

*I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. (Genesis 12:31)*

## **I Also Stand With Israel**

God does not revoke His promises (unlike people), and the one listed in the passage of Scripture above is one of them. This particular one is made to His friend, the patriarch Abraham. Later, after the birth of Abraham's second son Isaac, it would be refined with the declaration, *it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned* (Genesis 21:12) and again through his grandson Jacob/Israel. The descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have had God's eye and hand upon them throughout their history; sometimes to guide, sometimes to chastise, but always to bless. And because through this line would come the Messiah, the Lord Yeshua (we know Him better as Jesus), the blessing of Abraham is now extended to Jew and Gentile alike as the way is open through the sacrifice of Jesus to offer God's Salvation to all the world.

So, is this any way to repay them? There is a vote scheduled for next month in the United Nations General Assembly that would unilaterally declare a state to exist for the Palestinians. There's nothing necessarily wrong with that, except for one thing; the U.N. and the Palestinians apparently want to take the state from Israel's territory, and divide the city of Jerusalem (with the eastern half of the city – including the Temple Mount and the Holy Sites – as its capital). In an article from The New York Times from April 2 of this year (*In Israel, Time for Peace Offer May Run Out*), the Palestinian Authority declares the point of the resolution is to place Israel in a diplomatic vise and attempt to isolate it from the rest of the world community unless it agrees to their demands. In addition, the President of the United States has stated that any peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians needs to start with a return to the 1967 borders of Israel, which would cut Israel's territory further, below the point where her leaders say they can mount an adequate defense against attacking enemies – of which the nation has legion.

Now, we can argue back-and-forth about Israeli-Palestinian relations, and how the government of Israel has handled the situation through political means. However, as I've said before, politics is a human construct and is imperfect. In that regard, to quote columnist Tom Wicker, the Israeli government is – like any earthly government – as fallible as any other collection of mortals. The United States government certainly is not perfect; we, too, have made decisions and held policies in our past that we now find embarrassing. Yet never in recent history has any nation be asked to give up territory in order to preserve peace, except in the years leading up to World War II when Nazi Germany made such demands... and look how well *that* worked.

Israel, however, is different in that there is more to her than mere politics. God created this nation from the seed of a man 99 years of age and his wife, who was said to be barren, of 90. The direct intervention of the Holy One (blessed be He) has been on Israel since her birth. And, because of the promise made by God as referenced in the passage above, nations have risen and fallen over their treatment of the descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Some modern Bible teachers have speculated that America has enjoyed its status as world leader because it has opened its doors to the Jewish people since its founding (while others were persecuting the Jews) and helped give birth to the modern nation of Israel by being the first to recognize it in 1948. And despite a culture in

this country that is increasingly turning away from God, we are experiencing only *selective* judgment by God partly because we still defend and support Israel.

All this makes the recent actions of our government toward Israel something that gives me pause. God Himself will defend the people of His covenant regardless of what the nations do, but what will become of those nations that set themselves to make Israel even smaller than it is now, surrounded by hostile neighbors? In the Book of Joel, God says,

*I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land. (Joel 3:2)*

How will America act on this pending vote in the United Nations? Will it try to block the vote by its veto power in the Security Council? Will it try to further press Israel to give up land for promises of peace her enemies have yet to make good on? Will it stand with Israel or join the rest of the nations against her, potentially bringing further judgment upon America – and ourselves?

What does this have to do with believers? A great deal, because even though because of Jesus' sacrifice we who have accepted Jesus are accepted by God, we must remember that we are grafted into the vine that once was exclusively Jewish. The "time of the Gentiles" Jesus spoke of in the Olivet Discourse is coming to an end, and God is pouring more of his blessings on the Jewish people as the stage is set for the End Times. The idea of "replacement theology" – that because the Jewish people rejected Jesus, that God's promises to them have been taken away and given to the Church – is error, pure and simple. I believe there is one more Great Awakening in the pipeline before the those times come, and God is bringing Jew and Gentile together to connect the Body of Christ (the Church) to its Head, which is Jesus. We have the choice of either surrendering to God and submitting to this process or missing out on what He is doing in these last days. And once those days are finished, and Jesus reigns on Earth for a thousand years, he will do so from Jerusalem; not only will Israel not be destroyed, but her best days are yet to come.

We who are believers in America (where political power is designed to come from the people) must stand up and be counted for God and be the salt and light Jesus spoke of in the Sermon on the Mount for this nation. Standing by God's people in Israel is one of the ways we can do this, reminding our political leaders that this is not so much in Israel's best interest – for God will send deliverance regardless of what is planned against her; read the Book of Esther to see how this went down once before – but our own. America stands or falls based on how she permits herself to be used by God, and this includes not just her own actions and policies toward the things of the Lord, but in her relations with other countries.

If you haven't yet gotten the point, then let me be blunt:

*I also stand with Israel.*