

Kamala Harris Distorts Bible Verse for Political Gain

Vice President Kamala Harris managed to send a video greeting to a Christian conference quoting Scripture out of context about Jesus Christ, and then didn't even bother to mention His name.

In the message to the Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church taking place in Columbus, Ohio, last week, Harris said, "We are just 10 weeks out from the election, and I know you are already hard at work... organizing souls to the polls, making sure your members are registered and ready to vote.

"Because as we all know, this is the most consequential election of our lifetime. We face a choice between two very different visions for the future of our nation," she added.

The Democratic presidential nominee laid out her vision, which involves using the power of the federal government to facilitate home ownership and ensure "affordable" health care and child care, and end childhood poverty.

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It all sounds pretty expensive for a government already running multi-trillion dollar deficits. Harris wants to raise taxes on businesses and high income individuals to, in theory, pay for plans, but the nation must first dig out of the \$2 trillion annual deficit hole created during the Biden-Harris administration.

And keep in mind, raising taxes on job creators tends to hurt economic growth and therefore federal revenue. A higher tax rate does not mean a higher tax revenue if the economy is not

growing and new jobs aren't being created.

Making matters even more aggravating, after calling for further growth of the bloated federal government, Harris used a Bible passage, taken out of context, to try to justify it.

"As the Gospel of Luke tells us, faith has the power to 'shine a light on those living in darkness' and to 'guide our feet in the path of peace,'" she said.

"In moments such as this, faith guides us forward. Faith in the promise of America: freedom, opportunity and justice. Not for some, but for all," Harris added.

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The verse she quoted from, Luke 1:79 in the New International Version apparently, does not say faith has the power to shine a light on those living in darkness and lead them into peace. Only Jesus Christ does.

The context in Luke, chapter one, is the priest Zechariah prophesying about his son John the Baptist, whom he foresaw would grow up to preach about Jesus.

"And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace," Zechariah said.

So Harris is preaching the gospel of salvation through government, trying to use a Bible passage about Jesus Christ to do it. That certainly feels sacrilegious.

The rest just sounds communistic: Faith in government to

fulfill the supposed “promise of America” to provide equal material outcomes (housing, healthcare and the rest), with no mention of God.

Harris would do better to not quote Scripture at all, rather than try to make it say something it does not.

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Dallas Jenkins Reveals Plans for ‘The Chosen’

Dallas Jenkins, the creator of “The Chosen,” recently shared exciting news about the show’s expansion and plans in an exclusive interview with Charisma Media. As the series continues to captivate audiences with its unique portrayal of the life of Jesus and His disciples, Jenkins expressed his enthusiasm for its growing success on national television.

The show’s move to the CW network brought “The Chosen” to a wider audience, many of whom may not have previously encountered the series. “It’s really exciting ... seeing the show on the CW last year,” Jenkins said. “They did seasons one through three, and the ratings actually improved as the seasons went on, which was shocking to me.” Despite the show’s availability on multiple streaming platforms, Jenkins was pleasantly surprised to see a dedicated viewership tuning in to watch the episodes on the CW network.

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Jenkins emphasized the show's mission to remain transparent with its audience, especially as "The Chosen" relies heavily on donations. "From the beginning, we said we're going to pull back the curtain, and you're going to be part of the process," he explained. "We do survive because of your donations; we have an obligation to let them know where their money is going." This commitment to transparency extends to the creative choices made in the series, particularly regarding the depiction of biblical events from a fictional standpoint.

Addressing the show's approach to storytelling, Jenkins acknowledged that "The Chosen" often takes creative liberties while striving to remain true to the essence of the Bible. "I think there are people, of course, who would disagree with some of our choices over the years," Jenkins noted. "But I think overall, I feel very proud and confident that we have accurately captured the character of Jesus in the Gospels and the character of God." He stressed that while the show may not always present factual details, it aims to convey "capital T truthful" messages consistent with biblical truths.

Jenkins also highlighted the unique relationship between the show and its audience, particularly through interactive events. "We had ... 4,000 people in one day," Jenkins recalled, referring to scenes filmed with audience participation. "It was a really beautiful experience." Looking ahead, Jenkins revealed plans for future seasons, including scenes that will again invite fans to become part of the storytelling. "Season six is going to require that again ... because it's the crucifixion season," he said.

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With season four having just premiered on the CW Sunday, Sept. 1, Jenkins encourages viewers to tune in and spread the word. "Even if you've seen the season, it's good to just turn on the TV to that channel ... because numbers are what allow these networks and streamers to keep the show there," Jenkins said. "When they see the success of it, it helps, and it does make a difference."

For Jenkins, maintaining a strong connection with viewers remains a top priority. "We want you to feel like you're a part of this," he shared. As "The Chosen" continues to expand its reach, Jenkins is committed to ensuring that the show not only entertains but also resonates deeply with audiences.

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'Collapse of Christianity' to Blame for Downfall of America

A recent report from the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University explains the "shocking" level of "depravity" in American society, describing the failures of Christians to maintain a biblical worldview.

"Corrupt politicians, dishonest journalists and media outlets, broken social institutions, immoral religious leaders, unconstitutional government programs and policies, and more, have generated non-stop headlines highlighting the decadence of American society and the demise of the United States," the report says.

The report asserts that the “indisputable cultural decline” is directly linked to the “spiritual collapse of Christianity in the nation.”

In the last 30 years, the report describes, evangelical Christians have undergone a “dramatic transformation” in the United States. “In reality, evangelicals are far fewer in number than typically reported, often are far less biblical in their thinking than one might think, and tend to vote in far fewer numbers than expected,” it says.

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While evangelical Christians are generally a conservative voting bloc, the group tends to reflect “fewer lifestyle differences from the culture than often thought.

“Surprisingly, most evangelicals do not possess a biblical worldview—only about one-third do,” the report notes. “In fact, the data strongly suggests that evangelicals are more likely to be shaped by the culture around them than they are to influence or ‘evangelize’ it.”

While some surveys report evangelical Christians making up anywhere between 25% to 40% of American adults, only about 10% of American adults are likely evangelical Christians.

About 30% of identifying evangelicals believe truth is subjective. As the report explains, beliefs about “absolute moral truth” are “pivotal” for any society. That evangelicals disagree on moral truth is a “matter of grave concern,” the report emphasizes.

“[A]lmost half of the adults attending evangelical churches (44%) believe that there is no absolute moral truth that is pertinent to everyone in all situations,” the report continues. “It is even more dire among the nonevangelical public: Just one out of every four people (24%) in that vast

population reject the idea that moral truth is always subjective and conditional.”

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“[M]illions of evangelicals do not vote (a practice of every good citizen and those seeking to serve their community); believe the animist and Eastern mystical perspective that that animals, plants, the wind and water have unique spirits; do not pay much, if any, attention to news about politics and government that affects their lives; and who read the Bible on occasion, but not on a daily basis, even though the Bible encourages us to immerse ourselves in God’s words to us,” the report adds.

Christians also have a responsibility to be politically engaged, the report notes. Evangelicals have unfortunately failed in that area, however.

Only one-third of evangelical Christians are “very likely to vote in the 2024 general election.” One out of every five “prefers socialism to capitalism.”

George Barna, the Director of Research at the Cultural Research Center of Arizona Christian University, said the “entire faith matrix of America is frighteningly complex.”

“How many people realize that a substantial majority of all non-evangelicals in this country (62%) are self-identified Christians?” Barna asked. “That means most of the people who describe and think of themselves as Christians either do not embrace Jesus as their Savior, or the Bible as God’s true and relevant Word for their life, or the responsibility of sharing the opportunity to be saved from sin by Jesus. In fact, the largest share of that group rejects all three of those evangelical—and biblical—standards!”

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Gunman Targets Greg Locke's Home in Shocking Attack

Pastor Greg Locke and his family were the targets of a gunman late on Tuesday night, Sept. 3.

Locke gave the update on Facebook to let people know that he and his family were safe and unharmed, by God's miraculous grace.

"It's 2:00 a.m. and for the last three hours our home has been a full-blown crime scene," Locke writes. "According to the security cam footage, we pulled into our driveway exactly ONE MINUTE after a madman unloaded an entire magazine of bullets from an automatic weapon into our house, garage and my truck. The sound on the video is truly horrific. Detectives will still be here for a good while tonight."

Locke says one of his children was at home when the shooting took place, but thankfully they were in a different part of the house.

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"Only one of our kids was home and thank God not in the same

area of the house. As you can see in the last pics, one of the bullets cut through the headboard of our youngest daughter's bed and lodged in her pillow."

Following the incident, Locke and his family were taken by security escort to a safe location.

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"We are all being security escorted to a hotel tonight. We have no further details. The only detail that matters is that Psalm 91 is true and GOD PROTECTED US IN UNIMAGINABLE AND SUPERNATURAL WAYS. Please pray for the Locke family tonight. We love all of you."

Just yesterday, Locke's latest book, "The Generosity Journey," was released, falling on the one-year anniversary of Global Vision Bible Church's National Deliverance Training Conference, where many miracles, signs and wonders took place and are still reported today.



To order your copy of Greg Locke's "The Generosity Journey," visit .

At this sensitive time, we ask that you keep Pastor Locke and his family covered in prayer. It is clear the enemy is trying anything to disrupt Locke and his ministry from the work of setting people free for the glory and gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.

Morning Rundown: Joyner's Frustration Over Chris Reed's Abrupt Resignation

Here's a quick rundown of the top stories on :

Joyner's Frustration Over Chris Reed's Abrupt Resignation

After the surprise departure of Chris Reed from MorningStar Ministries last week, MorningStar's founder, Rick Joyner, spoke to the congregation on Sunday, Sept. 1 about Reed's resignation.

While Joyner says he was "shocked" but not "surprised," he says it is the way that Chris left suddenly which he found most concerning.

"I did not feel that there was a shepherd's heart revealed," Joyner says. "A shepherd lays down their life for the sheep and certainly has regard for them. I didn't feel like there was regard for me, for our board, any of this stuff that we had entrusted a lot to him. And I don't think to just quit like that is what we ever need to do with anyone, with no notice."

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Has the Pathway to the Mark of the Beast Been Found?

In a recent interview with Charisma Media, Pastor Billy Crone delved into the alarming rise of global movements that he believes are paving the way for the end times as described in the book of Revelation. Crone specifically highlights the

World Economic Forum and its founder, Klaus Schwab, as key players in what has become known as the “Great Reset,” a global agenda that Crone argues aligns with biblical prophecy.

Crone explains that his research into recent world events, beginning with the global reaction to the pandemic and resulting crises in 2020, led him to Schwab and the WEF.

“This can’t be by chance,” Crone says. He linked Schwab’s vision, which aims to reshape global governance and economics by 2030, to a broader, darker agenda: “What I discovered was Klaus Schwab is basically taking the Third Reich agenda that Hitler wanted to bring to the world... and now Klaus has picked up the baton, and he’s bringing it to the whole planet.”

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Jack Hibbs: Deception Surrounds This Major End-Times Issue

In a recent podcast episode, Pastor Jack Hibbs highlights one of the most pressing issues of our time, calling for unwavering support for Israel and cautioned against the misinformation being spread by commentators lacking the proper expertise. Emphasizing the nation’s unique role in biblical prophecy, Hibbs challenges the narratives critical of Israel and argues that such positions often stem from a lack of understanding.

Hibbs criticized many conservative commentators for stepping outside their areas of expertise to spread lies and conspiracies about Israel. “Just because you’re famous or just because you have a microphone doesn’t mean that you’re qualified to speak about what’s going on with Israel,” he says, asserting that only those who have studied the topic deeply should weigh in on the matter.

He accused media outlets and influencers of manipulating

public perception by sharing outdated or staged footage. “Be careful who you’re listening to,” Hibbs warns, “because God is going to, and He’s about to refocus His attention on Israel.” He claims that various media outlets use “old footage from things where there’s an earthquake and there’s been devastation” to mislead viewers about Israel’s military actions. According to Hibbs, these tactics are intended to frame Israel negatively.

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Jack Hayford: 8 Biblical Reasons to Stand With Israel

Aside from the hustling crowds and rush-hour traffic jams that define any international metropolis, Jerusalem astounds most of its tourists with how peaceful the city truly is. While the global media assaults readers with reports of nearby suicide bombings and young zealots throwing rocks across Jewish-Palestinian borders, those who live in Israel’s capital city know a different story, a different reality. Theirs is one of surprising peace in a nation whose very existence symbolizes the dichotomy of “possessing the land” amid neighbors—both immediate and far away—who would rather see them dead.

To find the violent, conflict-filled story most incorrectly think is Israel’s narrative, all you have to do is drive two or three hours toward virtually any nation surrounding the Holy Land today. Because although the West heralded the Arab Spring [Dec. 17, 2010] as the dawning of democracy in nations ruled by tyrannous dictators, the fruit of these ongoing

political uprisings has been anything but freedom and stability. For Israel, it's simply increased the shared nightmare most Jews live with each day: that they are staring down the barrel of a gun, no matter which direction they turn.

In Iran, antisemitic rhetoric flows from the mouths of its top leaders—whether current “moderate” President Hasan Rouhani, ousted madman Mahmoud Ahmadinejad or Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei—as they openly declare Israel to be a “cancerous tumor in the heart of the Islamic world” that “must be cleansed.” Who can forget Ahmadinejad’s defiant vow to the United Nations’ General Assembly in September 2012 that Israel would be “eliminated”?

In Egypt and Iraq, the ongoing instability and influence of the Muslim Brotherhood—yes, even after former Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi’s ousting—have propelled Salafist jihadist military campaigns, which are also bent on Israel’s total destruction, like never before.

Meanwhile, the rise of other extremist Islamic forces in Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Libya and Yemen merely strengthens what has become a resounding cry to see Israel wiped off the map. And among the few neighboring countries with whom Israel had established peace treaties—namely, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey—these relations have been frayed to a thread.

As Christians, we have a different script to follow—one in which we know who will return to reign physically over this global focal point that has been dominated with strife and violence since the days of Abraham. Why, then, should believers be so concerned over such a tiny speck of land? What does it really matter?

Why Israel Matters So Much

I am convinced one of Satan’s greatest tools that keeps the Western church in the dark concerning God’s end-time plan for

our world is to minimize or negate the role Israel plays today. Tragically, rather than stand up for those whom God has called His people (Joel 2:18, 3:2; Jer. 50:6-7), we'd prefer to argue over the differences between supporting Israel as a state versus supporting the Jewish people.

Some within the church disregard Israel's crisis in favor of the Palestinian plight (whom they argue have equal rights as "sons of Abraham"), while others have gone so far as to adopt a replacement theology perspective that believes the church, through Jesus Christ, has replaced Israel when it comes God's purpose, plan and promises.

All of these viewpoints are not only misguided, but they also come at the expense of Israel at a time when the church is called to be her strongest ally amid an emergence of nations possessing a demonically driven desire to see the Jewish people eradicated.

Given this, let's get a few foundational things straight.

Israel is a land about which God says uniquely, prophetically, redemptively and repeatedly in the Bible, "This is Mine" (Gen. 35:10-15, Joel 1:6, Zech. 2:5-7).

God refers to Israel as He does to no other land on earth. Israel was raised up to be a light to the Gentiles.

Perhaps the most pointed statement regarding the importance of the Jews is from the lips of our Lord and Savior Himself. In His conversation with the Samaritan woman, recorded in John 4:1-26, Jesus is very definitive: "salvation is of the Jews" (v. 22b). With these words He categorically points to the pathway by which the entirety of God's program of redemption was brought to earth and now is present in His person.

Further, the church at its inception was virtually entirely Jewish, and it remained so until the gospel began to spread. Ultimately the gospel spread to Antioch, where the first

Gentile congregation began and the base from which the gospel spread into all the world.

In Romans 9-11, the apostle Paul deals specifically with the question of the Jews' role in God's providence and purpose.

Within the whole of the Bible, these three chapters virtually stand alone as an elaboration of the theology of God's dealing with Jews.

The Jews were the "firstfruit"—the "first people" (through Abraham) to understand a covenant God. They then relayed the riches of that truth to the world, and through their agency, the Messiah came into the world.

The Word of God calls Jews the "root" and Gentiles the "branches" (Rom. 11:16-27). We're reminded that while "They were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand by faith," we are not to become haughty but to fear: "For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either" (vv. 20-21, MEV). When the fullness of the Gentiles is completed, "all Israel will be saved" (v. 26a)—that is, the present Church Age.

So why stand with Israel today?

8 Reasons to Stand With Israel

We are living in a sobering moment in history that calls us, as believers in Jesus Christ, to take a stand with Israel. Given that we live in a miraculous era that has seen the Jewish people regain political control of their own land, which they were without for more than 2,300 years, and once again become an official nation, we could be people of the last hour. Yet we are not to be passive in the face of prophecy; we are called to pray with passion, to intercede and to minister according to the words of the Savior who said it is not our task to speculate when the end will be. It is

our responsibility to do “kingdom business” until He comes (Luke 19:13).

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This is not about politics; this is about the *Word of God*, but the *political ramifications are extremely dramatic*. Scripture declares there will come a time when all the nations of the world will turn against Israel (Zech. 12:1-14). Ongoing developments in the Middle East inescapably demonstrate the present moment and make it highly conceivable that this could happen in our time. Accordingly, it is critical that believers understand the specific reasons for why we should stand with Israel today.

1. Divine order. Every believer is charged to make the Jews a priority in his or her value system. Why? Because God has. As a result, we are to render thanksgiving for God’s work via them as a people.

Understanding the basis of the attention we give to the Jews has to do with understanding God’s divine order and things He has said. This involves both a people and a land (the latter of which we will cover shortly in another reason).

Remember, the Lord first selected a people. He began by selecting a man named Abraham. The Lord said that through Abraham’s seed (in relationship with his wife, Sarah, giving birth to the promised child, Isaac), all the nations would be blessed. Through this people, every human being would have access to the divine blessing of Almighty God.

In Genesis 12:3, the Lord says in the covenant He makes with Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Upon Jesus’ return to earth, the Lord will judge nations and

deal with them for their decisions, just as He does individuals. Yet He makes a specific promise of judgment—of being either blessed or cursed—related to Abraham’s seed. It’s vital that we see this relates not only to a people (Jews), but also to a land (Israel).

In Romans 9:4-5, we find a revealing passage that outlines the Lord’s purposes for which He chose this people: “who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.”

God chose the Israelites to be the vessels for four overarching things:

- **The adoption.** God’s divine choice of the seed of Abraham as a people.
- **The glory.** The manifest presence of God revealing Himself.
- **The covenants.** The commitments that God makes. These are evident in three forms through Scripture:

The Abrahamic Covenant. In this foundational covenant, God essentially told Abraham, “I will give you a people and a land, and through this seed the nations of the earth will be blessed” (Gen. 17:2-8).

The Mosaic Covenant. Through Moses, God offered the revelation of the Law, given as a teaching means to lead us to Christ: redemption through the blood of the Lamb (Gal. 3:19-29).

The New Covenant. In Jeremiah and Ezekiel, God says in words almost parallel: “For the time will come that I will take My Law and I will make a new covenant with you, and I will put My Spirit within you” (Jer. 31:31-33, Ezek. 36:27).

- **The greatest gift.** This is the wonder of the gift of Jesus

to mankind. John 3:16a explains that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” He gave Him through the Jews, and He came as a Jew. Jesus Himself, speaking to the woman of Samaria, said, “Salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22).

So Scripture speaks to us very clearly: We’re dealing with the root of everything that has to do with the revelation of God to humankind. The proof of this today is in the very existence of the Jews as a people and the fact that they’ve been recovered as a nation (Ezek. 37). And now, the modern-day struggle is over Jerusalem, over Israel and over the presence of Jews and their right to have a land. Almost every nation refuses to make an abiding commitment to stand by the Jews and Israel. Only a few remain, but the Bible says God will honor those who do.

2. Spiritual link. Our place in God’s present order inextricably links us with the Jews as a people, and thereby the land of Israel, according to the Word. When we put our faith in the Redeemer who came through the Jews, we enter into a line of those who have trusted God according to His revealed grace and purpose.

Scripture declares that, spiritually speaking, when you receive the Lord, you become a Jew (Rom. 2:28-29, Gal. 3:26-29). If you are a believer, you cannot be consistent with the whole of Scripture and take a position that is passive toward the Jews and Israel.

3. God’s promises over the land. God has made unique declarations regarding the land of Israel that have never been rescinded:

– The land is the Lord’s land, and it is His to assign and dispose of. “The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine” (Lev. 25:23a).

– “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people ... He will provide

atonement for His land *and* His people” (Deut. 32:43).

–God says, “[If the people violate Me], I will uproot them from My land which I have given them” (2 Chron. 7:20a).

– “Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin” (Ps. 85:1-2).

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–This land belongs to Father God, and it is the land of His Messiah: “The stretching out of his wings will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel” (Isa. 8:8b).

– The Lord tells the people why there will come the loss—the destruction—of the city of Jerusalem. “I brought you into a bountiful country. ... But when you entered, you defiled My land and made My heritage an abomination” (Jer. 2:7).

Ezekiel 38:16—God is speaking to people in the end times who rise up against Israel, and He is speaking of a confrontation that will take place in His land: “You will come up against My people Israel. ... I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you” (Ezek. 38:16).

– Three times in this book, the land is referred to as belonging to the Lord. “For a nation has come up against My land” (Joel 1:6a). “Then the Lord will be zealous for His land” (Joel 2:18a). “I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land” (Joel 3:2).

– This refers to the scattering of Israel. “They shall not

dwell in the Lord's land, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and shall eat unclean things in Assyria (Hos. 9:3).

– “The Lord their God will save them in that day, as the flock of His people. For they *shall be like* the jewels of a crown, lifted like a banner over His land” (Zech. 9:16).

When we talk about Israel, we are dealing with: 1) a piece of property that God has made pronouncements about and 2) God's people to whom He's given the land. It is a major issue with the Creator of all things, and it is non-negotiable. Things that God has said uniquely about Israel have never been rescinded.

Not only does the land belong to God, but also God has committed the land to Abraham and his offspring via Isaac forever (Gen. 17:7-8). Isaiah 54:8-10 reaffirms this as the Lord said, “With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you. ... My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed.”

The loss of governance by Israel through sin and dispersion has not altered God's announced commitment to make it theirs forever. (If you doubt this, read Ezek. 37.)

4. Media misrepresentation. Virtually every news report on the conflict involving Israel today presents Israel as the aggressor, notwithstanding the fact that the hostilities were provoked by Palestinian or Hamas shellings or rocket fire, against which the nation had to take action in self-defense. For example, when Israel gave Gaza back as an effort to establish grounds for advancing the “peace process,” within months the same area became a staging ground by the Palestinians for new unprovoked attacks on Israel.

This represents the futile efforts Israel has faced at every turn when attempting to negotiate peace, since the media reports consistently assign responsibility to Israel as the

initiator of aggression, when in fact the action of the Israel Defense Forces is only to raise a shield of self-defense. Consequently, Israel's present conflict is neither by its initiative nor perpetuated by expansionism or racism on its part.

The general attitude of the world today regards the Palestinians as the underdog and the victim, but Israel is defending the land covenanted to it in 1917 and established by the United Nations Assembly in 1948. The Palestinian goal is not to secure a homeland but to drive Israel out altogether. For the sake of mounting public opinion against Israel, surrounding, well-resourced Arab nations have never offered refuge to the Palestinians. The majority of the world doesn't know this, and nobody is bothering to tell them because sympathies are so overridden by other forces.

Remember, this is not about politics, yet the ramifications of this struggle inevitably involve governments, which are intended to represent people groups. And among Christians, this is where we often confuse the matter—which is why it's crucial that we understand what comes next.

5. Arab rights. To stand with Israel is not to oppose the Arab people as an entity, nor to oppose the rights of Arabs living in Israel to a peaceful, politically secure and prosperous life. God has no disposition against any human being, certainly not Arabs, who are the offspring of Ishmael, the other son of His chosen leader, Abraham. Standing for Israel doesn't require an anti-Arab stance and doesn't require us to be loveless toward other people.

Though the world may not understand this stance, we can defy their logic through Christ. As Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

6. Spiritual warfare. The relentless animosities of sectors of

the Arab world are not merely political causes but are driven by spiritual powers that will not be satisfied until Israel ceases to exist.

Even unbelievers can recognize the uncanny patterns of vehement antisemitic rhetoric shared between the likes of Adolf Hitler and modern-day Arab leaders such as Ahmadinejad, Khamenei and their successors. The forces opposed to Israel are not simply those of people who don't like Jews. We are caught in the stream of spiritual forces greater than humanity, forces that cannot be overthrown politically or by the power of persuasion. These forces can only be broken by intercessory prayer where principalities and powers are cast down.

7. Shared persecution. If we think Israelis are the only ones in the line of fire in this conflict, we're deceived. The same spirit driving these animosities is equally opposed to Christians as to Jews, and in time will eventually bring persecution to both.

Just as Scripture describes two witnesses that will be put to death in Jerusalem at the very end of time (Rev. 11), generally the "two witnesses" that have stood for the living God throughout history have been the Jews and the Christians. The presence of the entire Judeo-Christian ethic, values and testimony is the most assailed religious/spiritual testimony in today's world and is allowed to be persecuted with impunity. Too often we hear incidents where such "witness" exists where violated rights or outright brutality finds only a silent response from the U.N. or the world press.

The hostilities and animosities are just as leveled at believers as they are at Israel because there is a spirit of the world that is against "all that is called God" (2 Thess. 2:4b) and all things testifying to His existence, love, worth and glory.

8. God's summoning. A biblical assignment and a divine promise summon our stand in faith, our intercession with expectancy and our support with promise (Eph. 6:10-20).

We are called to stand with Israel today because we could be people of the last hour. The Lord has called us to be people with moral and biblical conviction, walking wisely and knowing His Word. He will honor those who make an abiding commitment to stand with the land He's called uniquely His.

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Jack Hayford was the founding pastor of *The Church On The Way in Van Nuys, California*, and founder and chancellor of *The King's University*. Pastor Jack graduated to glory on January 8, 2023, at the age of 88.

Jack Hayford: Why Believers Must Stand With Israel

Aside from the hustling crowds and rush-hour traffic jams that define any international metropolis, Jerusalem astounds most of its tourists with how peaceful the city truly is. While the global media assaults readers with reports of nearby suicide bombings and young zealots throwing rocks across Jewish-Palestinian borders, those who live in Israel's capital city know a different story, a different reality. Theirs is one of surprising peace in a nation whose very existence symbolizes the dichotomy of "possessing the land" amid neighbors—both immediate and far away—who would rather see them dead.

To find the violent, conflict-filled story most incorrectly

think is Israel's narrative, all you have to do is drive two or three hours toward virtually any nation surrounding the Holy Land today. Because although the West heralded the Arab Spring [Dec. 17, 2010] as the dawning of democracy in nations ruled by tyrannous dictators, the fruit of these ongoing political uprisings has been anything but freedom and stability. For Israel, it's simply increased the shared nightmare most Jews live with each day: that they are staring down the barrel of a gun, no matter which direction they turn.

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In Iran, antisemitic rhetoric flows from the mouths of its top leaders—whether current “moderate” President Hasan Rouhani, ousted madman Mahmoud Ahmadinejad or Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei—as they openly declare Israel to be a “cancerous tumor in the heart of the Islamic world” that “must be cleansed.” Who can forget Ahmadinejad's defiant vow to the United Nations' General Assembly in September 2012 that Israel would be “eliminated”?

In Egypt and Iraq, the ongoing instability and influence of the Muslim Brotherhood—yes, even after former Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi's ousting—have propelled Salafist jihadist military campaigns, which are also bent on Israel's total destruction, like never before.

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Meanwhile, the rise of other extremist Islamic forces in Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Libya and Yemen merely strengthens what has become a resounding cry to see Israel wiped off the map. And among the few neighboring countries with whom Israel had established peace treaties—namely, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey—these relations have been frayed to a thread.

As Christians, we have a different script to follow—one in which we know who will return to reign physically over this global focal point that has been dominated with strife and violence since the days of Abraham. Why, then, should believers be so concerned over such a tiny speck of land? What does it really matter?

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Biden Blames Netanyahu After American Hostage Killed

President Joe Biden found a scapegoat to blame Monday for the murder of American citizen Hersh Goldberg-Polin by Hamas terrorists: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The body of 23-year-old Goldberg-Polin, along with five Jewish citizens, was recovered Saturday in the city of Rafah in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Defense Forces soldiers.

On Monday, Biden returned to the White House after being on vacation at the beach for two weeks.

The president told reporters he felt a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas is “very close.”

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“Do you think it’s time for Prime Minister Netanyahu to do

more on this issue? Do you think he's doing enough?" a reporter asked.

"No," Biden answered.

Asked if he had a message for the remaining hostages families, he replied, "I've spoken to the American hostage ... I've spoken to his mom and dad, and we're not giving up. We're going to continue to push as hard as we can."

Biden seemed to mean the parents of Goldberg-Polin. His not giving up must be in reference to the eight American citizens and others still being held hostage by Hamas.

Netanyahu addressed the allegation Monday that Israel must do more, so a deal can be reached.

"I was asked whether I am not doing enough to the release of hostages. Well, I want to set the record straight. On Apr. 27, Secretary of State Blinken said that, 'Israel made an extraordinary, generous offer for a hostage deal,'" the prime minister recounted.

"On May 31, Israel agreed to a proposal. Hamas refused. On Aug. 16, Israel agreed to what the United States defined as a 'final bridging proposal.' Hamas refused again. On Aug. 19, Secretary Blinken said, 'Israel accepted the U.S. proposal. Now Hamas must do the same,'" Netanyahu continued.

"On Aug. 28—that's five days ago, five days ago—Deputy CIA Director said that 'Israel shows seriousness in the negotiations. Now Hamas must show the same seriousness.' I want to ask you something. What has changed in the last five days? What has changed?" the prime minister asked.

He answered the question, "One thing: These murderers executed six of our hostages. They shot them in the back of the head. That's what changed."

Netanyahu wondered what message it would send to Hamas if

Israel made even more concessions after the terrorists killed six hostages in cold blood.

“It says, ‘Kill more hostages. Murder more hostages, and you will get more concessions,’” he argued.

“The pressure internationally must be directed at these killers. At Hamas. Not at Israel. We say ‘yes.’ They say ‘no’ all the time, but they also murdered these people. And now we need maximum pressure on Hamas,” Netanyahu said.

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That is exactly right.

The Biden administration realizes the U.S. has more direct leverage over Israel because of the military aid it provides, so it always directs its efforts at the Jewish state.

Former President Donald Trump showed how pressure can be applied against Iran and the other backers of Hamas, but the current president does not do it.

Israel has gone more than half way to try to get a deal.

Biden seems all but checked out at this point in his presidency, so he tries to take the easy way out by blaming Netanyahu and Israel for the senseless murders by Hamas.

This president consistently has tried to blame Trump for inflation, the border and everything else under the sun that has gone wrong in his administration domestically. It makes perfect sense he'd look for a scapegoat for the chaos in the Middle East and find it in Netanyahu.

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Biden Throws Netanyahu Under the Bus After Murder of American Hostage

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Hamas Leader Urges Students to Renew Anti-Israel Protests

Senior Hamas official Khaled Mashal has urged students across the United States and worldwide to renew their demonstrations against Israel.

Last week, Mashal released a video where he called for student leaders in “Arab and Muslim countries, in the East and the West, to renew the student movement in the broadest scope, in order to stop this criminal aggression.

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“You should be proud of yourselves, oh youths of our nation and the free people of the world,” he said.

Mashal declared that the “escalation of this conflict is required.”

“Today, in the West Bank, we have seen some successful early signs of martyrdom operations,” he noted. “We want to go back to the martyrdom operations. This necessitates an all-out conflict.”

The Hamas official declared that if martyrdom operations do not ensue, Israel “will fight us piece by piece.”

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Last year, Hamas Senior Official Sami Abu Zuhri called for “violent acts” to be taken against U.S. and U.K. “interests.”

“Now it is our nation’s turn to pressure the Americans to stop this war. We need violent acts against American and British

interests everywhere, as well as the interests of all the countries that support the occupation," he declared.

"They must pay a price for the blood of our women and children who are being killed in cold blood in the streets of Gaza. They must pay a price so that they know that Gaza is not alone, and that when they gave the order to kill, they should have been prepared to pay the necessary price."

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