

Stand With Israel

A few weeks from now, Americans will go to the polls to determine our next president—at a time when we are facing the greatest challenges the world has ever known. The dangers of radical Islamic terrorism, the nuclear threat posed by Iran and North Korea, economic meltdown and the disintegration of Judeo-Christian values make this the most critical election in the history of our nation.

In the midst of rising gas and food prices, a current housing crisis, an unwanted war in Iraq and numerous other domestic challenges, it is easy to overlook another, seemingly unimportant issue—America's support of Israel. Why should we be concerned about this tiny nation?

In Genesis 12, God declared that He would bless those who bless the descendants of Abraham and curse the one who curses them. This promise is just as true today as it was when it was first written some 4,000 years ago. All the Old Testament nations that once came against Israel—the Amalekites, Jebusites, Canaanites—have vanished.

But America has experienced the unprecedented blessing of God during our 230-year history in part because of our treatment of the Jewish

people. The Lord refers to Israel as "the apple of His eye" and warns that anyone who touches it will be punished (Zech. 2:8, NKJV). Bill Koenig, in his book *Israel: The Blessing or the Curse* has documented case after case of God's judgment on America whenever our government has attempted to force Israel to give up land to the Palestinians.

As Bible believers, we need to look at Israel through God's eyes and understand that this land was given to them by God as an "eternal possession." Regardless of what the U.N. decides or decided some 55 years ago, this land was given to the children of Israel by God as an everlasting inheritance.

There are hundreds of Scriptures beginning in Genesis 12 and 15 that make this truth crystal clear. In essence, the Bible is the Jewish people's land deed to Israel. God said it and that settles it. As Christians, we must believe and agree with what the Scriptures teach.

Many Christian leaders believe that although Israel was given this land by God, it is a *conditional* promise. In other words, Israel's entitlement to the land is based on their obedience and right standing with God. And because they are no longer in right standing with Him due to their rejection of Christ as Messiah, they no

longer
have any biblical right to the land. This erroneous
understanding has
led many prominent evangelical Christians to strongly support
the
establishment of a Palestinian state and to lobby our
government to
force Israel to give up land.

Though it is true that some of God's blessings on the land
(such as
enjoying true peace) are based on the Jews' obedience, their
right
to the land is unconditional. Numerous prophecies, such as
that in
Isaiah 11 in which God promises that He will "set His hand
again the
second time to recover the remnant of His people," clearly
show that He
is still very committed to Israel's restoration and divine
right to
this land.

Most Christians are familiar with the exhortation to "pray for
the
peace of Jerusalem" (Ps. 122:6). But how should we pray? How
can there
ever be peace?

The word translated "peace" in Hebrew, *shalom*, literally
means "to bring to completion." God has a plan for this land
and people
that will come to pass, and it includes the return of Yeshua,
Jesus, to
the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. We must pray for God's plan
to be
fulfilled in this troubled land, for the Messiah to be
revealed in the

hearts of Jew and Palestinian alike, and for His plan to be brought to completion. Only then will true peace be realized.

I urge you to vote in the upcoming presidential election. You can make your voice heard by voting for the candidate who will best represent the laws, principles and standards the Lord has established in His Word—the one who is most committed to continuing our support of Israel.

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