A View from Jerusalem on Israel, Iran, and Prophecy
Guest: Joel Rosenberg

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Host: David Wheaton 0:07
A view from Jerusalem on Israel, Iran, and prophecy. That is the topical discussion today right here on TheChristianWorldview 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, and our website is TheChristianWorldview.org.

Joel Rosenberg is known around the world as the best-selling author of books whose storylines seem to leap off the front pages of the news or even predict the news. Titles like *The Kremlin Conspiracy, The Last Jihad, The Jerusalem Assassin*, and *The Auschwitz Escape* are indicative of the geopolitical themes from an overtly Christian worldview, including biblical prophecy that Joel weaves throughout his books. Joel is a Jewish believer in Jesus Christ, a dual citizen of both the United States and Israel, and resides in Jerusalem, where he is the editor-in-chief of all Israel News and All Arab News, and host of the Rosenberg Report on TBN.

Joel is also the founder and chairman of the Joshua Fund, a nonprofit educational and humanitarian relief organization for both Israelis and Arabs. Today on The Christian Worldview, Joel joins us from Jerusalem to give us an on-the-ground perspective for 1 who lives in reports from the epicenter, as he calls it. We will discuss the current situation in Israel, including their recent election, the war with Iran and U.S. involvement, the rising anti-Israel sentiment across the world, and how Christians should be thinking about it all in light of the fact that God is preparing world events for the return of his son to reign over Israel and the world. Let's get straight to the first segment of the interview with Joel Rosenberg.

Host: David Wheaton 2:07
Joel, it's so good to have you back on The Christian Worldview Radio program. You have a very interesting background. I read off your bio that you're the grandson of Orthodox Jews who escaped out of czarist Russia back in the early 1900s before I'm assuming the Communist Revolution took over. You're Jewish on your father's side and Gentile on your mother's side. You and your wife Lynn are dual citizens of both the United States and Israel, and that you moved to Jerusalem in 2014 and have four sons. Tell us about your background and how God brought you to saving faith in Christ.

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 2:44
What's so exciting is that God began lifting the curtain on Jewish people coming into the kingdom of Jesus as Messiah, as King, as Savior in the early 1970s in the United States with the Jesus Revolution. The power of the Holy Spirit was just poured out. It wasn't just California. It wasn't just Chuck Smith and Greg and Kathy Laurie who made that beautiful and fascinating Jesus Revolution movie. The spirit was moving powerfully, and a lot of Jews were coming to faith. My story is less exciting. It's wonderful, but I got saved when I was eight. But the reason I even heard about the gospel was because my parents both got radically saved. My mom was

from a nominal Christian background, but didn't hear the gospel growing up. It hadn't made any impact on her life. She went to church, but it didn't mean anything to her.

My father, as you mentioned, was raised in an Orthodox Jewish, very religious family. Never heard about Jesus unless his father was screaming at him, Jesus Christ Almighty, as a curse. So they were both agnostics in the early 1960s. They got married in 65. What's miraculous is that the Lord just was super gracious to them, and by early 1973, my mom came to faith in Jesus. Then about six months later, after studying through the gospel according to Luke, my father came home 1 day and said, I can't believe I'm saying this, but I believe that Jesus is the Messiah. I've chosen to follow Him, and our lives are about to change forever. So as I saw my parents changing, it was not so hard to understand, wow, God is real, the Bible is true, Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, and I can see my parents' lives changing. Their marriage was a train wreck, so they wouldn't have made it if Christ hadn't saved them. And my father, you know, he thought he was the first Jew since the Apostle Paul who believed that Jesus is the Messiah. he'd never met a Jew who believed in Jesus. He'd never heard of a Jew who believed in Jesus, and in 1973, there weren't that many.

Today, what's so fascinating is there are about a million Jewish people worldwide who believe that Jesus is the Messiah. This is the largest sheer number of Jews in the world who believe in Jesus in the last 2,000 years, a million. And that's also the highest percentage of Jews in the world, because we're talking about roughly 16, maybe 17 million Jews in the world to have 1 in 16 or 1 in 17 actually know the Lord personally. This is tremendous. It all started, I believe, the hinge of history was the 1967 Six-Day War. Something happened. The reunification of Jerusalem, where I now live, Israel gaining control of Judea and Samaria. Something was going on, and God just in His own sovereignty decided it's time for Jews to stop only hearing about the gospel. It's time for them to start saying yes, and He started moving in great power, and my father was part of the early fruits of that. I happen to be part of the early fruits in 1975, and it has changed our lives forever.

Host: David Wheaton 5:50
What an amazing story, Joel. But still, being a believer in Christ with a Jewish background and living in Israel is rare. What is it like for you to live there? I mean, how are you treated and perceived in the Jewish state? And I know you have lots of relationships with people very high up in government, all the way to the prime minister, Netanyahu, and other Arab leaders in the region and so forth. Becoming a follower of Christ is often considered a betrayal of being Jewish. So how are you treated and perceived? And how do you navigate as a born-again Christian with a Jewish background living in Israel?

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 6:29
There's not persecution here. I mean, there's some harassment, there's some challenges of various issues. We could get into that if you want, but it's not illegal. It's not like living in Iran and saying I'm a Muslim who's now left Islam and come to faith in Jesus. It's nothing like that. That you'll be beaten, you'll be arrested, you'll go to prison, you could be executed. So that's not the case here. There's total, total religious freedom, not just to believe, but to share your faith. So that's a wonderful thing. We're in a different season of history.

I think of myself as an evangelical. And evangelicals have a very high and positive brand, if you'll let me say it that way. Certainly among Prime Minister Netanyahu, who is the longest serving Israeli prime minister, but

He's also been the most forward-leaning into building relationships with evangelical Christians, mainly in the United States, but around the world. Why? Because Netanyahu understands Israel has fewer and fewer friends in the world. These are huge friends, deep friends, theological friends, not just political friends, of Israel and the Jewish people. So he is, more than any other Israeli leader in history, leaned into this. So being an evangelical Christian, and in God's grace in my life, His sovereign plan, I'm a bridge to many, many evangelical leaders in the United States and around the world. So that is considered an asset and something that people might want to say, yes, okay, I would like to get to know you. We just got contacted by a cabinet minister today. Hey, could I have coffee with him at the Israel's parliament on Sunday? Okay, well, great, sure. So evangelical is considered an asset. Even if you're Jewish, maybe this is still a good thing. Not that we agree with you, Joel, but let's talk about how we can work together to defend Judeo-Christian civilization while it's under a firestorm of attack, right?

Host: David Wheaton 8:22
Well, that's great to hear there's some receptivity to being an evangelical Christian in Israel.

Joel, I want to go back in time a few years back to October 7th, 2023. Much of what we're going to discuss today in the context of the Middle East and even in America goes back then. Of course, it goes way back beyond that to some of the major events you've mentioned. But let's just say more recently, that was a super significant date when Hamas came out of Gaza and did a sneak attack and killed, I think it was about 1,200 Israelis horrifically. With Israel's security apparatus, they're the best intelligence probably in the world. Probably the CIA would might disagree with that. But the preparedness they have, a lot of people think how could that have actually happened? Where people came over in hang gliders and motorcycles and that amount of killing. How do you explain how something like that could have happened in Israel along the most defended border, perhaps in the world?

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 9:24
It's a great question, and Israelis very much want a state commission of inquiry, an official commission to be established to look at everything. The way the 9-11 commission was established by Congress to look at everything and to pull no punches and say, all right, this is what failed, and this is who failed, and this is how we're going to proceed. However, so far there's been a lot of political debate over that, and that such a commission has not been established. But the short version to the answer, I think, is I don't think it's a conspiracy. I've heard people, podcasters, and other bloggers and influencers, extreme right, extreme left, say Israel wanted it to happen or encouraged it to happen so that we could go wipe out Gaza. Nothing could be further than the truth. Israelis have suffered terribly through this war. The entire world almost hates us.

I think that the short answer is Israelis got lulled into a false sense of security and it grew into complacency. What I mean is Israel had just in 2020 negotiated and signed four peace and normalization agreements called the Abraham Accords. And we were just about to sign 1 with Saudi Arabia. We were just days away. In fact, the Saudi ambassador was sitting in the National Security Advisor's Office at the White House on the 6th of October, going over the final details of the biggest landmark, peace, and normalization deal between an Arab country and Israel in human history. Even as they were sitting there, the final preparations were being made by Hamas to attack. If you want to put it in the simplest way, Israel was looking the wrong direction.

Prime Minister Netanyahu believed that peace was breaking out because he was building a strong military and intelligence system, but also negotiating all these peace deals. But his focus was laser-locked on Iran and Iran's biggest terror proxy, which was Hezbollah, which was the terror army and missile force in Lebanon. Netanyahu just did not believe that Hamas posed any serious threat. And Hamas found its way of gently encouraging him not to think that either. And it was a colossal failure.

Now, I know Prime Minister Netanyahu. I admire much of what He's done in his 30-year-old I mean, 30 years ago, he became the prime minister for the first time in 1996. Now He's been prime minister for 19 of those 30 years, right? There were some years that he lost and was in the opposition or was in another role. But my point is it's a colossal failure. I don't hate him and I'm not opposed to him. I don't take a political position as a journalist and as a believer in this country just doesn't help me to pick 1 side or the other here. But I would say there needs to be some sort of reckoning. If you preside over the worst murder of Jews on 1 day since the Holocaust, everybody else who has been in a senior position in the intelligence or security services have all resigned or been fired. And Netanyahu ran for re-election. he could have said, you know what, that was a bad day. But look what I've done. I've destroyed all or most of the Iranian leadership and nuclear threat and missile threat. I've destroyed and killed off all the Hezbollah leadership and most of their missiles and most of the Hamas leadership and most of their weapons. So that's true. He has done that under his leadership. Before the elections, he had 68 seats, he and his allies, and now they have 43. So the Israeli people have said thank you very much, but we want to go a different direction. He's taken a real hit. So it's not conspiracy. Israel was looking the wrong way, and they didn't pay attention to the signs that were there, and it cost us dearly.

Host: David Wheaton 13:08
Yes, it really has been a transitional time, and u we have watched the elections, but we don't get the front row seat on what's going on there like you do. We hear about it in the news here and so forth. Could you just explain the results of the recent election in Israel, how the Israeli government works, and what is a likely scenario going forward, considering that there were several seats won by Arab representatives as well.

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 13:37
So Netanyahu is the longest serving prime minister in the modern history of Israel. And He's super successful on so many things. It's why he keeps getting re-elected, even though, yes, there's a large swath of Israelis who don't like him, some even hate him, or they're just tired and they want to move on. But there's a lot of people who say, hey, then show me someone better. This guy can get Trump on the phone and he can get stuff done. He can get Putin on the phone, he can get stuff done. He's negotiating peace deals. And yeah, He's not perfect, u, but He's delivering for the country. So that's the case for him. But as I just said, the country just voted to say, yeah, we're not going there anymore. his party is called the Likud Party. And then their allies that have all been working together last week before the elections or two weeks ago, they had 68 seats. Now they have 43 seats.

So that's a collapse. You need 61 to have a majority of our 120-seat parliament. Okay. So that's Netanyahu. There is a large swath, a growing swath of center right voters who ought to be with him. And generally, in terms of political philosophy and policy, mostly they're with him. But they've been become disappointed in him. So that's the group that moved, that shifted. Now, why isn't there an immediate government if there's

now 67 seats in the opposition and you only need 61, boom, then this gentleman, Gadi Eisenkot, who I'll describe in a moment, he should be the prime minister, right? Well, not so fast. Why? Because 19 of the 67 seats are held by Arab parties. Israeli Arabs are citizens of the country. Most of them are Muslims, some are Christians. They have every right to start a political party, run for office, mobilize the vote, and they did it more than ever. They really turned out their vote. Why? Because they feel left out of the society and they don't feel like they're being well treated in various ways. It's not racism, it's not apartheid, but there's violence in Arab cities and the Israeli police aren't doing enough. It's true. I unfortunately it's true. They're not doing enough to fight that crime. So it's not that they're Arabs. The problem with those 19 seats is they are, I would say, pretty radioactive, most of them.

There's a group called the Joint List. It's actually a group of small parties. They work together. One of them is a communist party. Another 1 of them is a radical Islamist party. They hate Israel. They are citizens and they're using democracy, and the Supreme Court hasn't told them you can't be a party, but they're radioactive. Nobody can invite them into a government. So this creates a problem for Gadi Eisenkot and his allies, which is the Arabs who want to get rid of Netanyahu that they're willing to support Gadi Eisenkot, who, by the way, is a former chief of staff of the Israeli military. He was the top general. And who appointed him to be that? Bibi Netanyahu. But they had a big falling out. So Gadi Eisenkot is a military man. I mean, this is a man who has fought Israel's enemies with great distinction, and whose own son, whose only son, his name is Gal, he was killed in Gaza as a combat soldier fighting Hamas in the months after October 7th. And two of Gadi Eisenkot's nephews were killed by Hamas fighting in Gaza. So this is a man who knows the price of war, and He's trying to pull the country together. So all that to say, the Arab parties, they are supporting Eisenkot to get rid of Netanyahu. But Eisenkot is conflicted about whether he can really say, oh, I have 67 seats, because it's not that the Arabs wouldn't work with him. It's that the voters that Eisenkot will face next time will be Jewish voters who say, okay, I'm not a racist, but I'm not going to vote for somebody who works with the communists or with the radical Islamists. So you're losing my vote here.

So it's a very complicated balancing act. I think a compromise would be useful. You could keep out the extremist parties on the far right and the far left and have a broad national unity government. That would be healthy. Having grown-ups in the room, the problem is they don't like each other, but they could work together for the good of the country. So that's the prayer request I would say for your listeners. Pray that Gadi Eisenkot and Bibi Netanyahu, and their closest allies, could in fact put together a unity government, at least for the next few years, then they can duke it out again in another election.

Host: David Wheaton 18:10
Best-selling author, journalist, and geopolitical analyst Joel Rosenberg is our guest today. We have links to Joel and his work in books at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org. Coming up next, we'll discuss Iran, whether they were or are close to developing nuclear weapons, how the decision making caused the war to drag on, and what to do now. I'm David Wheaton, and you are listening to The Christian Worldview Radio program.

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Host: David Wheaton 21:18
Joel, let's move on to another major topic that involves both Israel and the United States, and that is the nuclear weapons program of Iran. Is that in fact the case from your knowledge, Joel, that Iran is either very close or has been close to developing a nuclear weapon and that this was justification for this really ongoing war that's taking place instead of just military strikes, an ongoing war that we're still involved in?

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 21:49
Unfortunately, it is actually a hundred percent true that Iran had never been closer to getting full blown, fully operational nuclear warheads than they were at on February twenty. Of 2026. Why do I say that? Because President Trump, to his credit, did not want to bomb Iran. If you go back to 2025, right, the 12-day war, in the 60 days before that, he told the Iranians, you have 60 days. I want to make a deal with you, but you guys got to get out of the nuclear weapons business. It's not going to happen. So come and make a deal with me. I'm happy to make a deal with you, but don't mess with me. You got 60 days.

Now, Iran didn't believe that 60 meant 60. They've dealt with a lot of presidents over a lot of years. They just didn't take it seriously. But apparently, on day 61, when the Iranian leadership had not made a deal and had been rejecting a deal, President Trump called Bibi Netanyahu and said, Bibi, go do what you've got to do, and gave Netanyahu a green light to start the attacks to neutralize the Iran nuclear weapons program. And Trump came in at the and to finish off the most hardened, most difficult to hit facilities. 12 days, it was significantly degraded, the Iranian nuclear weapons program. Trump believed that he had rightly given the Iranians every opportunity to negotiate a fair deal, and they didn't take him seriously. But now he believed that having shown that the United States and Israel could work together and would work together to do tremendous damage to the Iranian nuclear weapons program, Trump believed, in this case erroneously, that this would change the calculus. And the Iranians would say, okay, okay, I guess if you're that serious, we'll make a deal. So Trump sent two of his top negotiators, his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and 1 of his best friends, the Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff. They went to negotiate.

What happened? Well, Witkoff and Kushner were the biggest proponents of a diplomatic deal, not more war. And Trump didn't want war either. he told us, I don't want to start wars, I want to and wars. But what Witkoff and Kushner came back and they told the president look, the Iranian negotiators are bragging that they have 11 nuclear weapon bombs worth of highly enriched uranium. You didn't destroy it last summer, and we're not giving it to you through negotiations. So, no, we don't care what you offer us, you're not getting it back. At this point, Trump realized they're like inches away. Now they they're they're telling us openly we've got 11 nuclear bombs worth and you can't get it.

So Trump decided for U.S. national security interest, not primarily for Israel or our Arab allies, though they would benefit from a world without Iranian nuclear bombs, absolutely, no question. They're allies, right? Why shouldn't they have a say or at least a not a vote, but at least input into the decision making? And everybody was telling the president, this is very, very dangerous. You've got to take action. And Trump had been saying since 1979, Trump had been 1 of the most hawkish persons about Iran because he understood that a world of radical, apocalyptic, genocidal religious fanatics at the top of the heap in Iran with nuclear weapons in hand. Look what the damage they did with conventional weapons and conventional terrorism. What if they had

nuclear bombs? It would be genocidal. So he took action. Did Israel want him to take action? Yes. But this was Trump's decision based on a 40-year worldview, and it was pretty successful. Now, Trump did make some mistakes. One of those, unfortunately, was that he listened to his vice president, J.D. Vance. Vance didn't want the war to happen at all. Well, nobody wanted the war to happen. I didn't want the war to happen. But when you've got a genocidal enemy with 11 bombs worth of nuclear material, at some point, somebody's got to own up to the promises that every American president has made back to Bill Clinton in the 90s. Iran can't have a nuclear weapon. So Trump went to war. But JD Vance had every right to advise the president not to go to war. But it's Trump's decision. He's the president. He's the commander-in-chief, right? So what happens?

Vance, after the war begins, convinces Trump look, now they've seen all hell rain down on them in Iran, let me negotiate a memorandum of understanding to and this thing once and for all. Trump, who does like negotiations, and good for him, he literally wrote the book Art of the Deal, he gives Vance the freedom, the mandate to go negotiate. But Vance gets bamboozled. But what it does is it stops the United States and Israel from bombing and ending and finishing off all these sites. So now the job is like three quarters finished, and Vance has just negotiated a stop, and Iran immediately starts violating it. And after about, I forgot the exact dates, you know, a month, month and a half, Trump realizes this is a colossal mistake.

So why has the war gone on so long? Because Trump didn't finish the job. Now, is that Trump's responsibility? 100%. But he was leaning on his number 1 advisor, which is the vice president of the United States. And I think you're starting to hear, which is a little odd in American politics, a vice president actively distancing Himself from President Trump and the war decision, blaming Israel for the Republican wipeout in the House and the Senate. And Trump is taking this as disloyalty. He's like, what is happening? I and He's just told the New York Times, I'm disappointed with my vice president. Trump was absolutely right. he was absolutely right. It was unpopular. I get it. Nobody wants war. But if you've got an enemy who's literally saying death to America every single day for more than 40 years, and once He's got 11 bombs worth of material, you've got to neutralize that. Trump did the right thing, but he didn't go all the way. He went three-quarters of the way. And that's where it got him in trouble because he couldn't just be done and let oil prices sort of settle and let everybody settle. he created an artificial pause that pushed the oil price, gas price increase close to the midterm elections rather than in the summer, where it may have done some political damage, but I don't think it would have done as much as it ultimately did.

Host: David Wheaton 28:21
Yes, I think you're right, Joel. You know, Americans are driving around their streets and seeing the price of gas really high in this country and thinking, why are we in Iran again? They don't know the details and why does it affect us? And they're just not able to put that together. And again, I don't know if it was just the Iran war, why the Republicans got drubbed, which is what it was in the midterms, but certainly the perceived cost of living, the Democrats in this country are crying about affordability and everything's too overpriced. And it it was certainly 1 of the factors.

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 28:50
It was 1 of the factors. And I'll just say, I'm not blaming this all on Vance. I would say that it was President Trump's responsibility to give a national address and say exactly what I said. I didn't want war either. Nobody

wants war. But when you have a genocidal enemy with 11 nuclear bombs worth and they're bragging at you that you can't stop them and they're going to continue on without you, you have a choice. Keep your Word and protect the American people and our interests and our security and our allies, or punt to the next administration and let Abdul El-Sayed take care of it. It's on Trump. He's quite an effective communicator when he wants to be. But for some reason, he kind of assumed that everybody in the country understood what he was doing and why. And I don't understand that. He lost his political touch in the summer and fall. he didn't explain himself well, and it cost him.

Host: David Wheaton 29:46
He just keeps on saying things like, Well, it's going to be over in two weeks, and their country's going to collapse, and the economic sanctions are going to destroy them. And none of it ever happened. Where do you think it's going to be going in the next year or two?

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 29:58
I'm very grateful that the president took the courageous action that he did, and I do think he needs to finish the job. I hope that over the last few months, Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the others have figured out what they mean by finish the job. And once they define what victory is to them, then they can figure out how to achieve it. I think that Netanyahu wants the United States in Israel to completely change the regime, clear out the apocalyptic mullahs and the terrorists of Tehran and set up a new government. That was never Trump's mandate. He never said he was going to do regime change. It was occasional that he would swerve into that, but ultimately that wasn't his plan. He said, I my job is to do America first.

My job is not to rebuild Iran, it's to stop Iran from ever being able to harm us, particularly with nuclear weapons and missiles. So there's 1 main objective that Trump needs to finish off, and that's called Pickaxe Mountain. It's the last hardened nuclear weapons production and storage facility that hasn't been hit. I can't, for the life of me, understand why not. You can't do half the job, three-quarters of the job. You need to finish the job. And that means destroying Pickaxe Mountain. I'm certain there are another couple of dozen facilities that probably ought to be destroyed, also. That's a military call, but people in the defense department, whatever. The point is, if you're going to do it, do it. You've already paid the political price. Get this thing done and get it off the front page and get it off our to-do list. They have basically until January 6th, because once Congress is in different people's hands, they're going to turn the money off. So if you're going to do it, you better do it right and you better do it fast and then be done with it. And step back and say, I never promised to do everything. I can't fix the whole world, but I protected Americans and our allies from the worst nuclear threat since the Soviet Empire.

Host: David Wheaton 31:55
I agree. I think Americans would understand that. You're right, the messaging could have been so much better. Just explaining what you did about Iran's threat to our country and our allies, even in Europe and Israel and so forth, is very understandable, but I think that messaging was not done very well. Joel, I want to combine about three or four questions into 1 here because it's on the topic of anti-Semitism. Surprisingly, when the attack on October 7th, 2023 happened, you would think the natural response of the world would be

sympathy toward Israel. And there was some of that for sure, but it really developed into widespread anti-Israel sentiment and protests and pro-Gaza, pro-Hamas, and first on college campuses, then in cities, and this is all over the world. Even just recently in America, I'm talking now from the left, in Philadelphia, there was a boycott ride targeting Jewish and Israeli-owned businesses on the eve of the Kristal Knocked anniversary. That's according to the Anti-Defamation League. And then we see in the election here, candidates like Abdu Al-Sayed, Zoran Mamdani, the mayor of New York, and actually many others, not just them, but those are the prominent ones, are winning political seats in this country and not even trying to hide their open anti-Israel sentiment.

But it's not just on the left, Joel. It's also on the right now here in America, with people like Tucker Carlson. hHs publishing company has just published a book, I'm sure you know about it, by former Knesset speaker, Avraham Berg, titled *Peace is The Only Final Solution for Jews*. I mean, using the term final solution and the Jews, hearkening back to what Hitler said, it's just unbelievable. And he and Tucker Carlson have been very influential and leading people. He's very close friends with J.D. Vance, our vice president, who, again, made those comments right after the election. He quoted a polster, he said, "Here are the four reasons that the pollster gave me as to why we lost the election. 1)People want the war ended. 2)Focus on the cost of living and inflation. 3)Put America first. And 4)Change our relationship to Israel. You could really say, Joel, that three of those four have to do with Israel. Ending the war, well, that has something to do with Israel. Putting America first, that has kind of something to do kind of implicitly with Israel. And of course, the fourth one on changing our relationship with Israel is explicitly about that. What do you make of the move around the world, as you said earlier in our conversation about the entire world sort of turning against Israel for sure from the left, and now even from the right as well, and even the Christian right, too. Best-selling author, journalist, and geopolitical analyst Joel Rosenberg will answer that question after this short break. Visit our website, TheChristianWorldview.org, to find links to Joel and his work and books. Final segment coming up.

Welcome back to the Christian worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit TheChristianWorldview.org where you can sign up for our weekly email, the Christian worldview Journal print publication, order resources for adults and children, and support the ministry. Our topic today is a view from Jerusalem on Israel, Iran, and prophecy. And our guest is Joel Rosenberg, best-selling author, journalist, and geopolitical analyst.

Host: David Wheaton 37:50
Joel, what do you make of the move around the world, as you said earlier in our conversation about the entire world sort of turning against Israel for sure from the left, and now even from the right as well, and even the Christian right, too.

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 38:07
So first, let me just say that my wife and I are coming out with a book early next year. We just finished it. It's called *Firestorm*. The subtitle is called *What's True and What Isn't in the War Against Israel, Jews, and the Christians That Love Them Both*. Why do we write this book? To answer all of those questions and everything else that you've asked with more detail and impeccably source and detailed endnotes and clear quotes and clear facts, everything we've talked about on this program and much more. Because even Christians who have

a healthy understanding of the Bible and a Christian worldview are becoming increasingly confused, either how to answer questions for their children and grandchildren, or as pastors for people in their congregation, or for people at school with their classmates or at work or in the community, in the neighborhood, whatever.

Like people are confused how to answer these questions, or they're generally confused themselves. Like maybe Israel is really as bad as Tucker Carlson is saying. Candace Owens calls Israel a demonic country. Tucker Carlson says Christians who love Israel and stand with Israel, they have a brain virus that we are heretics and that he hates us more than anybody else on the planet. The guy who has 17 million followers on Twitter or X, that's Goliath spewing a hate-filled message against Christians, not just against Israel and Jews, but Christians who have a biblical understanding of why we're supposed to love Israel, even when Israel is wrong on things. Look, Israel is not a perfect country, and God has told us nobody is a bigger critic of Israel than God. God who chose the Jews, gave the land to the Jews, but it had to kick us out multiple times because we wouldn't listen to Him.

The Bible is filled with our dirty laundry as a nation of Israel and as a Jewish people, but He doesn't hate us. And there's a difference between being a critic and being an enemy. The question or the allegation might sound the same coming from two different mouths, but a critic genuinely is bothered by Israel's actions on something, or they misunderstand, but maybe they genuinely understand and they're bothered. The critic wants it to get better. The enemy doesn't care what the answer is, they want Israel to literally and metaphorically burn in hell. So to take all that, the way to answer it is there's been this explosion of Jew hatred because we're at a time of history when God is letting Jew hatred explode. And the simplest way to understand Jew hatred, really, what's really going on, where does this really come from?

You have to have a Christian worldview because this is a spiritual battle. Let me make it super simple. John 10: 10. That's the verse. Now you think, John 10: 10: what does that have anything to do with anti-Semitism? Well, Jesus says in 1 sentence, He describes Satan as a thief, right? So Jesus says, the thief comes to rob, kill, and destroy. But I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. Now, who's speaking? This is Jesus speaking. Who's Jesus? Jesus is the Messiah, born in Israel as a Jewish Israelite. Okay, so He's saying to His own people, yes, He's speaking about the world, John 3.16 also, right? But He's saying, first and foremost, He's literally talking to the Jewish Israelites, and He's saying, I'm here to bring you life, a good life, healthy life, eternal life, abundant life. But there's somebody who hates you, and he wants to rob you, and he wants to kill you, and he wants to destroy you, and He's going to work with your enemies, and you need to stick with me.

Unfortunately, my team didn't really listen. John 1, He, the Messiah, came to His own, the Jews, Israel, but His own received Him not. So when you realize that Jesus and Satan are the exact opposites, they have polar opposite objectives. Satan is not the equal of Jesus. Of course. Jesus is God, Jesus is the Creator, Satan is not God, he was created. But when you understand their photographic negatives of each other, then you realize that everything that Jesus and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit want, Satan wants to rob, kill, and destroy. So just take it very simply. God says, I love the Jewish people and I want to bless you. Satan says, fine, I hate you and I want to kill you. God, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit says, Jewish people, I'm going to give you this land of Israel. Satan says, fine, I'm going to take it away. God says, I'm going to make

Jerusalem the city of peace. Satan says, fine, I'm going to make it the city of bloodshed. That is how to understand where Jew hatred comes from. It comes from Satan and anyone he can find to weaponize this hatred. It could be German, it can be Iranian, it could be alt-right, it could be Hassan, Piker or left. It Satan's fingerprints are on these things. So once you understand that, then you understand we're in a spiritual battle. You have to understand one more thing in your Christian worldview, and that is Genesis 12, where God says, I'm going to give these people a land, I'm going to bless them through Abraham and his descendants.

But just to be clear, I want to tell you one quick thing. Those who bless you, meaning the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, I'm going to bless. But anyone who tries to curse you, I'm going to curse. Now that gets played out and explained more throughout the Bible, but we need to understand that we need to have an unconditional love for Israel and the Jewish people. That doesn't mean we have to agree or accept everything that they say or do. But we need to have a love for them. Why? Because God loved them so much that He sent his own Messiah as a Jew into Israel, right? That's a lot of love. So when Tucker Carlson and Candace Owens just pick up two. Say they are Christians and hate the very people that Jesus came to love and die for. That's a problem. It's their problem. We've got to understand it and deal with it. But that's the world that we live in. And God is keeping score.

Host: David Wheaton 44:17
It's just a mass deception and delusion by Satan going on, whether you're on the left or the right. It's just hard to understand, but I think that's exactly what is taking place. Joel Rosenberg is our guest today here on The Christian worldview.

Final question for you Joel. It has to do with where you see things shaping up in the Middle East right now. Some of your books deal with biblical prophecy and so forth. When you look at the Middle East right now and what's been taking place, and even outside the Middle East, let's say with Turkey, I guess it's the Middle East, but like even Russia, China, could you give us an indication of how you see the Middle East and what's going on in Israel right now? And then perhaps just and with a final exhortation to Christians here in the United States as to how we should be thinking and living in these times?

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 45:07
I would just say this. I think overall, Israel has not been in a more secure, safe environment with regard to our enemies in my entire lifetime. And like I said, I'm about to turn 60 next April. So 60 years ago was the 1967 war, where Israel was much smaller, much poorer, much less well defended, and the entire Arab world was coming to say, we're going to annihilate you, we're going to throw you Jews in the sea and kill you all and take over your country. And when our prime minister at that time, Levi Eshkol, turned to U.S. President Lyndon Johnson and said, I need help. Lyndon John said, I'm not helping you. In fact, if you attack your enemies first, I'm going to cut you off. That's a dangerous place to be.

Now, Israel did it anyway, and we preemptively struck just days before the Arabs were coming to get us, and we won in six days, and on the seventh day we rested. It was biblical, it was miraculous. And everyone said around the world, especially Christians, said, God is actually with these people. They're not perfect, they don't know Jesus yet, but He's with them. Israel is literally prophecy coming true before our eyes. And these

were mostly tens of millions of Christians who didn't believe much in Bible prophecy, but they're like, I think we need to rethink that. So we should stand with Israel, love them, and maybe even tell them the good news that Jesus loves them too. Good, good. And that's where Jews started coming to faith in Jesus because Christians started telling us, okay. So Israel is more secure today than ever before. It is messy, it's not 100%, but it's better than ever. But the world hates us. Therefore, the Christians shouldn't hate us. Literally, God is watching and He's saying, Step up and love my people. You don't have to love everything they do, but you don't love everything that the communist Chinese do either. You're reaching China with the gospel, you're reaching India with the gospel. Yes, they're Hindus or they're communists or they're atheists, but that doesn't stop you from loving them with the good news of the gospel. Why are you so hostile to the Jews? They make mistakes, but I love them and you should too. That should be our Christian worldview.

And in this book, *Firestorm*, we spent a lot of time answering the geopolitical questions, but we spent a lot of time on scripture from Genesis through Revelation. We also walk through church fathers. What did they say? And that they didn't all get it, but many did. So all that to say, I believe there's two things we need to do now. Well, obviously, three, really quickly. One, we need to re-understand and re-look at the scriptures to say, God, what is your Word telling me to do and feel and think towards Israel and the Jewish people? I mean, there's no other people that describe more in detail God's love and plan for us than Israel and the Jewish people. So let's re-look at it, everybody, and say, what is your view? Not what's Tucker's, not what Trump's view is. Lord, what is your view? Tell us He does. So that's the first thing.

The second thing is I would encourage people to come. And David, I would encourage you to come. Our ministry is called the Joshua Fund. We're 20 years old. We've invested $130 million by God's mercy into strengthening the church here in Israel and educating the church worldwide about God's heart, not just for Israel, but also for the Palestinians and everybody else in the region. We are a both and ministry. And I think that should be our heart too. And we've got a tour in the spring, starting March 29th, and we've got an epicenter summit. The president of Israel is going to speak, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee is going to speak, but also wonderful Bible teachers and pastors, and Greg Lori, Jack Graham, Skip Heitzig, Billy Graham of Iran, or Mo Shariat has just agreed to speak. I'll be speaking, my wife will be speaking, and there'll be others who will announce. So the best thing to do, aside from just standing with Israel, is stand in Israel. Come, come see it. We're going to introduce you to Messianic Jewish Israeli pastors and Palestinian Arab pastors. You're going to see the land, you're going to hear the u the history, but you're going to meet the believers and hear from their perspective. So that'd be the second thing.

One, look at the scriptures. Second, come, come and see. That's what Jesus said.

And the third thing is I do think pre-ordering this book, *Firestorm*, it's designed to be a resource. It's not only chock full of facts and figures and details and arguments on all the hot button, most salacious, difficult issues theologically and geopolitically, but we've also worked very hard, my wife and I, to write it in truth, but also in love, that the tone isn't so off-putting to people who are skeptics, who are critics. We take the criticism seriously. We don't say, you're a critic, well, just read your Bible and enough already. No. People need to hear their questions answered fairly and seriously and taken seriously. And that's what *Firestorm* is. I mean, the topic is provocative, I get that, but we're trying not to be extra provocative, but to share the truth and

gentleness, which is what the scriptures tell us to do. Don't try to go pick a fight, especially on the most controversial issues of the day.

Host: David Wheaton 50:06
I think it's a book right for the time we're living in right now, because as you mentioned, all the questions I've been asking you today are dealt with because they're on people's minds. So I'm very thankful you wrote it. We're looking forward to seeing it. I'll say this as well. My 13-year-old son, Joel, has been hooked on your other books, which He's been kind of going through one after another, is coming into the house. So we're very much looking forward to that. I will also say that I traveled a lot when I was younger back in my professional tennis days, and the most interesting place I ever visited by far was Israel. So I'd love to have the opportunity to come back there, and I'm sure many listeners who've been there who maybe desire to go there would agree with me on that. But thank you for spending so much time with us today. We're so grateful for the work you are doing in Israel, but also for the gospel of Jesus Christ as well. So we just wish all of God's best and grace to you and Lynn and your family, and thank you again for coming on the program today.

Guest: Joel Rosenberg 51:07
It's an honor, David. Thank you. It's good to be back.

Host: David Wheaton 51:10
Again, Joel Rosenberg has been our guest today. You can find links to him and his upcoming book titled Firestorm, along with information on their spring tour of Israel, an epicenter conference in Jerusalem at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org. If you missed any of the program, you can hear a replay at our website or contact your local radio station to see if they air the program at other times. You can also open the podcast app on your phone and search for the Christian worldview with my name David Wheaton to subscribe to the program for free. There is a whole lot going on in the world, and when it involves Israel, the people God chose, loves, and will redeem someday, despite their rebellion in the past and present, the people through whom he revealed the law, the prophets, and the Messiah, we need to be paying attention and be a blessing to them and proclaimers of the only gospel that can save them.

The Bible says God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be. He won't reject you either if you have repented of your sin and placed your faith in Christ for your salvation. One final update that the digital version of the winter issue of the Christian worldview journal has been sent, so check your email inbox. The print version has shipped as well and should arrive soon. Whether you read the digital or print version, be sure to do the Thanksgiving devotional with your family. Next weekend's program is a Thanksgiving special as well. 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. The mission of the Christian worldview is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope today's broadcast encouraged you toward that and.

To hear a replay of today's program, order a transcript, or find out what must I do to be saved, go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call toll-free 888-646-2233. The Christian worldview is a listener-supported, nonprofit radio ministry furnished by the Overcomer Foundation. To make a donation, order resources,

become a Christian worldview partner, sign up for our weekly email, or the Christian worldview Journal print publication, or to contact us, go to TheChristianWorldview.org, call 888 646 2233, or write to P.O.Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. Thanks for listening to the Christian worldview.

The winter issue of *The Christian Worldview Journal* features a compelling article by Michael Clary about how pastors should be informing congregants about issues in the public square. And Todd Friel writes about pursuing all of life to the glory of God. There is also a devotional for your family to do on Thanksgiving and Christmas. *The Christian Worldview Journal* is a print and digital publication designed to sharpen your biblical worldview on current events and issues of the faith. There is also a resource catalog for adults and children that make for meaningful Christmas gifts. The *Journal* is sent to Christian Worldview Partners as a thank you for their support. Plus, we are offering the winter issue complimentary to first-time requests. To become a Christian Worldview Partner or request your free issue, go to The ChristianWorldview.org or call 888-646-2233 or write to P.O.Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

Recommended Resource: Manger in Danger
"We didn't want our kids doing all these secular games like Elf on the Shelf. We really wanted to put Christ front and center at Christmas, and they actually engineered a wooden manger that's small enough to hide. And then I wrote a family devotional with 25 devotions for every day in December leading up to Christmas, including Christmas Day, that you can do in about seven minutes. And the devotions are just loaded with the deity of Christ and the gospel."

That was Pastor Grant Castleberry describing *Manger in Danger,* a 25-day devotional for families with children ages 4 through 12. The devotional begins December 1st, and you can receive it for a donation of $30 or more to TheChristianWorldview.

To order, go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call 888-646-2233 or write to P.O.Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota, 55331. Welcome back to the Christian worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit TheChristianWorldview.org where you can sign up for our weekly email, request *The Christian Worldview Journal* print publication, order resources for adults and children, and support the ministry.

Recommended Resource: *My Boy, Ben* by host, David Wheaton
For a limited time, we are offering My Boy, Ben for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. The book is the true story of a yellow lab that I had back when I was competing on the professional tennis tour. It's about relationships with Ben, my parents, with the childhood friend I would eventually marry, but ultimately with God, who causes all things, even the hard things, to work together for good.

You can order a signed and personalized copy for yourself or for your friend who enjoys a good story, loves dogs, sports, or the outdoors, and most of all, needs to hear about God's grace and the gospel. My Boy, Ben is owned by the Christian worldview. It's 264 pages, hardcover, and retails for $24.95. To order, go to The ChristianWorldview.org, call 888-646-2233 or write to P.O.Box 401-Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.