almost entirely anti-Israel, what has been surprising is that many prominent people on the right, like Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens, Nick Fuentes, Marjorie Taylor Greene, former Congressperson, Megyn Kelly, and many, many more have come out loudly against Israel, that Israel controls the US government. Here's Carrie Prejean, a former Trump supporter saying this recently.

Audio Sound Bite: Carrie Prejean:

I've been a loyal supporter of the president for almost 20 years. This goes back to when I was 21 years old and I was, California at the Miss USA pageant, and I've known him. I consider him a dear friend. And I will tell you right now, I do not recognize our president. I think that we are an occupied nation. I think that a foreign country has occupied our government, and we are seeing now that this President of the United States of America is being influenced by a foreign government. And MAGA, let me tell you right now, MAGA is dead. It is deader than dead and Americans are furious. We do not recognize President Donald J. Trump anymore.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

Now, this is perhaps not surprising though, at least on the political right, considering none of these I've mentioned are born again Christians operating from a biblical worldview, but rather they are Episcopalian like Tucker Carlson or typically Catholic like Candace Owens or Nick Fuentes or Carrie Prejean in that clip, or they're just generally on the right politically. But what is more troubling is the turning against Israel from professing biblical Christians, those who believe things like justification by grace through faith in Christ and other key doctrines of scripture. I'm referring to the Protestant theologically conservative wing of Christianity. You'll see lots of these Christians now on social media and elsewhere, such as Pastor Joel Webbon writing something like this. "Israel is not America's greatest ally. Israel is the world's greatest enemy." Huh? If he were the exception, it wouldn't be so alarming, but this kind of sentiment is becoming more and more prominent from those who are ostensibly theologically conservative.

So why is this issue of Israel and the Jews very important? And the first reason is this, because turning against Israel, God's chosen people is actually turning against and opposing God Himself. God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham in Genesis chapter 12, promising land, descendants, and blessing for the Jewish descendants of Abraham through Isaac, and also blessing for those who bless Abraham's descendants, Israel and the Jews. This covenant by God was repeated in Genesis 15 and again in Genesis 17, where it says, "I will make you exceedingly fruitful," God says to Abraham, "And I will make nations of you and kings will come forth from you. I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession and I will be their God." That's from Genesis chapter 17.

Now what this doesn't mean is that God would overlook Israel's sin and rebellion, which has been nearly constant with Israel over its history up until today. Israel's leadership is God rejecting and humanistic today, but God is a promise keeper and not a promise breaker and all throughout scripture, notably Romans 11, God reaffirms His promise to national Israel despite their disobedience, that they will be judged, but many of them will come to saving faith in the end and that Christ Himself will return to reign from their restored homeland in Jerusalem. Romans 11 says, quoting the Old Testament, "The deliverer, Christ, will come from Zion," Israel area, Jerusalem. "He will remove ungodliness from Jacob," another name for Israel. "This is My covenant with them when I take away their sins." So while an unbelief now and while being enemies of the gospel now, in the future some, maybe one third scripture seems to indicate will be spiritually saved along with their homeland as well.

So blessing Israel does not mean approving of their sin, their opposition to Christ and Christians, their ungodly culture, which is just like ours that supports the LGBTQ movement, abortion, and on and on. It's very possible actually that Israeli leadership and unbelieving Jews will somehow help facilitate the antichrist world system. I think that's a possibility. The same system that turns on Israel, but none of that changes God's promise. The Bible says He will judge all the rebels in the world, including the Jewish ones, and yet spiritually save many, as I mentioned, perhaps one third of the Jews in rule from the Jews' homeland in Jerusalem. Ezekiel 37:4, God says, "I will put My spirit within you and you will come to life and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it," declares the Lord. That's a prophecy of the end times and what will happen in the future.

Blessing Israel. What that means is supporting their protection and existence as a people in their land, helping them in ways that shows God's love to them, praying for them, sharing the gospel with them. These are all ways that Israel and the Jews can be supported and blessed. God says He chose the Jews, not because they were greater or better than anyone else, but because of His sovereign election and grace, His unmerited favor. And through the Jews, God gave the law, the prophets, and His own Son, through all of which we in the world have been greatly blessed. So if God reneges on His election of Israel, well, then He can renege on His election of believers. And this is why this issue of Israel is so important. It's about God keeping His promises, and it's also about the consequences for anyone who turns on those that God has chosen and loves.

Our topic today is part 2 of the dark spiritual contagion of anti-Israel, anti-Jewish enmity, and our guest is Chris Katulka, host of Friends of Israel Today radio program. So in the opening segment today, we discussed why this topic of blessing Israel, rather than turning against her and the Jews is important because turning against the people and nation God chose for His special purposes, through whom He would give His law and eventually His own son to come to be the redeemer would be to oppose God Himself and bring judgment on those who do that.

But there's another reason why this topic of Israel and the Jews is important, and it is this. The only remaining support in the world, at least to any degree for Israel and the Jewish people comes from two groups, traditional conservatives who, even if they don't see Israel as God's chosen people in any spiritual sense, see them as a like-minded ally for America in the Middle East. So that's one group. The other group who supports them is a specific wing of biblical Christians who interpret the Bible in what's called a literal, grammatical, historical way. In other words, that God made literal promises to Abraham and to his ethnic Jewish descendants, the Jews through Isaac, that will be literally fulfilled in the future. And I'll explain that more later in the program today, the interpretive method of more of a dispensational versus covenantal view and how it affects one's understanding of scripture and thus understanding of the future significance of Israel.

If Israel loses these two support groups, those who are traditionally conservative on the right, or the biblical Christians who see a literal significance for ethnic national Israel in the future, it will isolate the nation of Israel even more. Now, while God will always keep them in existence as He has throughout history, unbelieving Israel will feel under existential threat, and this is why Israel lobbies our country because they know these two groups and who these groups vote for impacts their own nation. By the way, we hear all the time that Israel is the biggest foreign lobbyist of the US. Well, that would be wrong. Quoting from online, "Israel ranks 10th among nations in total reported foreign lobbying spending in the US from 2016 to 2025, according to data tracked by [opensecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org) via the Foreign Agents Registration Act or FARA." The top 10 countries by total spending in this period are China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Liberia, South Korea, Marshall Islands, Bahamas, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and then number 10 is Israel, but somehow Israel occupies America.

Scripture says the world will turn against Israel, and there's not many left in the world who support Israel. Even many Jews don't support Israel, as Jan Markell of Olive Tree Ministries wrote this week in an article. That's how deceived they are. And notably, the Bible says no other country comes to save Israel in the Gog and Magog invasion in the early part of the tribulation period, where God supernaturally defeats the coalition that comes against Israel, that includes Iran, by the way. And then Jesus Himself, in His return, saves Israel at the Battle of Armageddon, as the antichrist brings his armies of the world against Israel. No one else is coming to save Israel in these two battles. Now, President Trump and America may be creating conditions as we've discussed for a temporary pseudo peace in the Middle East, or this war may just be ratcheting up the generational hatred for Israel by her historic Arab and Persian enemies and the other anti-Semites around the world to finally rid the world of its "Jewish problem." Nothing is certain here.

Donald Trump or Benjamin Netanyahu could die or be assassinated. Next in line in the US is Vice President JD Vance, who by the way, Tucker Carlson advocated Trump to be vice president. By the way, Tucker's son works for JD Vance as his deputy press secretary. So Israel and the Jews is a very important issue, one on which we need to be aligned with what God has revealed in His word.

Let's get straight to part 2 of the interview with Chris Katulka from Friends of Israel. Chris, regime change in Iran away from the Ayatollahs and the radical Islamists would be preferable, some leadership that would be at least workable with Israel and the United States, but that may not happen, especially if you're not committed to bringing ground troops into there. It's very difficult to do regime change. Where do you think this war in Iran is going to leave things in the Middle East if there isn't a kind of favorable regime change there?

GUEST: CHRIS KATULKA:

That's a good question. And I think one that concerns a lot of people. I don't know if you heard what President Trump said a couple of days ago, that basically the person that comes in to the seat of power there will be somebody that he has to make sure he feels comfortable with, which I don't think we'll have ground troops, but I also don't think we're going to stop until the right person is in there. I think the same thing happened with the Venezuela with Nicolas Maduro. We all expected one person to come in, the woman, I forget her name, who won the Nobel Peace Prize, but you know what ended up happening? He kept the vice president because she said, "I'll listen to whatever you want me to do to Washington." I think he's waiting for that person to come along. Also the other thing too is there's this dynamic happening in Iran.

The dynamic is that 90% of Iranians are done with the Mullahs and Ayatollahs and the religious theocracy that they wanted. 90%. That's a lot. And so you have not only a desire to see regime change done from other countries, but internally there's a desire for regime change. Who that person will be, I don't know. But I don't think that Trump is just simply going to let the next person come up and he says goodbye because we've already seen that happen, that Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of Ali Khamenei who died, who's now the new quote, unquote supreme leader, Trump's already said, no, it's not going to be him. He's not going to be the guy. And so Trump's already telling you he's going to have some say. I don't know if that's going to necessarily mean boots on the ground though. So we'll have to wait and see.

I don't have an answer to that one. I'm just watching as you are on a day-to-day basis for this. But I do think you have three things that you didn't have during the Iraq war in Afghanistan. You have outside pressure, you have inside pressure for regime change, and then you also have the right people to do it. You have Reza Pahlavi, who is the exiled prince of the Shah, who could easily come in and set up, well, not easily, but he could set up a constitutional monarchy in order to get it over to a democracy. That's his desire in his remaining years.

There's also that component as well. So we just have to kind of wait out and see what happens. And hopefully the Iranians, they'd love Israel, David. That's what's so interesting. A lot of Iranians love Israel because of the work that Netanyahu's been doing. So I think there's a lot of potential positive outcomes for Iran.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

Since October 7th, 2023, when Israel was attacked by Hamas, they've really defeated Hamas and Gaza. Hezbollah's been greatly diminished. So have the Houthis and now Iran. You'd have to say that Israel is definitely ascending, rising in the Middle East. And in that interview you referenced earlier with ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee with Tucker Carlson of all people, Tucker Carlson was going down the road of saying, "Well, God promised, if we're going to go based on scripture, God promised a lot more land to Israel than they currently have." And so Tucker was really pressing this. And here's what Mike Huckabee had to say in response to whether Israel would have a right to gain more land in the Middle East than they currently inhabit. Here's what he said.

Audio Sound Bite: Tucker Carlson:

You've appealed to Genesis. Genesis 15 says it's Abram. It's pre-Abraham. Its Abram receives from God the news that his descendants will inherit the land. And you tell me as the theologian, if I'm getting this wrong, but from the Euphrates to the Nile. And that would include, look basically the entire Middle East. That would be the Levant. So that would be Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon. It would also be big parts of Saudi Arabia and Iraq. It would be, I mean-

Mike Huckabee: Not sure it would go that far. I mean, it would be a big piece of land, but here's the point.

Tucker Carlson: It would be a lot of places that are now countries that-

Mike Huckabee: But this particular area that we're talking about now, Israel, is a land that God gave through Abraham to a people that He chose. It was a people, a place, and a purpose. We can look at it that way. Christian Zionism, I want to go back because that's where we started on this.

Tucker Carlson: I'm not going to let you off on this because you have said it-

Mike Huckabee: Go ahead.

Tucker Carlson: Three times-

Mike Huckabee: Okay.

Tucker Carlson: That God gave this land to this people. And so it is entirely fair for me with respect to ask, what land are you talking about? Because I just read Genesis 15, as I have many times. And that land, I think it says from the Nile to the Euphrates, which is once again, basically the entire Middle East. So God gave that land to His people, the Jews, or He didn't. You're saying He did. What does that mean? Does Israel have the right to that land because you're appealing to Genesis.

Mike Huckabee: Yeah.

Tucker Carlson: You're saying that's the original deed.

Mike Huckabee: It would be fine if they took it all.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

The soundbite was cut off right there by the Tucker Carlson network. There was no context to what Mike Huckabee said after that. What are your thoughts on whether that really would happen? Would Israel, do you think they'd be interested in that because the land God gave them was much, much larger than what they're currently in now?

GUEST: CHRIS KATULKA:

What's actually very interesting is if you go back into the modern history of Israel, the British, when they actually controlled that land between 1917 and 1948, in the early years of what's called the British mandate for Palestine, in the early years, they wanted to give the Jewish people all of that homeland that Mike Huckabee and Tucker Carlson were talking about. It would only be because of the many years that they would control that land between 1917 and 1948, as the decades would roll on, that land would get partitioned more and more and more to the point where modern day Jordan was supposed to be part of Israel, and then it got partitioned out and given to the Hashemite kingdom. And there's 90 plus percent of the people that live there today are Palestinians. The land of Israel even got divided even more between the Palestinians there and the Jewish people.

That becomes the partition plan of 1947. In my humble opinion, as somebody who's a Biblicist, I have a biblical worldview, there will be a day when that happens, but I think that's on God's terms. That's something I wish Mike Huckabee might have said if we could have heard the rest of the interview there. That's on God's terms to do that. That's not on our terms to do that. In fact, I don't think most Israelis would ever say, "We want to take areas of Syria. We want to take areas of Lebanon. We want to take areas of Jordan." If you talk to the average Israeli, they just want peace where they are. That's not really their ambition. And so there's what's today and there's what's coming in the future. Even if you look at the tension throughout the Bible, David, the tension of the Bible is that God promises them this land.

Then what happens? They come into the promised land and they deal with issues of sin. They deal with issues of falling away from God and the land begins to get squeezed more and then it expands a little bit. Under King Solomon, it really expands to its greatest heights and then it gets divided in half. And that's the tension. God promised them this thing that's coming in the future, this greater land that He had promised in Genesis, but we're not there yet. That's the thing. We're not at that place yet. Where we are right now is that the Jewish people are back in the land and this is what they've been given. And I don't think most Israelis say we want all of the land. They just want to live in peace without feeling as though there's Hamas on one border, the Hezbollah on another border, the Houthis launching rockets in, Iran coming down.

Going into Syria, and Lebanon, and Jordan, and Egypt is not their goal. But I do believe one day when the Messiah returns and the Son of man sits on His glorious throne and He judges the nations for two things, how they treated His inheritance, which is His people, Joel chapter three, His people and how they divided up My land. And that's all from the prophet Joel. And Jesus brings that all in Matthew chapter 25. When He becomes the judge who judges the nations for how they treat His people, and I believe how they divided up His land. So I think there's anticipation for what's coming in the future and what the reality is today. And this is the reality we live in.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

What is your understanding of what the Bible teaches just as sort of an overview bullet point about the future for Israel prophetically to go from where we are now as to the return of Christ, is what you were just talking about, from a standpoint of rapture of the church, the rise of the Antichrist, Gog and Magog? Give us just sort of an overview of what that looks like.

GUEST: CHRIS KATULKA:

When people ask, where are we prophetically right now? I think we're living in between two verses, Ezekiel 37:8 and 9, where God resurrects the people of Israel, but they stand there lifeless. And then God tells in verse 9, tells Ezekiel, "Prophecy to these people that are standing there lifeless, prophecy a breath that would come into them and bring them to life." And this is the people of Israel. And so essentially we're watching the bones come back to pieces and we're watching the flesh come on the bones and we're watching literally the Jewish people return to their ancient homeland. I always tell people we're sitting in the splash section of biblical prophecy. If you ever read Ezekiel 37, we're in between verses 8 and 9. That's my humble opinion. I believe that the Battle of Gog and Magog will happen prior to the pre-tribulational rapture of the church.

I actually think we're seeing pieces of that happen now. What happens if Iran, if it all of a sudden they become one of the strongest allies of Israel in the Middle East? That doesn't seem like the Battle of Gog and Magog. I thought Persia was supposed to fight against Israel. Or what happens if the Saudis make a peace deal or all the Abraham Accord expands even more? Well, it actually says in Ezekiel chapter 38 and 39, that before this war comes, Israel is at a time of peace when they don't even have to think about anything anymore. The walls are down. How does that happen? They haven't had their defenses down since the moment they became a country. The second they breathed as a country, May 14th, 1948, they were at war defending themselves against their neighbors.

What happens when that becomes a peaceful time? Well, then I think the battle begins to happen, the Battle of Gog and Magog. I believe in a pre-trib rapture of the church. I don't think that the church was meant for the wrath of God. 1 Thessalonians 1:10, "That God is still going to deliver us," Paul says, "from the wrath to come." I believe in a seven-year tribulation period also called the time of Jacob's trouble when God not only judges Israel, but also judges the nations of the world as Zephaniah chapter one talks about. And then I believe the antichrist in the middle of that seven-year period will establish himself within the temple of God in Jerusalem, a rebuilt temple, and he will say to the world, "I am God committing what's called an abomination of desolation." And then God's wrath will continue to be poured out until finally Jesus returns prior to the kingdom. That's why I'm pre-millennialist.

Jesus will come back, Revelation chapter 19 and establish 1000-year millennial kingdom where he rules from his throne in Jerusalem. Micah chapter 4:1-4, "All the nations of the world, all the peoples will stream to Jerusalem to receive Torah," it says, "to receive law and instruction." Where? "From Jerusalem as it streams out of Zion," it says to the world. For what reason? "For Shalom among the nations." So I believe in a 1000-year millennial kingdom. Ultimately there'll be another battle that happens at the end, and finally Satan and the demons and all those who follow him will be thrown into the lake of fire opening the eternal state. That's my kind of humble approach to the eschatological timeline, prophetic timeline that we have.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

Well, we at The Christian Worldview will be very closely aligned with what you just described there. So thank you for doing that. Final question is just for people listening today, what would you exhort them to do to cut through, to discern all this anti-Israel, anti-Jewish sentiment, assertions that we're constantly being bombarded with nowadays? And by the way, it's not just online. You'll hear friends and family members picking up these things. It's almost like a contagion that you see. How should Christians listening deal with this?

GUEST: CHRIS KATULKA:

Number one, read your Bible. I genuinely believe that there's a lot of people that take to this hatred toward Israel and the Jewish people that are coming from these voices online, they think they're trusted voices and they're not reading the Bible themselves. I believe that God has a plan and program for Israel. And not only look at what the Bible teaches, but also look at what history has shown because the Bible is the guide for what we have and how God is laying out this plan that He has for Israel and the Jewish people and for the nations. That's the big thing. Again, the connection point is this. I think these people are more hyper-focused on Israel than I am that work at the Friends of Israel. I don't believe that God chose Israel because they're better than me. I believe God chose Israel to bless me.

God didn't choose Israel because there's a part of some spiritual country club that separates them from everybody else. And we all go, "Excuse me, you're God's chosen people. Can I be invited to that too?" It's not like that. I always tell people to be God's chosen people is like me telling my kids, "It's your turn to go walk the dog." You know what they do when I say, "You have to walk the dog?" They go, "It's not my turn. It's her turn. It's his turn." They don't want the responsibility. To be chosen, it means you've been given a responsibility by God, and it's a serious responsibility, to bring blessing to all the families of the earth. I constantly like to remind Christians that when God chose them, He chose them to bless you. And that's why I believe the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 11 says, "Even to the Jewish people who don't believe in Jesus," the Apostle Paul says, "do not be arrogant or boastful against them because it's not you who supports them. It's the root that supports you." Who is the root? Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Again, it's this humble, merciful, compassionate approach that I think means blessing Israel and the Jewish people. That's all biblical. Then finally, I'll say this, something I've been thinking about more and more, David, if you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you've been indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God. That's a Jewish promise. You have the Holy Spirit in you, and that Holy Spirit, I believe is like a compass. You know what the compass should do? The compass shouldn't orient your heart toward Washington, or orient your heart toward Rome, or orient your heart toward London, or Shanghai, or wherever these places are. I believe that when a Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit, their heart should be oriented toward Jerusalem. I think every Christian's heart, as Paul is ministering all throughout the Mediterranean basin and speaking to Gentiles and pagans and they become believers in Jesus, I believe that those pagans hearts were turned not toward Rome anymore, but toward Jerusalem.

I think we should have a humility, and anticipation, and hope for what God will do in Jerusalem because from Jerusalem, as I had mentioned earlier, Micah chapter 4 and Isaiah chapter 2, blessing will flow from all to all the earth in the future. So I believe we should have a heart that's oriented toward Jerusalem for the chosen people. Why? Because God has blessed us and we should bless His people as He has asked.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

Very well said, Chris. And I just want to thank you for coming on the program today and spending some extra time with us. God bless you for what He's done in your life and also for what you're doing at The Friends of Israel. All of God's best and grace to you and your family. And thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview radio program today.

GUEST: CHRIS KATULKA:

Thanks, David.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

In this last segment, I'd like to answer a question that we referred to earlier in the program about what drives this anti-Israel, anti-Jewish sentiment amongst Christians. Because we know with unbelievers all the way from radical, pro-Hamas, Islamic supporters on the left to conservatives on the right who actually aren't born again Christians, it's just spiritual deception by Satan as he foments hatred and resistance to God and God's sovereign choice of Israel to be his national representative to the world, through whom He gave the law and the prophets and the Messiah. But for true Christians though, the division over Israel is due to a differing approach to interpreting scripture, often labeled as dispensationalism versus covenantalism.

Now, just to give you an example of this, JP Sears is a popular social media influencer with over 500,000 followers. He's actually a comedian who creates videos on current issues. You probably seen them at one time or another. He's on the right, but totally against Israel. He recently produced a video where two people, both played by him, are having a conversation about why Christians would support Israel and he blames it all on what he calls an errant belief called dispensationalism. Listen to this.

Audio Sound Bite: JP Sears:

Well, I just think if you look at the Bible and with the end times prophecy in Israel being God's chosen people, it just makes me think that what's going on with the war with Iran, there just might be something biblical to that.

You're referring to dispensationalism, not the Bible.

Dispensational... Huh?

Dispensationalism doesn't come from the Bible. It's a radicalized literal interpretation of the Bible that comes from the Scofield Reference Bible, not the Bible.

What's that?

It's a book written and published in 1909 by a guy named C.I. Scofield in order to spread Zionism. And they got it to be very influential over Christianity with its new, well, made up interpretations of the Bible. It's got a strong emphasis on literal Israel being God's chosen people. And it strongly pushes prophecy and end time interpretations that aren't present in traditional biblical interpretations, but are very important pieces of Zionist's propaganda.

Well, what kind of new interpretations did the Scofield guy introduce?

Well, before him, almost everyone saw Israel and church to be the same thing, as in God's chosen people are the ones that go to church.

HOST: DAVID WHEATON:

Well, that's kind of humorous and a typical spoofing that you'll hear from anti-dispensationalists, blaming the Scofield study Bible on the pre-millennial end times view. But the pre-millennial view that includes a spiritual and physical restoration of the Jews, according to God's promise, going back to Genesis chapter 12 and then a literal 1000-year reign of Christ on earth, this came out right away in the first century as early Christians read and interpreted scripture. I went online, just found a brief summary of dispensationalism versus covenantalism in their approaches to interpreting scripture. I think it's just helpful to compare.

It says, "Dispensationalism is a theological framework within evangelical Christianity that interprets the Bible by dividing human history into distinct periods or quote, unquote dispensations. Key beliefs and distinctives. A literal interpretation of the Bible, especially of prophecy and Old Testament promises applying a consistent, historical, grammatical, hermeneutic or interpretive method, reading the text in its plain normal sense." Second, distinctive. "A distinction between Israel and the church, Israel, ethnic national descendants of Abraham and the church, believers from the time of Pentecost onward up until today, including Jews and Gentiles, are seen as separate entities in God's plan. Old Testament promises to Israel of land and Kingdom remain literal and unfulfilled for national Israel. They weren't spiritually transferred to the church."

Then it goes through the seven dispensations they typically hold to, and those dispensations they say are specific eras in which God administers his relationship with humanity in different ways, testing obedience under varying conditions or responsibilities often ending in human failure, followed by judgment in a new dispensation. I won't go through each of them, but you can look them up on your own. Then it gets into the end times. That dispensationalism is closely tied to pre-millennialism, including a pre-tribulational rapture of the church, followed by Christ's second coming to establish his Kingdom.

Compare that to covenant theology, which they define as, "A theological framework associated with reforms," so from the reformation period. "And Presbyterian traditions that interprets the Bible through the lens of God's covenants, which are solemn, binding agreements that structure God's relationship with humanity and reveal His redemptive plan." So what are their distinctives? "There's continuity between the Old and the New Testaments. So the church is the fulfillment, the continuation of Israel as God's covenant people. They're one people of God across history, including believing Jews and Gentiles. Old Testament promises find spiritual fulfillment in Christ in the church. Interpretive method, covenant theology emphasizes typology and progressive revelation and often applies a more typological spiritual reading to Old Testament promises." So land promises that God made to Abraham point to the new creation or heavenly inheritance. And then with the end times, "Covenant theology is typically a millennial and post-millennial with Christ's return after a spiritual millennium, not a literal 1000 years, and there's no separate future for national Israel apart from the church."

There's your answer. This is why Christians diverge on Israel, because they approach and interpret the Bible differently. But just to clarify, I don't consider or call myself a dispensationalist. I don't read the Bible with seven dispensations in mind for how God interacts with man. I read the Bible in a literal way, unless the context indicates otherwise. It's been said the meaning of scripture is scripture. What that means is you compare one passage of scripture to another and then another and another until there's a consistent interpretation. So when I read that God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham in Genesis, when it's repeated elsewhere in the Old Testament, when God repeats the promise to the Jews in Romans 11, despite their disobedience, when Israel is a key part of revelation in the lead up to the return of Christ, I take that literally, that God will fulfill His promises to national Israel to judge unbelieving Jews, but to save many of them and restore the nation.

So Abraham, through his sons, Isaac and then Jacob was promised physical land, descendants, and blessings. That's the nation of Israel and the Jews. But Abraham is also the spiritual father of true believers. He's used as the example of true saving faith. You've seen the passage, "Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness." So all true believers, whether Jew or Gentile, are of the spiritual lineage of Abraham. You could call it a spiritual Israel. And so this is what the whole issue of Israel and the Jews comes down to, at least for true believers. It's how one interprets scripture, and that makes a huge difference on how we think and live and view the modern day state of Israel and the Jewish people.

So let's strive to not align ourselves with a category of dispensationalism or covenantalism, but rather let's follow what scripture says in Second Timothy 2:15. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." So would you pray with me to close today?

Lord, in your perfect Word, your servant Paul closes Romans chapter 11, which confirms your ancient and unchanging covenant with the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. He concludes this way. Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways for who has known the mind of the Lord or who became His counselor or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again. For from You, Lord, and through You and to You are all things and to You be the glory forever. Amen. And there's nothing more for us to say than that, Father. Amen.

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