



# Pray for Israel.....

*"...whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head"* Ezek.33:4.

*'O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" and You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me...'* Habakkuk 1:2-3

## The Watchman's Prayer Letter

March 2010

### A Skewed Moral Perspective

*'But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness... Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.'* Isaiah 5:16-21

Attacks, verbal or physically violent, on Jewish people inside and outside of Israel are quite common place. However, three recently reported, unconnected issues lend a particular emphasis to these verses from the prophet Isaiah.

**After a recent police action in Biblical Samaria**, reported by *Arutz Sheva* on Feb 7, a resident of the area, **Yehuda Shimon**, commented: *"We feel as if we're living in some kind of movie, with no basis in normal reality. We have had houses burnt down – two on Rosh HaShanah – and horses stolen, two women were stoned as they were walking here, a car was burnt – and all our complaints to the police are dismissed without any investigation. In the case of the houses, three Arabs were arrested and released, and that was the end of it. Yet here, on a five-week old charge by one man, they go to this extreme to investigate us. There is clearly a policy from somewhere in the higher echelons to persecute the Jews of this area."* Where are the voices of indignation protesting against these injustices? If these actions had been perpetrated by Jews against Arab squatters in Jerusalem, most likely the world's media would be breathing fire upon Israel...

**Then we add this report...** Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon (J.P. 16/2/10) faced serious opposition during an incident at Oxford University on Monday, February 8, where he had been invited to speak. During his address **a British protestor carrying a Palestinian flag kept yelling, "slaughter the Jews."** Other students shouted, both inside and outside the hall, *'Palestine will be free, from the river to the sea'*, which Ayalon said, *"effectively calls for the destruction of the State of Israel."*

After the event several students attempted to physically assault the Deputy Foreign Minister but were prevented from doing so by security.

### **And this one...**

**Muslim protestors** last Monday night, Feb 8, heckled guest lecturer Michael Oren, Israeli Ambassador to the United States, several times and at one point stopped him from speaking for 20 minutes. The raucous protest succeeded in preventing a question-and-answer session following Oren's speech on American-Israeli relations. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w96UR79TBw>

"UC Irvine's Fall/Winter 2009 Alumni Magazine recently reported that the Alumni Association awarded a scholarship to a student who *'is involved with the Alkalima Magazine, the magazine of the Muslim Student Union.'* Alkalima **has published anti-Semitic and Israel-bashing articles**, including one which asserted that *'Jews are genetically different from everyone else'*.

In the above we have three unconnected reports: 1) strong anti-nationalistic sentiments toward the so-called 'Settlement Movement' in Israel, 2) pro-Palestinian/anti-Israel sentiments at England's premier University, and 3) open and blatant support by a major American University for anti-Jewish 'hate' propaganda. The events, which spawned these reports, are symptomatic of an underlying evil supported by countless factors embedded in religious and social traditions. How difficult is it to recognize the same mindless anti-Jewish hate propaganda of the Nazi era in Germany in them? But how is this possible, unless the peace-loving, silent majority also turns a blind eye and does nothing!

May we commend these issues to you, to disseminate them and to encourage your churches and people everywhere to be vigilant Watchmen on Israel's social, spiritual and political perimeters. Irrespective of what drives people to act in the way they do toward Israel, Christians who consider themselves to be a graft onto the Olive Tree, need to rise up and be counted in relation to Israel. As Isaiah proclaims, *'But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness ...'* (5:16).

### **Strategic Prayer Points:**

- ❖ Please pray for the courageous pioneers of Judea and Samaria who are seeking to reclaim the Biblical Homeland of the Jewish people against often overwhelming odds.
- ❖ Please pray especially for the Universities mentioned here and their Jewish student populations, as well as higher learning institutions everywhere, that understanding of the Jewish people and Israel may be taught correctly.
- ❖ Please pray for an awakening in Christian Institutions concerning God's purposes for Israel
- ❖ Pray for Israel's Prime Minister that he would – increasingly – seek God's wisdom as he leads his nation.
- ❖ Pray for Ehud Barak, Israel's Minister for Defense, that God would soften his heart toward his own people– to seek their good according to the Scriptures

## Supporting Eretz Israel

Why should a Christian be supportive of Israel in every way?

There is a very simple answer to this question without being simplistic: **Because God Himself has made them His nation** (Isaiah 51:4; c/f. Joel 3:2)! Unlike many Christian teachers, who insist that God has finished with Israel by replacing her with the church, the Bible insists that the opposite is true.

The Apostle Paul admonished the Roman Church (and all his readers by extension) to be transformed by a renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2). It is a renewal of mind and heart that is needed in the Christian world, concerning Israel, to recognize the damage done to the message of the Bible through Greek (Hellenism) and Latin philosophies.

As the prophet Jeremiah declares, *‘Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar— the LORD of hosts is His name: “If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.” Thus says the LORD: “If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the LORD.”’* Jeremiah 31:35-37

Is there a valid reason, why Bible believing Christians ought NOT take a stand on those biblical texts, that concern the restoration of Israel? Or do we only invoke the veracity of the Bible when we look for healing, wealth or benefit us personally? The Christian world holds the key to the recognition of Israel as the revived People of God— according to Ezekiel 37. Although the Nazi Holocaust was a catastrophe in human terms, it is also akin to the opening of a 2000 year old grave and their resurrection as a nation from the dead.

### Strategic Prayer Points:

- Please pray that a renewal of minds and hearts may come from on high across the church concerning Israel.
- Please pray that an awakening may come concerning the errors of a rampant Replacement Theology throughout the Christian domains.
- Please pray that the Spirit of God may sweep away spiritual lethargy and indifference in Christians where Israel is concerned.
- Pray fervently that God may strengthen all who have stood with Israel and may find themselves battle weary

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## Does the Church need to repent over Israel?

In recent years more and more voices are being heard around the world that something is not right in the church's position toward Israel. A harsh reality is that the Christian world has been fed for nearly two thousand years, and still is to this day, by a Latinized, Hellenistic message from Rome – disconnected from its Hebrew source. How should we deal Scripture that clearly teaches that the Torah (God's Instructions) shall go forth from Zion and the Word of YHWH **from Jerusalem**, but ask God's forgiveness for ignoring it?

This separation, also known as Replacement Theology, has effectively blocked Christians from the treasures of the Hebrew Bible and a clear understanding of the redemptive purposes of God for His ancient people. This evil theology has prevented the Jewish people and followers of Yeshua and the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob from forming the new humanity the Son of God came to create (Ephesians 2:11-18)

The church needs to repent – not only in word – but by effectively seeking wisdom (in consultation with Jewish people) on how we Gentiles can effectively stand with Israel; bearing in mind the prophecy of Zechariah 8:23.

**The missing ingredient** to any repentant action toward Israel by the church, is to admit that **GOD IS INDEED WITH HIS ANCIENT PEOPLE** and that they have not been replaced by the church!

### Strategic Prayer Points:

- ❖ Pray fervently that the CFI leadership would be anointed for this mission of repentance and reconciliation; may God bless them with wisdom and discernment.
- ❖ Please pray that CFI will become an effective instrument in the days ahead in leading the Christian world toward a fresh, healthy and vibrant relationship with Israel
- ❖ Please pray that the Spirit of God would bestow anointed teaching gifts concerning Israel on His people in strategic places in the earth

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In Messiah

*Frank & Karen Selch*

