

Why Still Care About Israel?
Golden Nuggets Review by Jesse K. Hyder

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www.whystillcareaboutisrael.com or www.lightofzion.org

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Foreword about Sandy Teplinsky:

1. She is a lover of God, desiring to please Him.
2. She is a woman of prayer and compassion.
3. As a trained attorney, she is meticulous in her research and understands proper legal argumentation.
4. She is a careful student of the Scriptures and history and knows how to avoid common interpretive errors by using reliable scholarly sources.
5. As a Messianic Jewish woman ... she loves and supports the Jewish state without idealizing it.
6. She is burdened to be fail to all.
7. She is burdened to keep pointing readers to Yeshua (Jesus).
8. She is burdened to be meticulously accurate in all she writes.
9. She is burdened to convey God's heart for Israel.

Chapter 1: Why Still Care about Israel?

1. **P14** - The first question must be, "Who is our God, this sovereign and supreme Creator of the universe?"
2. We discover that Israel ... is ultimately about Him.
3. If we want to know what the Lord is saying to us, if we want to pray that His will be done, if we want to know Him better in the process: than a Bible-based and factually honest understanding of Israel is essential.
4. Through Israel the Creator is revealing the passions of His heart for all humankind.
5. He is testing Jews and Gentiles, He is refining the Church, shaking civilizations and establishing His Kingdom.
6. He is doing it with extravagant love – and He invites us to come, see and take part.

Who Will Benefit from This Book?

7. This book was written for 4 types of readers:
 - 1) Bible believers who are interested in Israel and want to learn more from a Messianic Jewish Israeli perspective.
 - 2) Christians who already care much for Israel but want to stay current on issue or gain deeper insight.

- 3) Christians who question or doubt that God still has prophetic plans for Israel.
 - 4) Non-Christians who are puzzled or troubled by the controversy and quandary of Israel – and are willing to view the matter through the lens of Scripture.
8. **P15** -The first book – Why care about Israel? – aimed to raise consciousness about the Jewish state, opening up the Scriptures and God’s heart for Israel and the Arab Middle East.

Revised for New Realities

9. **P16** – This book is intended to inspire Christ-like love for the Jewish people – but not at the expense of other groups.
10. Author’s goal is to give the reader – as best as God has enabled – revelation of His heart through biblical and factual truth, from a Messianic Israeli perspective.
11. This updated version unpacks and suggests a response to realities such as:
- 1) New spiritual breakthroughs:
 - 2) New Christian anti-Israel theologies:
 - 3) New levels of warfare:
 - 4) Social justice:
 - 5) Palestinian statehood:
 - 6) Israel’s delegitimization and the new anti-Semitism:
 - 7) Islamist awakening:
 - 8) Western ideological revolution:
 - 9) Bible prophecy:
12. **P17** The ultimate focus is on Jesus – we must cling to the One who is the same today, yesterday, tomorrow.
13. Our hearts humbly fixed on Him, our lives surrendered to the Savior (then) we should be quite optimistic about the future, so long as we wholeheartedly follow Him into it.

Pressing the Reset Button

14. **P18** Set aside certain preconceptions if you have them:
- 1) Suspend the echo of endless indictments against an allegedly belligerent or oppressive Jewish state.
 - 2) Subdue the extreme opposite cries of others who might deify the Jewish people or their ancestral homeland.
15. Look at the inspired and authoritative Word of God:
- 1) See that the Creator King picked an otherwise sorry little strain of humanity called Israel for His own glory.
 - 2) See that He lovingly assigned irrevocable responsibility for service, not superiority.
 - 3) See that His concept of a chosen people differs radically from what may be portrayed by many.
16. Israel has always been about something and Someone much bigger than herself.
17. God is using the tiny Jewish state as a microcosm of what He is doing with us all.
18. God is using Israel to reveal and refine the hearts of humanity.

Gazing into God’s Heart

19. **P19** Mat. 25:40 “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.”
- 1) These brothers and sisters of Mine” are the Jewish people.
 - 2) The Lord was speaking to His disciples explicitly about the end times.
 - 3) Israel would endure much hardship (see Mat. 24:3 – 25:30).
 - 4) Our actions toward His “brothers and sisters” in that day would affect our eternal destiny.
 - 5) How we treat Israel reflects to a real extent how we would treat the Lord Jesus Himself.
20. **P20** The Creator does not play favorites with Israel.
21. He chose Israel so that people in every nation and period of history would know – through her Scriptures, her Savior and her soul – His loving mercy and grace.
22. God is not finished with the Jewish nation or with how He wants to bless us through her.

23. God beckons us into His heart for His covenant people. There - you will discover a jealous and zealous love for the Jews.
24. God is allowing Israel to serve as a strategic point of division. Some will stand with Israel and some will turn away.
25. **P21** Our stand in the end will be less about the Jewish state and more about Him.

Testing and Threshing in Justice

26. God uniquely connects Himself to the people and land of Israel.
27. God picked a spot on earth to put His Name forever (Jerusalem: 2 Chron 33:7; 1 Kings 9:3).
28. God also chose a people – the Jews – to inherit and inhabit the land of that place:
 - 1) King David ... built an altar on it (2 Samuel 24:15-25)
 - 2) Solomon constructed God’s Holy Temple on it and there His glory came down, dwelling in unequalled grandeur on earth.
29. Today the Temple Mount ... sifts nations’ souls through their contest for its control.
30. There Yeshua will rule and reign in Kingdom splendor – something His enemies are scrambling to prevent.
31. The Temple Mount will prove the consummate testing ground, the place where Messiah and anti-Messiah, and the followers of both, will someday be exposed.
32. It is a test God wants us to pass – because it is a test of love. And by design, it will involve the Jews.
33. **P22** True justice is often perverted by the world’s collective understanding and response to Israel as nowhere else.
34. “Whoever touches [Israel] touches the apple of [My] eye – I will surely raise my hand against them.” (Zech. 1:14-15; 2:8-9)
35. This is an expression of God’s fiery love for both Israel and the nations.
36. God wants us to make choices that enable our vision to be preserved.
37. God wants us to see where we are going, our steps aligned with His. ... to walk in His ways, discerning truth in love.

In New Words of Old

38. The Bible’s most concise yet comprehensive teaching on the relationship between Israel and the Church is found in Romans 9-11.
39. **P23** God’s perspective is Kingdom oriented; ours must be, too.
40. This book digs deep in the pursuit of truth. ... The information ... intensively investigated ... drenched in years of intercessory prayer. Readers will encounter ... reality replete with heaven’s heartbeat.
41. A companion website – www.whystillcareaboutisrael.com – supplements this book.
42. In some instances the author refers to God as Yahweh, using the standard English Tetragrammaton.
43. **P24** Anti-Semitism refers to prejudicial hostility toward Jews.
44. **P25** Truth must be told so that we can align with righteousness and respond accordingly.
45. The author’s hope is that as the book brings to light compelling realities and scriptural truths, we will experience God’s heart of love and grace.
46. Israel is all about Him.

Chapter 2: God’s Inseparable Love

1. **P27** Nothing ... can separate us from the truth of God’s unwavering love. Why? Mercy and Grace (Rom. 8:38-39)
2. **P28** The flow of Scriptures (Romans 8-9) is strategic by the Spirit.
3. We are assured of Yahweh’s love for the Church in Romans 8:38-39.
4. We are reminded of the unquenchable flame in His heart for the Jews in Romans 9:1.
5. The New Covenant’s keynote message on Israel is rooted in the revelation of God’s merciful, gracious love.

Why God Loves Israel

6. The first time Yahweh speaks of His love is not at Creation, but to the children of Israel (Deu. 7:6-8).
7. **P29** God says that He loves Israel simply because He loved Israel.
8. His love for the Jewish people ... is according to divine reasoning, sovereign purpose – and most of all, mercy and grace.

9. The Creator's love for His people exists ultimately for His own sake.
10. He loves because He is love (1 John 4:8, 16). He loves you because love is His nature and character.
11. God ties His love for the Jewish people to the oath He swore to them.
12. He unconditionally binds Himself by His word to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
13. God loves Israel because He loved Israel, because He committed to love Israel.
14. If you are a New Covenant son or daughter, He also loves you, unshakeably.
15. **P30** God does not approve of sin on the part of His covenant children, Jewish or Christian.
16. Sin does not extinguish unconditional love.
17. It is only when the Church ... believes that its own existence is based on human achievement, and so fails to understand God's mercy to itself, that it is unable to believe in God's mercy for still unbelieving Israel.

Loving in Hebrew

19. It is in Hebrew that God gives us the foundational knowledge of His love, and solid foundations are key to good constructs of any kind.
20. **P31** Hebrew Scriptures use 3 different words to convey love:
 - 1) *ahav*, a primary root, means to love, have affection, be attached to, delight in ... (in Deu. 7:7-8)
 - 2) *khashaq* means to love, long for, desire, delight in and implies clinging. (in Deu. 7:7-8)
 - 3) *keenah* used to denote Yahweh's ardor, zeal or jealousy. (not in Deu. 7:7-8)
21. The point is the passion! God is absolutely amorous toward Israel. She is the object of a divine love affair.
22. It is not suggested that God's heart for Israel excludes Gentiles from the totality of His blessings.
23. God's heart for Israel is related to His ineffable desire to bless all peoples on earth.
24. God is the Author of language and Hebrew is the original tongue in which He communicates to His people.
25. In the Hebrew language every word and every letter of every word bespeaks something of His nature.
26. **P32** By its 3 component letters, *ahav* communicates sacrifice, strength, communion with God and familial relationship.

Love Synergized: The Church and Israel

27. Birthed from Yahweh's love for all humanity, Israel was created for His personal affection and ardor.
28. Israel was to love Him back and mediate His love to others.
29. Israel is lost in her sin apart from her Savior.
30. The Spirit has an unending burden of love for the Jews. (Romans 9:1-4)
31. **P33** God's burden for Israel is central to His redemptive plans for all peoples.
32. Not for Israel's sake but His, the destiny He designed for Israel will someday be fulfilled.
33. In these last days ... Israel has been placed center stage before a global audience.
34. God's love story is on divine display as the nations lock in on the tiny Jewish state. And He is noting our response.
35. Will it be one of love, "the most excellent way"(1 Cor. 12:31; 13).
36. We gain nothing without love. Love is the greatest gift ... It never fails; it lasts forever.
37. Love is the most valued substance of the universe.
38. Jesus cautioned that in the last days, Kingdom conflict between good and evil would greatly increase. ... As a result, the love of most would grow cold. (Mat. 24:12-13)
39. **P34** Messiah's true followers, however, will stand firm to the end. They will not just endure the times but engage with His sacrificial strength in the intimate communion of His *ahav*.

Refining Love

40. Pure Messiah-like love is given without condition, solely to bless the beloved.
41. Such love is the ultimate substance and test of our faith.
42. Such love is that which the Lord has always radically required of those who dare follow Him fully.
43. Today, He is using Israel to help us attain to it.
44. One Arab believer said: "When I was willing to love the Jews, God filled me with His love for me."
45. **P35** Since Israel's modern-day restoration, many believers have ... viewed the Jewish state as a prophetic timepiece.

46. As a prophetic people through whom God speaks, Israel uniquely reflects the hour of world history.
47. Jesus did not die for prophetic timepieces.
48. Israel is His nation of treasured souls, most of whom desperately need salvation.
49. Genuine love does not depend on a prophetic agenda.
50. God wants to take our love to higher levels by taking us deeper into His heart.
51. God is asking us to love Israel because He loves Israel, unconditionally, uncompromisingly.
52. We are to choose the most excellent way in loving God's ancient covenant people:
 - 1) Not because the land of Israel is holy
 - 2) Not because prophecy gets fulfilled there
 - 3) Not because we seek to convert Jews
 - 4) Not because we want to get blessed

Mercy and Grace

53. **P36** In Ezekiel chapter 16 Yahweh recounts His adoring, doting care for Israel ... He gave her His 'solemn oath' ...
54. In return, Israel took her beauty and fame and ran off to become a whore ... (Ezekiel 16:15-19).
55. **P37** God responds to Israel by declaring: "Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you" (Ezekiel 16:60).
56. God loves Israel unconditionally. He will not quit or give up on her.
57. God will save Israel by mercy and grace, and she will love Him back.

Tough Love

58. God tells Hosea to marry a harlot ... Hosea must love and keep covenant with her ... their marriage depicts Israel's adulterous relationship with God (see Hosea 3:1).
59. Israel's jealous God ... will not stand for it. He will do whatever it takes to win Israel back.
60. Yahweh will be like a lion to the Jewish nation. He will tear her to pieces then hide Himself.
61. **P38** God will wait patiently for Israel to admit her guilt, turn back and earnestly seek Him (Hosea 5:14-15).
62. The story bespeaks the tough love of God. In wrath, He remembers mercy; His own love constrains Him.
63. On Israel our long-suffering Creator ... stoutly refuses to give up ... Israel will be transformed by mercy and grace.

A New Covenant

64. **P39** Discipline Israel He must, but destroy or disown her completely? Never!
65. Eventually there came a time when sin so screamed for justice that God exiled the Jews from their land.
66. In this unlikely context of misery and despair ... hope from heaven descended on the Jews ... a future 'new covenant'.
67. "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah ... I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people ... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jer. 31:31, 33-34)
68. The new covenant was not made with the Church; it was originally made with Israel.
69. That same mercy and grace extends to all nations – but keeps His covenant with Israel intact.
70. **P40** Next ... God reaffirms His commitment to sustain Israel as a nation forever. (Jer 31:35-37)
71. The descendants of Jacob have not ceased being a nation before God.
72. Neither has God rejected Israel because of her sin!
73. Assured He will never reject His Old Covenant people, we can trust He will never reject His New Covenant people.
74. If you are a Christian, God's love, mercy and grace for you are no less than they are for Israel. Israel's story is very much yours.

Chapter 3: The Sanctity of Covenant

1. **P41** In the ancient world of the Bible, covenant defined and sealed relationship.
2. A covenant was, and still should be, an oath scrupulously honored and protected by all.
3. Romans 9:4-5 describes the riches of God's mercy and grace in His covenant with the Jewish people.
4. In this passage is outlined Israel's inheritance and prophetic calling.

5. Invested in Israel is blessing for all humankind – guaranteed by a blood-mediated covenant with Yahweh.

The Abrahamic Covenant

6. **P42** God's covenant with Israel ... is still in an ongoing sense. The covenants and promises are still Israel's.
7. "They are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable" (Romans 11:28-29).
8. Israel's destiny has not expired. It has not been transferred to the Church or anyone else.
9. The Church ... does not replace or supersede Israel in God's heart or plans for humankind.
10. God's covenant with Israel is still hers; it is still in effect. It cannot be revoked; it is unconditional.
11. If conditional, a covenant's fulfillment depends on certain prerequisite conditions being met.
12. **P43** If the covenant is unconditional, then God binds only Himself to do anything.
13. Sin cannot void or cancel God's unconditional covenant.

The Covenant Is Unconditional

14. Yahweh's foundational covenant with Israel traces to Abraham.
15. "The LORD had said to Abram '... I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'" (Gen. 12:1-3)
16. Yahweh (says), "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur ... to give you this land to take possession of it. (Gen 15:7)
17. With Abraham in a Spirit-induced sleep, God passes as holy fire between the pieces (of sacrificed animals). He declares, "To your descendants I give this land." (Gen. 15:18)
18. **P44** To formalize a legal covenant, animals were cut, then covenanting parties walked between the pieces in solemn oath to perform their duties.
19. If only one party passed through the bodies ... only that one party undertook to perform covenant duties.
20. The fact that Yahweh alone passed between the animals ... establishes that God's covenant with Abraham ... is radically, graciously unconditional. The covenant was to be fulfilled by the integrity of God alone.

Inheritors of the Covenant

21. "Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him." (Gen 17:19)
22. Isaac fathers Esau and Jacob. Between them, Sovereign God chooses Jacob and decrees, "In you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Gen 28:14)
23. Jacob's name is changed to Israel and his children become the flesh-and-blood inheritors of the unconditional Abrahamic covenant.
24. **P45** Hebrews 6:13-14, 17 affirms: "When God made His promise to Abraham ... He swore by Himself ... because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear."
25. God followed the (#1) Abrahamic covenant with three other covenants in chronological order:
 - #2) Mosaic or Sinai covenant (the Law)
 - #3) Davidic covenant (pertaining to the Messianic Kingdom)
 - #4) The New Covenant
26. Each covenant builds upon all previous covenants – but does not cancel any of them out.

Correctly Handle the Word of Truth

27. God wants us to "correctly handle the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15).
28. An incorrect handling of truth will usually result ... in an incorrect understanding of God's covenant with Israel.
29. **P46** The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture itself.
30. Moses was the premier interpreter of Holy Scripture.
31. Moses' inspired understandings laid the foundation for all subsequent Old and New Covenant writings.
32. The prophets followed Moses' approach, and Yeshua's teachings reflect, amplify and authenticate a Hebraic-based method of interpretation.
33. All the Messianic Jewish apostles and New Covenant authors adhered to the same broad approach.
34. A traditional, Hebraic approach draws its presuppositions from the biblical text itself.

35. The most foundational of these presuppositions is that God is relational, sincerely desiring to communicate with us.

A Hebraic Approach to Bible Interpretation: Pardes

36. **P47** God generally speaks in a plain, straightforward manner that we can understand.

37. The Master Communicator, God means what He says and says what He means.

38. Hebraic approach summary: Words of Scripture are fundamentally – but not exclusively – understood according to their plain, ordinary meaning, in consideration of the literary and historical context in which they were originally written. Biblical text should be understood in context.

39. Words should first be given their plain sense or straightforward meaning before any deeper meanings are sought out and assigned to them.

40. A traditional Hebraic hermeneutic used since the third century BC is known as Pardes and consists of 4 main principles:

1) 1st and fundamental meaning of a biblical text is called *p'shat* (plain) – plain sense and straightforward, literal meaning.

Additional layers build upon, but do not replace, the fundamental or *p'shat* level.

2) 2nd Pardes principle, known as *remez* (hints) refers to the symbolic or allegorical understanding. Many times there is both a plain sense and symbolic interpretation but occasionally a biblical text makes no sense according to its literal meaning.

3) 3rd Pardes principle, the *derash* (association) level of meaning is determined by comparing Scripture with Scripture.

4) 4th Pardes principle, the *sod* (secret) levels of esoteric, mystical or uniquely personal meanings.

(The *remez*, *derash* and *sod* levels must not dismiss or exclude a fundamental *p'shat* interpretation)

41. **P48** The New Covenant is a Jewish book written by Jewish authors, expounding on Jewish concepts, using Jewish hermeneutics.

42. The fundamental interpretation and application of the New Covenant text is according to the *p'shat* principle.

43. **P49** After the *p'shat* is established, additional levels of understanding and application may then be found.

Symbolizing the Scriptures

44. Pardes ... fell into disuse by much of the Church shortly after the first-century apostles.

45. Gentile Church leaders felt a different approach to Bible interpretation would better suit their own traditions.

46. Our Church fathers started to think of God as unrelational, distant and aloof from humanity.

47. They adopted a new hermeneutic based on new presuppositions that are not founded in Scripture.

48. Their fundamental approach to Bible interpretation became symbolic or allegorical, instead of plain sense literal.

49. God's words were understood as mostly referring to the ethereal rather than earthly realm.

50. **P50** What fruit has the allegorical method borne? Fantasy unlimited.

51. In overemphasizing symbolism, an allegorical hermeneutic does not explain or account for the hundreds of past literal fulfillments in the Bible of Old and new Covenant prophecy.

52. Allegorical hermeneutic does not allow for literal future fulfillments of prophecy.

53. Christians who interpret God's Word according to this approach rarely regard modern Israel as a fulfillment of prophecy and some of them strongly oppose her existence today as a restored Jewish state.

Supersessionism: Replacement Theology

54. **P51** To correctly handle the Word of truth, we must maintain the fundamental strength of the literal-grammatical historical hermeneutic.

55. Different streams of Christianity have sought to recover many aspects of Hebraic-based hermeneutics.

56. Most traditional denominations and seminaries still rely heavily on the allegorical approach.

57. **P52** Supersessionism teaches that God's prophetic promises and Kingdom purposes for the Jews have been superseded, transferred or replaced.

58. Supersessionist theologies have inevitably brought about tragic expressions of Christian anti-Semitism.

59. The apostle Paul denounces all forms of supersessionism in Romans 9-11.

60. Classic supersessionism is known as replacement theology.

61. Replacement theology erroneously teaches that Israel has been replaced by the Church in God's heart and plans.
62. Christian Palestinianism is a new supersessionism being used by some as a theological justification and political tool for anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism.

Valuing the Physical Realm

63. **P53** A Hebraic-based hermeneutic assumes that material reality is quite valuable to its Creator, who declared all that He had made to be very good.
64. In contrast, Greco-Roman thought held a dualistic view by regarding the intangible spirit realm as intrinsically good but tangible matter as intrinsically bad.
65. The New Covenant writers recognized and denounced the influence of this pagan perspective but subsequent Church fathers reverted back to it.
66. If we regard the material realm as evil ... we will likely dismiss important passages referring to the prophetic destiny of flesh-and-blood Israel.

Interpreting the Old Covenant in Light of the New

67. **P54** How are Christians to interpret the Old Covenant in light of realities subsequently affected by Jesus in the New?
- 1) We are not to read later text into previously written passages.
 - 2) Old Testament prophets never reinterpreted preexisting Scriptures in light of their subsequent insights; neither should we.
 - 3) No new text could ever refute or replace preexisting text ... consistency with all prior biblical writings.
 - 4) New meaning never contradicts the old.
 - 5) The New Covenant ... does not abolish or abrogate that original more literal meaning.
68. **P55** Messiah is the crowning centerpiece of the Hebrew Scriptures!
69. The Old Covenant is the New concealed; the New Covenant is the Old revealed.
70. How should Christians interpret Old Covenant passages about Israel in light of the New?
- 1) Where the Scriptures deal with the Jewish people ... apply these passages to Israel first and with priority.
 - 2) Having honored His original intentions, apply to other situations in light of the New Covenant.
 - 3) Keep Yeshua at the center, navigate issues on Israel with integrity ... receive rich blessings.

Romans 9 and the Promised Land

71. **P56** In Romans 9:4-5 Paul reminds us that God's promises to Israel, about Israel, are still Israel's.
72. The promise of land, a core component of the Abrahamic covenant. (Genesis 12:1, 7; 17:19)
73. Read implicit reference to the land promise in connection with Israel's future national salvation. (Rom 11:26-27)

The Mosaic Covenant and the Land Promise

74. **P57** The Mosaic Law places clear conditions on Israel's ability to inhabit or physically possess the land. (conditional)
75. The Abrahamic covenant that contains the land promise is everlasting. (unconditional)
76. The Hebrew prophets ... speak of territorial exile, but they also promise a return – based on grace, not good works.
77. The prophets describe how, when Israel disobeyed God, she temporarily lost physical possession of the land.
78. Israel never lost its promised ownership. (Galatians 3:17-18)
79. Israel's promised, irrevocable ownership is no cause for arrogance or excuse for sin on her part, but remains a covenant reality that cannot be extinguished.

The New Covenant Upholds the Land Promise

80. **P58** The New Covenant never explicitly repeals the land promise to Israel ... it does not explicitly repeat the promise.
81. A proper hermeneutic assumes ongoing relevance for every promise that is not specifically canceled.
82. If the New Covenant is silent about a specific promise, that promise is still in effect.
83. The New covenant does not directly and clearly restate the land promise.
84. Scattered isolated verses ... are consistent with other New Covenant teachings that reflect Israel would ... be physically restored and living in the Promised Land.

85. **P59** Yeshua also said that Jerusalem would not see Him again until the holy city ... blessed and welcomed Him back. Israel's religious leaders would have to be in Jerusalem, with the Jews back in their land. (Mat 23:39)
86. Like Yeshua, Paul implicitly affirms the land promise in Romans 11:25-27.
87. The apostle foresees the Jews living in the Promised Land when Messiah (Israel's deliverer) comes again.
88. Yeshua's teachings reflect and implicitly affirm Israel's future presence in the land.
89. **P60** Both Old and New Covenants promise that a time will come when God's focus shifts back to national Israel, both physically and spiritually.
90. Israel's restoration will reflect the same mercy and grace that extended the Kingdom to the Gentiles.
91. Prophets ... collectively ... describe a gradual process of a literal return by the Jews to the land, followed by a spiritual return to the Lord.
92. When Israel's return reaches its consummate fulfillment, heaven will break gloriously loose on earth.

Chapter 4: Israel's Prophetic Destiny

1. **P61** "Theirs is the adoption to sonship, theirs the divine glory ... the receiving of the law, the temple worship ... Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen." (Romans 9:4-5)

Adoption as Sons

2. **P62** The Jewish people are God's adopted firstborn son.
3. As Yahweh's firstborn, the Jewish nation is typically the first to get whatever He has in store for the rest of us.
4. Israel serves as an example and prophetic microcosm of His larger dealings with humanity.
5. **P63** Israel is given a certain priority, but not superiority.
6. Gentiles who give their lives to Jesus are also adopted as full sons or daughters into God's family of faith.

Divine Glory

7. Israel's "is" the divine glory.
8. The Holy Scriptures themselves, God's Word with which Israel has been entrusted, reflect His incomparable glory.
9. A singular dimension of His divine glory still remains with Israel:
 - 1) In the process of her miraculous restoration.
 - 2) In her growing Messianic remnant ablaze with faith.
 - 4) God is preparing Israel to humbly serve the nations in a future, greater glory that will converge heaven with earth.
 - 5) Yeshua will return to rule and reign in Jerusalem, from where His glory will cover the globe. (Hab 2:14, Is 60:1-2)

Receiving of the Law

10. **P64** Because theirs is "the receiving of the law" a certain anointing is on Israel to love, comprehend and minister God's Word. ... the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God. (Romans 3:12)
11. God has been restoring to the Church a Yeshua-centered love for His entire Word. ... He is setting us free.

Fulfilling the Law

12. "Christ is the end of the law, for righteousness to everyone who believes." (Romans 10:4)
13. The word translated "law" is the Greek word *nomos* ... the same word used throughout the NT for *Torah*.
14. The Torah technically constitutes the 1st 5 books of the Bible, but can also refer to all the Hebrew Scriptures.
15. The term *nomos*, does not speak strictly of the commands and statutes, it also speaks of the Spirit-empowered means by which believers grow in grace by appropriating God's instruction in holy love .
16. In using the term *nomos*, the Jewish writers of the New Covenant refer to His Word engraved on our hearts. (Jer31)
17. **P65** "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
18. The "all Scripture" to which Paul refers – and the importance of which he affirms – is the Old Covenant.
19. Yeshua Himself clarifies that He did not repeal the Old Covenant. (Matthew 5:17)
20. Messiah encourages Torah teaching for New Covenant believers. (Matthew 13:52)

21. In Romans 10:4, the Greek word *telos* (end) does not mean cessation or termination. ... refers to maturity.
22. An accurate translation of the verse is “For the goal at which the Torah aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts.” (Romans 10:4 Complete Jewish Bible)

Lawlessness

23. **P66** Myth about the Torah: any New Covenant believer embracing the Old has lapsed into legalism.
24. We are to avoid unbalanced, excessive or self-righteous applications of the law – but not the law itself.
25. For New Covenant believers, the Yeshua-centered law is a means by which we express our love for Him. (John 14:15)

Legally Restoring Everything

26. **P67** There is coming a day in which “the law will go out from Zion” to all nations (Isaiah 2:3)
27. Christians call this period the Millennium (Rev 20:3-6); Jews traditionally understand it as the Messianic Age.
28. This present, transitional age is one of overlapping kingdoms, an in-between era:
 - 1) The time Yeshua first came – the Kingdom of heaven breaking dynamically into the earth realm.
 - 2) The time He will come again, climactically restoring everything. (Acts 3:21)
29. God ensures that in the future His law will be followed and honored in all nations.
30. The law will mediate supreme justice, based on truth and righteousness, under Messiah’s Kingdom rule.

The Temple Worship

31. **P68** Israel’s “is” also “the temple worship” according to Romans 9:4-5.
32. There is more to the tabernacle of David described in Amos 9:11 and partly fulfilled in Acts 15:16.
33. The tabernacle prophecy was originally given in the context of Israel’s national restoration in the Messianic Age.
34. The descendants of the ancient Levites and priests will join us in worshiping Messiah in spirit and truth.
35. Together, we will bow before His holy throne, in His holy Temple, in His holy city. (Ezekiel 40-47)
36. Temple worship and service reflect a priestly ministry.
37. God called Israel to be a nation of priests: “You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”. (Ex 19:6)

Nation of Priests

38. **P69** Israel’s destiny as a nation of priests can be seen as beginning with Abraham, when God tells him to sacrifice Isaac.
39. Abraham’s sacrificial response foreshadows Yeshua’s sacrifice.
40. God expands the priestly function, assigning it to a lineage in the tribe of Levi.
42. Ancient Israel’s ministry of combined intercession, sacrifice and worship – offered on the basis of a Messianic atonement that God would someday provide - reconciled heaven to earth ... for Israel ... for the Gentiles as well.
43. Israel’s priestly calling did not totally cease with the New Covenant.
44. Together with the Church, Israel has been assigned an irrevocable intercessory role to play in Yeshua’s return.
45. The restoration of Israel brings “life from the dead” (Romans 11:12, 15)
46. **P70** “life from the dead” refers to the Second Coming. It also means revival of the nations even now.
47. As God restores Israel, fullness of life is released through her to the Gentiles.

Israel, God’s Servant

48. Israel serves God’s purposes whether she knows it or not. (Isaiah 49:33)
49. How does Israel serve the Lord in disobedience?
 - 1) The history of Israel provides an example from which we can benefit and learn. (see 2 Timothy 3:16)
 - 2) On account of Israel’s corporate rejection of Messiah, the Gospel has gone to the Gentiles. (see Romans 11:11)
 - 3). God uses Israel to refine the Church in love.
 - 4) Israel reminds the nations of the sovereignty of their Creator – and by implication, of sin.
50. Of their own sin, the nations rarely wish to be reminded and as a result Israel has suffered much.
51. The “Suffering Servant” of the Bible, Yeshua stands apart as the quintessential Servant of the Lord and High Priest of

humankind. He alone atoned for our sin – not Israel.

52. Yet the prophetic Scriptures apply the term “servant of the Lord” on another level to the Jewish people.

53. **P71** Could Israel’s suffering at the hands of the nations somehow be in service to those nations?

54. If so, the One who appointed and anointed her to serve watches and weighs our response.

The Scapegoat

55. Anti-Semitism, animosity toward Jews, described as world’s everlasting hatred, is demonstrably illogical.

56. **P72** Jews are once more the scapegoat.

57. Scapegoat refers to one who is blamed, with irrational hostility, for the wrongdoing of others.

58. The scapegoat served as a sign of God’s forgiveness, but it was also a visible and uncomfortable reminder of His demand for obedience.

59. The Jewish nation serves to remind the world of her God and His holy demands.

60. This is a message the world loves to hate. So ... many times it seeks to kill the messenger.

The Ancient Root of Anti-Semitism

61. Global hatred toward Jews is at an all-time high. ... Much of the hatred is currently directed at Israel.

62. World animus against Israel has as much or more to do with the Jewish people as with the Jewish state.

63. **P73** The mystery of Israel’s suffering ... points ultimately to the existence of evil and Satan himself.

64. The devil despises who God loves and opposes what God does.

65. The nations’ perception of Israel’s wrongdoing is so extremely exaggerated, and their reaction to her sin so inordinately harsh, as to reflect demonic inspiration behind both.

66. The seedbed of anti-Semitism is found in the Garden of Eden. There Satan tempts the woman with a lie, she succumbs, the man follows and humankind tragically falls.

67. In mercy and grace, Deity decrees, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

68. God covenants with Abraham, then Isaac and Jacob, to bless all nations through them.

69. As a result, satanic rage is directed at Israel – and ultimately her Messiah, the woman’s Seed whose crucifixion and resurrection redeem humankind.

70. Yeshua is returning to establish His kingly dominion on earth – and He has specifically linked His return to Israel.

71. God is not finished with the Jews; therefore, neither is the devil. (Mat 23:39; Acts 3:17-1; Rev 12:1-5, 13)

The Patriarchs

72. **P74** “Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah.” (Romans 9:5)

73. The Savior of humankind was birthed from a Jewish womb with Jewish DNA ... He is coming back to earth as a Jew, with a distinctly Jewish title, “The Offspring of David” (Revelation 22:16).

74. Messiah referred to the ethnic Jews of the end times as His brothers and sisters. For them He remains jealous and Zealous. (Zehariah 1:14-15)

Ethnic Distinctions and Racism

75. **P75** God created the nations for our own good ... in pride mankind built a high tower called Babel ... responding in mercy and grace, Yahweh confused mankind’s communications ... mankind scattered .. the nations evolved.

76. The Creator intends different nations ... to reflect different dimensions of His divine character.

77. Absolutely no nation is inherently better or worse, no ethnic group intrinsically superior or inferior to any other.

78. In God’s redemptive plans nations do have unique callings and destinies.

79. At His return, Yeshua deals with nations: “The survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.” (Zech 14:16)

80. **P76** God created the nations, each is special to His heart and He loves them all.

81. Racism is defined as the false belief that race is the chief determinant of human traits and abilities, giving inherent superiority or inferiority to individuals. This, the Bible emphatically does not promote.

82. The Holy Scriptures teach we are all created in God's image with equal human dignity and inherent worth.
83. Scriptures do not teach that individuals or nations all have the same or equal gifts, destinies and functions. (1 Cor 12)
84. Many oppose the existence of a Jewish state because they believe it racist for a nation to exist uniquely for Jews.
85. Such individuals confuse ... equality, uniformity and moral justice. God has a different plan.

God Forever Praised

86. **P77** God wants us to honor, even celebrate, our distinctive callings "in order that [His] purpose in election might stand." (Romans 9:11) The future depends on it.

Chapter 5: The contention of Election

1. **P79** "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned" ... in order that God's purpose in election might stand ... What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ... It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. (Romans 9:7, 11, 14-16)
2. God chose a people purely for the purpose of redeeming and restoring all others to Himself.
3. **P80** God reiterates, "My covenant I will establish with Isaac" (Genesis 17:21)

Abraham's Family feud

4. **P81** From God's perspective, Ishmael sneers not so much at human favoritism but sovereign election.
5. In effect Ishmael demands of Deity, "What You gave me is not enough; I want it all."
6. Some say the cry still echoes in much of the Arab world today in its stance toward Israel.
7. To resolve the conflict, God tells Abraham to send both Hagar and Ishmael away for good. (see Gen21:9-12)
8. Abraham "left everything he owned to Isaac" (Genesis 25:5).
9. **P82** The inheritance of the descendants of Ishmael, like Israel's through Isaac, is a question of sovereign election. The Creator need justify His choice to no one (see Romans 9:20-21; Job 40:2).

Ishmael in Bible Prophecy

10. Ishmael prospered under God's blessing and multiplied quickly into twelve rulers.
11. Today, hundreds of millions of Arabs live in over twenty sovereign states in North Africa and the Middle East.
12. **P83** History recounts how Ishmael's children are noted for "hostility toward all their brothers" (Genesis 16:12)
13. God also described Ishmael as a "wild donkey of a man."
14. Someday Ishmael's hostilities will be magnificently transformed in Messiah.
15. Collectively, the Jews and Arabs will carry the presence and glory of the King in a unique, intimate way, tapping into their Abrahamic legacy as never before.
16. Hints of conciliatory revival between the children of Ishmael and Isaac are in the Scriptures. (see Isaiah 19:23-25)
17. **P84** Beauty and blessing that will flow from Ishmael's fulfilled redemptive destiny. (see Isaiah 60:4-7)

Abraham's Other Sons

18. After the death of Sarah, Abraham takes another wife, Keturah.
19. By Keturah Abraham fathers 6 more sons: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.
20. He sends them to live in the region east of the Promised Land that Isaac inhabits.
21. In the Arabian Peninsula, the clans intermingle and intermarry. (see Genesis 25:1-6)
22. **P85** Keturah's descendants, along with the Ishmaelites and other nations such as Persia, Egypt and Moab, intermix
23. Today Arabs dwell from the Euphrates to the Red Sea on lands 650 times the size of the state of Israel.

Esau and Jacob: War in the Womb

24. The contention of election resumes in Bible history with Isaac and the birth of twins Esau (older) and Jacob.
25. God relates to Rebekah, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated."
26. **P86** Esau despised his birthright. (see Genesis 25:33-34)
27. In despising his birthright, Esau has shown a woeful disregard for the One who gave it to him.

28. Therefore God says, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” (Romans 9:13)
29. At Rebekah’s behest Jacob resorts to deceiving his father to steal and seal the birthright blessing. (Gen 27:28-29)
30. Jacob irrevocably inherits the covenant promise and Esau is enraged.
31. Isaac states to Esau, “I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants.” (Gen 27:37)
32. **P87** Esau is devastated, embittered and bent on revenge: “I will kill my brother Jacob.” (Gen 27:41)
33. To escape Esau’s wrath, Jacob is forced to flee for his life.
34. God graciously visits Jacob and He sovereignly and unequivocally passes His covenant with Abraham and Isaac down to Jacob – inheritance was destined for him all along.
35. God said to Jacob “I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ... All peoples on earth will blessed through you and your offspring ... I will bring you back to this land.” (Gen 28:13-15)
36. **P88** Jacob is involved in a dramatic struggle with the Angel of the Lord. Contending for blessing, he secures it.
37. Jacob is transformed, his name is changed to Israel meaning “Striving with God” and Prince with God.” (Gen 32:28)
38. Today, ... Israel’s striving with God is being transformed into a humble surrender to His princely calling.

Esau’s Descendants at enmity with Israel

39. Esau spawns Edom which throughout its existence harbors enmity against the children of Israel.
40. For their persistent, anti-Israel, anti-God hatred, the Edomites are sternly judged. (Ez 36:5; Joel 3:19; Obadiah 1-15)
41. **P89** Edom typifies the nations’ contention against Israel’s election.

The Offense of Election

42. In the New Covenant, the question of election carries over into the Gentile Church.
43. Paul addressed the election issue forthrightly in Romans 9:6-29:
 - 1) Only a small remnant within Israel has ever stayed faithful to God.
 - 2) Only the elect remnant within Israel has ever engaged personally with Him in full covenant blessing and calling.
 - 3) This remnant serves to maintain the election of the whole nation.
 - 4) Israel’s collective disobedience never canceled god’s unconditional covenant with her and does not cancel it now.
44. So too, at the present time there is a remnant [faithful Messianic Jews] chosen by grace. (Romans 11:5)
45. Scattered verses in Romans 9 are sometimes taken out of context and used to argue against Israel’s ongoing election.
46. **P90** A spiritual separation in Yeshua exists between unbelieving ethnic Israel and believing ethnic Israel.
47. Believing ethnic Israel are the “children of the promise” who are fully “Abraham’s children” and “offspring.”
48. Jewish DNA is not a guarantee of salvation or a place in God’s family as those are matters of mercy and grace, not race.
49. God’s covenant election is maintained with the whole nation by mercy and grace. (2 Chronicles 6:14)
50. Election is not unfair and God is not unjust For He says ... “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” (Romans 9:14-15)
51. Election is designed to extravagantly bless the Gentiles just as much as the Jews. Unless we choose otherwise.

I Will Bless Those Who Bless You

52. **P91** God states to Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse.” (Gen 12:2-3)
53. When God blesses, He kneels ... to enrich us.
54. Yeshua blessed us as following:
 - 1) Emptied Himself of glory to dwell among us.
 - 2) He stoops to wash twelve disciples’ dirty feet.
 - 3) He hangs to death, agonizing and bleeding on a tree.
 - 4) He humbly kneels to eternally enrich you and me, calling us to follow Him and do likewise.
55. **P92** When God fulfills His promise to bless, He kneels to enrich all those who kneel to enrich the Jewish people.
56. Metaphorically kneeling before the Jews merely reflects a heart posture of honor, preference and humility.
57. This same humility is required of Israel toward all peoples on earth. (Genesis 12:3)
58. It is this humility, the diminishing of oneself in pure love to enrich another, that moves God to bless back.

59. Those who bless Israel are blessed with more of the Blessor Himself.

Whoever Curses You I Will Curse

60. Hebrew definition of a curse is threefold:

- 1) To stop or impose a barrier.
- 2) To treat lightly, make light of, belittle or make little.
- 3) To despise, disdain or regard with contempt.

61. Gen 12:3 could be phrased “The one who stops you from fulfilling your calling or belittles you, I must severely curse.”

62 Biblical examples of those blessed and cursed according to Gen 12:3:

- 1) King Abimelech mishandles Abraham’s wife – he turns infertile and almost loses his life (see Gen 20:1-18)
- 2) Joseph is favored and blessed by pharaoh – Egypt prospers in difficult times.
- 3) Another pharaoh enslaves the Hebrews – Egypt is then laid waste.
- 4) The Moabites hire a soothsayer Balaam to curse the Israelites – God curses the Moabites and Balaam is killed.
- 5) Jews in Persia are threatened with annihilation by Haman – Haman himself hangs on gallows he built for a Jew.

63. **P93** Those cursing the children of Israel ... only force God’s hand against themselves.

The Pattern Persists

64. **P94-96** Post-biblical history shows that the curse pattern of the Old Covenant did not change after the New:

- 1) Constantine ... adopted and enforced virulently anti-Jewish laws - soon thereafter the Roman Empire fell.
- 2) Replacement theology was embedded in the Church – The Church sank into the spiritual abyss of the Dark Ages.
- 3) As the Church intended to replace Israel – Islam rose during the Dark Ages intending to replace the Church.
- 4) Holy Crusades from England and France slaughtered Jews – The bubonic plague and the Hundred Years’ war resulted.
- 5) Spain’s Inquisitions persecuted Jews to convert or leave – Spain declined, never to reclaim its global prestige.
- 6) Britain appeased Palestinian Arabs objecting to the Jews’ return – The once-great British Empire is no more.
- 7) Germany’s Nazi-generated Jewish holocaust killed millions of Jews – WW2 left Germany in shambles, humiliated.
- 8) After WW2 Germany sincerely blessed Israel with reparations and aid – Germany has been restored.
- 9) The Soviet Union experienced widespread, murderous anti-Semitism - the USSR imploded allowing a Jewish exodus.
- 10) The United States present-day treatment of Israel – weather aberrations and economic upheavals, etc. in US.
- 11) Specific actions taken by US to impose barriers, bans, land reductions etc. – traumatic events in US.
- 12) Arab nations in Middle East oppose Israel – they languish in repressive spiritual darkness, poverty and injustice.

65. **P96** History presents a recurring pattern. Those who bless Israel get blessed; those who curse her get cursed.

Chapter 6: The Salvation of Israel

1. **P97** “Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.” (Rom 10:1)
2. **P98** God’s priority “for the Israelites is that they may be saved.”
3. As of 2013 as many as 20,000 Israeli Jews believe in Yeshua. Worldwide over 500,000 Jewish people believe in Yeshua.

How Are Jews Saved?

4. Only the Jewish Messiah fulfills the Jewish hope for Jewish redemption.
5. “There is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, for ‘Everyone who calls on the name off the Lord will be saved.’ “ (Romans 10:12-13)
6. **P99** There is no difference between Jew and Gentile concerning the manner of salvation.
7. Some Christians say “The Jews are God’s chosen people. They have a special covenant and do not need Jesus.”

Dual Covenants

8. Dual covenant teaches there are two ways to get saved:

- 1) The Jews get saved via the Old Covenant.
- 2) The Gentiles get saved through the New Covenant.
9. Centuries of institutionalized contempt for Jews gave way hate, crusades, inquisitions, pogroms and the Holocaust.
10. **P100** Such treatment by Christians embedded into the collective Jewish mind-set that Jews cannot believe in Jesus.
11. Some believers traded divine contempt for dual covenant ... in effect exempting the Jews from evangelism.
12. Far better to share the truth in love and humility with Jewish people.
13. **P101** Paul, Yeshua and other New Covenant authors teach that Jewish DNA does not guarantee salvation.
14. Jewish people alive today need to hear the Gospel from believers.

Time of the Gentiles

15. Romans 11:26 relates specifically to the Second Coming and “all Israel” to the people of Israel alive at that time.
16. Most modern Bibles translate Rom 11:25 “Israel has experienced a hardening ... until the **full number** of Gentiles.”
17. Older Bible versions translate Rom 11:25 “... until the **fullness** of the Gentiles has come in.” (KJV)
18. **P102** The practical distinction between “**full number**” and “**fullness**” is critical.
19. “**Full number**” means no Jews can or will be saved until the last Gentile numbered for the Kingdom is saved.

Fullness of the Gentiles

20. **P103** “**Fullness**” is that quality of mature Christlikeness that provokes Jewish people to godly envy for their Messiah.
22. It is the quality of Gentile Christianity encountered by Jewish people that leads to their salvation, not the quantity.

Jewish Hardness or Blindness

23. **P104** Never resign anyone as too hard or blind to surrender to God in response to persevering prayer.
24. Nowhere does the New Covenant attribute Gospel resistance to all of Israel.
25. A degree of spiritual hardening is on part, but not all, of the Jewish nation.
26. Part of Israel responds to the Gospel, while part of Israel does not ... similar to how Gentiles respond.
27. **P105** Even those Jews who are hardened usually are not totally hardened. “A partial hardening ... “ (Rom 11:25)

Place Is Not a Problem

28. The Bible promises that the Jewish people will be restored physically to their land and then spiritually to their Lord.
29. In this transitional season, some will turn to the Lord outside of Israel, and then return to the land.
30. Many will come to the land first, and only then to the Lord.
31. God’s mercy and grace are unlimited; the Gospel can be shared with the Jews wherever they happen to be.

Opposing the Salvation of the Jewish People

32. **P106** Satan is uniquely threatened by Israel’s restoration because it precipitates his personal ruin.
33. Yeshua explicitly connects His return – and earthly removal of the devil – to the time when Jewish Jerusalem welcomes Him back.
34. Over 2000 years ago, religious leaders in Jerusalem rejected Jesus as Israel’s Messiah.
35. Someday in the future they will wholeheartedly bless His return.
36. This pinnacle event will inaugurate the Second Coming – and the devil’s eviction from earth. (Acts 3:17-21; Rev 20:2)
37. When Messianic believers face opposition from other Jews, we pray in love for those who persecute them.
38. We know our battle is not against flesh and blood; our enemy is the enemy (the devil, satan).
39. **P107** Counter-missionaries are usually ultra-Orthodox Jews who try to prevent other Jews from believing in Yeshua.
40. In their opinion, faith in Messiah is tantamount to excommunication from biblical Judaism. (see Rom 10:2; 11:28)

Discrimination against Israeli Messianic Jews

41. Israel is the only country in the Middle East where Christianity is freely and openly growing, not diminishing.
42. Counter-missionaries have for decades firebombed Messianic congregations and homes, assaulted or beat up believers, vandalized their personal property, shut down their businesses, hurled death threats and attempts etc.
43. **P108** In spite of anti-missionary harassment, Israel is a freedom-loving and robustly democratic society.

44. Israeli believers do not suffer systematic, violent persecution, but they do endure governmental discrimination.
45. Seek strategies from heaven to stand with your brothers and sisters in Christ.
46. Pray for anti-missionaries ... At the same time, pray for God's beloved friends, Israel's remnant.

Blessing Israel's Remnant

47. **P109** Some Israeli believers ... live in chronic financial distress.
48. Despite the obstacles, the Body of Messiah thrives. No Israeli city is without at least one Messianic congregation.

One New Humanity

49. **P110** The Messianic Jewish remnant of Israel is an integral part of the universal Body of Christ.
50. Ephesians 2:11, 13, 15, 19; 3:6 describes us (Messianic believers and Gentile Christians) as "one new humanity."
51. Yeshua's return will be preceded by a remnant of Gentile believers who, in the spirit of Ruth, cling to the Jews.
52. They will so captivate the Lord's heart that, like Boaz, He will joyfully come to claim His Bride, fully redeeming Israel as well. (see Revelation 22:17)

Chapter 7: Rejected Roots and Broken Branches

1. **P115** "Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural [Jewish] branches, he will not spare you either ... I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited [about] Israel. (Romans 11:20, 25)

Ignorance of the Word Is No Excuse

2. **P116** The apostle Paul reminds us that God has not rejected them, replaced them or rescinded His gifts from them.
3. God is using their national spurning of Messiah to release blessing to the Gentiles.
4. Consider His kindness toward the Jews ... "continue in his kindness" toward them; "otherwise you will also be cut off."
5. **P117** Paul teaches that our rightstanding with God, maybe even our salvation, is linked to our treatment of Israel.
6. Much ignorance and arrogance about Israel stem from Christianity's historical severance of Old Covenant Jewish roots.
7. God intended for the Church to "share in the nourishing sap from the ... root." (Romans 11:17)

Severing Jewish roots

8. Instead, the Church turned away, tapping headlong into the pernicious poison of anti-Semitism.
9. A false notion of "spiritual Israel" evolved, along with supersessionist theology. The result is Christian anti-Semitism.
10. **P118** After the Messianic Jewish apostles, Gentile Church fathers formulated a theology of divine contempt for Jews.
11. Christians began stripping Jews of their civil and religious rights.
12. Church leaders historically incited cruelty toward them.
13. **P119** The devil has not abated his insidious campaign – in the Church – against Israel.

Outlawing Messianic Judaism

14. In rejecting its Old Covenant roots, Christianity took aim at one small sector in particular – Messiah-following Jews.
15. **P121** Germany's National Reich Church required pastors to take oath of allegiance to Hitler and expel from churches all Messianic Jews or Christian of Jewish descent; AD 1935 (one example)
16. Most Jews who joined the Church were in reality choosing forced conversion over death.
17. In an act of historic and laudable reform, in 1965 the Roman Catholic Church officially repudiated its ancient accusation against the Jews of "deicide" (killing God), the teaching of divine contempt and all forms of supersessionism. Catholics reaffirmed Israel's election, based specifically on Romans 9:1-4.

Grafted into the Olive Tree

18. **P122** In recent years, more Christians around the world have begun embracing the Jewish roots of their faith.
19. **P123** When Gentile branches grafted into a Jewish-rooted tree function as God intends, the fruit is spectacular.

20. Jewish roots support new Gentile branches – but the engrafted branches are needed with their fresh vigor and vitality to save the whole tree.
21. If it is ever to bear fruit again, the original tree must accommodate the transplant, freely sharing all the life it has left.
22. The two must become one for their mutual survival. God’s grafting agent, humility, makes the miracle possible.

The New Christian Anti-Semitism

23. **P124** The new anti-Semitism ... is directly tied to anti-Zionism, hate for Israel or both.
24. **P125** The people of Israel are the sons and daughters of Jacob – the Jews – wherever they happen to be.
25. The World Council of Churches (WCC) representing 560 million Christians in over 110 nations.
26. Stating that Israel is “a sin” it (WCC) declares that resistance against her is a Christian right and duty.
27. The WCC has repeatedly distorted facts to denounce and demonize the Jewish state.
28. **P126** The National Council of Churches (NCC) is composed of over 45 million believers.
29. The NCC harshly condemns the Jewish state for her alleged treatment of Palestinians, but not Palestinians for terror.
30. Their peace initiatives aim to create a sovereign Palestinian state.
31. They do not address the extensively documented Palestinian plan to annihilate Israel once that state is established.
32. At the core of Christian anti-Israel sentiment is usually a refusal to believe the Jewish state is an expression of God’s everlasting, unconditional covenant. Therefore, Israel is not regarded as a fulfillment of prophecy.

An Alternative Christian Approach

33. **P127** Some Christian leaders and organizations offer a well-reasoned response to the anti-Israel strategies of peers.
34. The Protestant Consultation on Israel and the Middle East ... encourages an honest approach to both sides.
35. Christian Zionists have shown themselves to be Israel’s closest friends.

Chapter 8: The Islamic Middle East and Anti-Semitism

1. **P130** The Quran claimed to replace the Bible.
2. Islam claims over 90 percent of the Arab population.
3. Across the Middle East political realities are fueled by fundamentalist Islam (Islamism).

A Christian Root of Islam?

4. Islam originated and rose to the fore during the so-called Dark Ages of history (late 5th – 10th centuries).
5. This was a period shrouded in spiritual ... darkness. The Church weakened, evangelism ebbed and the Gospel gained little ground.
6. **P131** Not long before this era, Christian leaders renounced their Old Covenant heritage, cutting off Jewish roots.
7. The doctrine of divine contempt led many to persecute and kill Jews who would not convert.
8. Islam adopted “replacement-of-replacement theology” with a vengeance:
 - 1) First the Church claimed to supersede Israel.
 - 2) Next Muslims asserted they superseded both Jews and Christians.
9. It is possible the Church reaped for itself the same treatment it meted out to the Jews.
10. **P132** As believers in Jesus today face revived fundamentalist Islam, it is critical that we purge ourselves of any vestige of theological anti-Semitism. We must learn from history so that we need not repeat it.

Islamic Jesus and the End Times

11. Fundamentalist Islam is to a large extent apocalypse-driven, with militantly messianic aspirations.
12. Islam’s messiah is not the Jesus of the Holy Bible.
13. According to the Quran, Jesus was a strictly human prophet who never died on a cross and definitely is not God’s Son.
14. Fundamental Islam teaches that Jesus was supernaturally spared death, having been taken directly to heaven.
15. In the end times, he is expected to return as a Muslim serving the Islamic messiah (Mahdi).
16. To prepare for the mahdi’s coming, Muslims must first put into place an Islamic caliphate, or political empire adhering to totalitarian, Islamic religious law (sharia).

17. The caliphate is to be established through holy wars (jihad).
18. In the process, Israel must be overrun and Jerusalem must be captured ... to serve as Islamic holy headquarters.
19. **P133** Sacred texts assert the Mahdi will rule from the Temple Mount, with Jesus helping him establish the kingdom of Allah.
20. Jesus will accomplish this by abolishing Christianity, teaching sharia and slaughtering Jews who refuse to convert.
21. Then Jesus will marry, father several children and die.
22. Muslims expect two Jesuses to return. The personality described above will appear first.
23. The second Jesus (the Bible's Messiah) claims to be both a Jewish man and divine.
24. He defends Israel in a major military operation against the Mahdi and his hordes.
25. Islamic texts describe this second Jesus as the Antichrist (dajjal) who gets defeated by Allah's forces.
26. Islamic eschatology presents an inverse parallel or mirror image of the end times outlined in Scripture.
27. The Mahdi (Islamic messiah) would fit the role of the Antichrist in the Bible.
28. The Islamic Jesus would represent the Antichrist's false prophet (see Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
29. Islam's dajjal appears to describe the true Messiah.
30. Because fundamentalist Islam presents such a strikingly opposite view of the end times described in the Bible, explicitly denying that Jesus is God's son, some Christians suspect it may be part of the religious system of the Antichrist (see 1 John 4:3)

Who Is Allah and What Does He Want?

31. **P134** The Islamist Allah does not resemble the divine personality of the Creator portrayed in Jewish Scripture.
32. Moved by the power of love, Father God offers the sacrifice of His Son on our behalf.
33. Moved by the love of power, Allah orders the sacrifice of his followers' sons on his own behalf.
34. Islam means "submission" and Allah requires submission to him willingly, forcibly or by torturous killing if refuse.
35. Christians and Jews who do not convert can sometimes live if they submit to shari law and pay an exorbitant tax.
36. The Islamist's highest duty is jihad and his ultimate reward, martyrdom. Jihad is a compelling sacrament.
37. Islamist must strive for outward, global domination at all times.
38. Fundamentalist Islam is not a recently invented rageality to oppose the Jewish state.
39. Muhammad himself instigated jihad against pagans, Christians and Jews.
40. Under his orders, Muslim warriors savagely slaughtered masses of believers, overrunning churches and converting them into mosques.
41. Muhammad's mandate to conquer the whole world and compel submission to sharia law has never been relinquished.
42. The Quran contains 114 verses about love, forgiveness and peace.
43. All 114 are abrogated by "The Verse of the Sword" penned later in Muhammad's life.
44. **P135** Most moderate Muslims are peaceful, upright citizens of goodwill.
45. The moderates hold small sway in the overall Islamic world.
46. The agenda of fundamentalist Islam includes overtaking and eventually forcing them to conform to extremism, too.
47. Most (moderates) recognize that they can rarely trust what the fundamentalists say or do.

Islam and "Truth"

48. Islamic sacred texts are replete with perversions of biblical truth, many of which target the Jews. The Quran teaches:
 - 1) Jewish authors of Scripture intentionally distorted both Old and New for their own selfish interests.
 - 3) Ishmael is the rightful covenant heir of Abraham.
 - 4) The Jews are accused of falsifying the whole canon of Jewish Scripture in a demonic attempt to supersede Islam.
49. With major distortions of biblical truth embedded in the Quran and related sacred texts; an element of dishonesty inevitably permeates the Islamist world.
50. Truth does not – and cannot – carry the same value as it does in Judeo-Christian culture.
51. The worldwide impact of the fundamentalists (Islam) disposition toward dishonesty cannot be overstated.
52. **P136** The fundamentalist doctrine of *taqiya* mandates lying in order to preserve Islamist goals.
53. According to *taqiya*, facts may be distorted, outlandishly embellished, dismissed or completely concocted.

54. Truthful and insightful perspectives of Islam can often be gleaned from former Muslims.
55. The courageous spokespeople repeatedly warn about Islam's insidious infiltration into Western democracies, including the US, to cause their collapse.

Arab Spring / Islamist Awakening

56. **P137** The (Arab Spring) revolutions have been hijacked by well-organized Islamist parties with radical agendas.
57. Arab Spring has morphed into what can more accurately be termed ... an Islamist awakening.
58. Islamist groups boast automatic advantages in any free election in the Arab Middle East.
59. Islamist groups have long held sway over the majority through the mosque and the media.
60. The governments they control will, over time, likely replace superficial democratic reform with sharia law.
61. Western-style elections ... originally rooted in Judeo-Christian values ... has little relevance to the Arab Muslim world.
62. A moderate Muslim cautions that those who say democracy and political Islam can peacefully coexist are ill-informed.
63. Islamic states ... make no secret of their goal to resurrect the Islamic caliphate.
64. They anticipate forcibly inaugurating, through brutal jihad, a cataclysmic end times scenario along with the caliphate.
65. **P138** Iran, known in the Bible as Elam or Persia.
66. The archangel Michael wrestled against the "prince of Persia" ... This dark prince is a spirit of high-ranking authority.
67. This dark prince tries hard to keep Michael from delivering prophetic revelation about end times. (Dan 10:13,20)
68. Persia became the birthplace of revived fundamentalist Islam in 1979 ... the formal resumption of Allah's rule.
69. Iran broadcasts vociferously that Israel must be wiped off the map.
70. In view of Iran's nuclear program ... Israel has no choice but to prepare for a preemptive defensive military strike.
71. If Iran delivers but one nuclear bomb to her first, there will be no Israel.
72. Iran openly seeks to establish a totalitarian caliphate in the Middle East, then inaugurate ... a "new world order."
73. In the new order, America is neutralized and the Mahdi comes to power.
74. **P139** Prophetic Scriptures indicate Yahweh will "set His throne in Elam," bring disaster against it, break its military might and disperse its people. ... But in the end ... He graciously restores the nation. (Jer 49:34-49)

Syria and Lebanon

75. Aligned closely with Iran, Syria is a highly strategic nation in the Middle East.
76. Syria harbors huge stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, compliments of Iran.
77. Biblical references to Syria pertain mostly to ... Damascus, for which devastating judgment is prophesied.
78. Lebanon ... has long served as a proxy state for both Syria and Iran.

Egypt

80. **P140** In 1979, Egypt and Israel entered into a historic peace treaty.
81. Egypt recognized Israel's right to exist, and in return, Israel gave Egypt ... the Sinai Peninsula.
82. Soon after Egypt's Arab Spring revolt, ... (Egypt) came under the control of fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.
83. From its inception the Brotherhood has been obsessed with anti-Semitism:
- 1) It created Hamas, a terror group whose very existence is dedicated to Israel's demise.
 - 2) M.B. leaders held massive public rallies declaring jihad on Israel and the conquest of Jerusalem.
 - 3) M.B. President Morsi ... stated "Jerusalem is our goal" and martyrdom operations will attain it.
 - 4) M.B. President Morsi ... prayed publicly for the annihilation of the Jewish state.
84. **P141** The prophet Isaiah portrays a final, beautiful future for Egypt, consummately fulfilled in the Messianic Age, with God declaring, "Blessed be Egypt My people". (see Isaiah 19:18-25)

Iraq

85. Today, much of Assyria is known as Iraq:
- 1) Ur of the Chaldees, where God first spoke to Abraham, was located in what is now Iraq.
 - 2) In Iraq is the ancient city of Babylon, grisly ground to a host of polytheistic rites and rituals of ancient world.

86. An Islamist government was brought to power years ago through democratic elections in Iraq.

Turkey and Other Middle East Nations

87. Turkey is not technically part of the Middle East and its people are not technically Arabs; they are Turks.

88. **P142** Turkey served for hundreds of years as premier power of the Ottoman Empire.

89. Turkey has never relinquished the ideal of resuming its position as head of a future, pan-Islamic empire.

90. Some believe that end time prophecies indicate Turkey will regain power, then spearhead war against Israel.

91. Jordan shares a border with Israel ... the two entered into a peace treaty.

92. Feverishly anti-Semitic, Islamist groups now seek to overtake Jordan and terminate that peace.

93. Saudi Arabia and other Peninsula states could also succumb to incipient uprisings.

94. But one thing is certain: So long as fundamentalist Islam rages in the region, Israel will remain a target.

95. Hate for the Jews is embedded into fundamental Islam, beginning with the Quran.

Islam and the Jews

96. The Quran alleges ... that the Bible's Jewish authors intentionally falsified the Scriptures.

97. **P143** The Quran also teaches that Allah despises and cursed the Jews, turning some into apes and pigs.

98. Muhammad ordered the wholesale slaughter of unarmed Jewish villages that existed in his day.

99. The Hadith instructs the apocalyptic Day of Judgment cannot come until Muslims fight and vanquish the Jews.

100. Through the centuries, fundamental Islam has depicted the Jewish people as its greatest enemy.

101. Fundamental Islam has generated furiously anti-Semitic rhetoric predating modern Israel by over 1,300 years.

102. Islamists admit (in Arabic) that their rage against Israel has little to do with anything she does, but rather with the fact that she exists: "They are enemies not because they occupied Palestine ... our fighting with the Jews is eternal".

Islamic Holy Land?

103. **P144** Fundamentalist Islam cannot end its conflict with Israel because, according to its holy texts, any land that was ever conquered for Allah must be recouped.

104. For 1,300 years, Israeli lands were under foreign Muslim rule.

105. The Jews never voluntarily relinquished claim to their land and Palestine never existed as a sovereign Arab domain.

106. Israel ... absolutely must, in Islamist thought, be re-subjugated to Allah's rule.

107. Reclaiming Jerusalem is a central goal.

108. Jerusalem is the presumed locale for the mahdi's coming rule and reign on the Temple Mount.

109. To prepare for his arrival, Jerusalem must be recaptured from the Jews and restored to Islamist control.

110. Radical religion is the primary but not sole reason for Islamic hostility toward the Jewish state.

111. Israel is perceived as an insulting, imperial outpost of decadent Western civilization.

112. Few realize that ... Israel is fighting pivotal battles against fundamentalist Islam for all of Western civilization.

Inciting Hate for Israel

113. Throughout the Arab world, Islamist ideology pervades secular thought, there is virtually no separation.

114. **P145** Practically everywhere in the region, Jews are portrayed as subhuman and evil, deserving of death.

115. The Palestinian Authority has squandered exorbitant sums of international aid to systematically indoctrinate its entire population, since early childhood, with egregious lies about Israel.

116. **P146** Suicide bombers are honored ... A salary is paid to any Palestinian imprisoned for acts of terror against Israel.

117. Subject to a relentless onslaught of lies, multiplied millions of people ... consumed with a demonic loathing of Israel.

118. To appeal to Western ideals of freedom and justice, a conflict based fundamentally on murderously anti-Semitic ideology is reinvented as rooted in social injustice.

119. This turns the truth upside down. Social injustice did not cause the conflict, it has resulted from the conflict.

120. Our challenge is to forthrightly ascertain those facts and realities, then assess what believers can do to change them.

To God Be the Glory

121. **P147** Let us remember that Yahweh has the whole matter in hand.
122. The apostle Paul ... explains that Israel's calling, her election and even her troubles culminate in God's incomparable glory. ... None but He could mastermind this dazzling display of redemption, this triumph of mercy and grace.
123. The picture is bigger than Israel or her conflict with Islamism; it is bigger than the Church. The picture displays God's sovereign splendor, forever.
124. The Jewish people and their story ... their role in His story, are all about Him.
125. How important then ... to get the story straight – and understand what is at stake if we don't.

Chapter 9: Discerning Truth about Israel Today

1. **P149** In Romans 9-11 the apostle Paul told us of God's love for the Jewish people, their prophetic inheritance and His plans for their salvation.
2. We have seen how reciprocal blessing flows between Gentiles and Jews as one in Messiah, to God's infinite glory.
3. In Romans 12:1-3, Paul tells us what to do with the information: We must not conform to the pattern of this world; we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds in order to discern God's will. For that we must know truth.
4. To know the truth about a given situation, we must usually be equipped with the facts.

World Pattern: The Media

5. **P151** Media distortions about the Arab/Palestinian-Israeli conflict have exponentially worsened (since 1982).
6. My last trip to the Palestinian West Bank ... In 2012 I saw palatial homes, one after another ... businesses were thriving ... Large-scale ministry organizations operated in beautifully designed buildings, etc.
7. (the above) suggest there is another side to the West Bank story – and that it is rarely told.
8. To gain a sense of the distortion of truth about Israel ... look at three internationally publicized incidents ...
9. **P152-153** Justice in Jenin: (War had been started ... by the Palestinian in their ... Second Intifada)
 - 1) In 2002, the army undertook extreme ... measures to curtail casualties in ... Jenin.
 - 2) Charges of wide-scale, Holocaust-like genocidal atrocities quickly beamed via satellite across the globe ...
 - 3) The PA ... had given this summation to news reporters: "The Jenin refugee camp is no longer in existence; it is totally destroyed." Other PA officials decried a brutal massacre of 500 innocents, their bodies buried under the rubble by Israeli bulldozers.
 - 4) The international media did not bother to investigate facts before releasing the story.
 - 5) UN investigators ... could find no evidence of any massacre in Jenin ... 52 Palestinians were killed, most terrorists.
 - 6) Later Israel unearthed and publicly released Palestinian documents confirming the trumped-up nature of the charges.
 - 7) The Islamist justification for dishonesty called *taqiya* ... accounts for much of what we hear and see about Israel.
 - 8) Much of the damage and death toll in Jenin had been intentionally caused by the Palestinians themselves.
 - 9) An Arab filmmaker made a purported documentary called "Jenin Jenin" ... based on scenarios proven false ... It won awards.

Gaza-Grown Lies

10. **P154-155** Gaza-Grown Lies: (In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in gesture toward peace.)
 - 1) Peace gesture was met with a nightmarish barrage of rockets and missiles ... 12,000 by 2013 ...
 - 2) Israel was compelled to commence Operation Cast Lead ... to defensively dismantle terror nests and supplies.
 - 3) Palestinians charged Israel with ... macabre crimes against humanity ... the deliberate killing of babies, etc.
 - 4) UN investigated and interviewed only Palestinians. Its final report condemned Israel harshly ...
 - 5) Months later, the UN's lead investigator publicly recanted key findings ... insufficient evidence ... biased testimony.
 - 6) He confessed the number of Gazans killed had been far lower than claimed, and mostly limited to militants.

Facts on Flotillas

11. **P155-157** Facts on Flotillas: (In 2011 the Red Cross determined the humanitarian crisis in Gaza was over.)

- 1) Impoverished Palestinians exposed how Hamas had been artificially maintaining the crisis ... propaganda tool.
- 2) A fleet of nautical vessels launched by Turkish activists set sail for Gaza in 2010.
- 3) Stated purpose was to deliver humanitarian aid to civilians suffering from occupation.
- 4) Blockade was in place to prevent ongoing smuggling into Gaza of materials used to build terror weapons.
- 5) When the Mavi Marmara did not respond to repeated warnings ... a single Israeli soldier tried to peacefully board.
- 6) Peace activists responded by overpowering him with knives, metal bars and guns ... tried to throw body overboard.
- 7) IDF backup troops arrived ... nine militants were killed (eight of whom had ties to recognized terror organizations).
- 8) Nations seethed with fury against the Jewish state.
- 9) The UN's formal report concluded that flotilla activists and militants had illegally breached Israel's maritime border and blockade. Naval officers who boarded the Mavi Marmara had rightfully defended themselves.
But ... the UN determined the Jewish state must have used excessive force due to disproportionate deaths.
- 10) With the publicized accusation of excessive force, frenzied lies ... exploded at new levels ... lies breeding more lies.

Timeless Weapons of Deceit

12. **P158** Scripture shows how Satan has used world weapons of deceit against the Jews like no other nation on earth:
 - 1) In Esther ... Haman demands that all bow down and worship him. ... Mordecai, a God-fearing Jew, refuses.
 - 2) Haman is outraged ... he plots the annihilation of Jews throughout the empire ... a scheme based on lies.
 - 3) While the plan providentially backfires and Haman is killed, the spirit of Haman lives on.
13. The book of Ezra:
 - 1) Jewish people have returned to the Promised Land to rebuild their country and the Temple.
 - 2) After the foundation of the Temple is laid, the opposition stirs.
 - 3) When local efforts to stop the Jews from rebuilding fail, a formal appeal is filed with the authorities.
 - 4) The deceitfully crafted complaint distorts reality almost beyond recognition ... The threat is thoroughly fabricated.
14. **P159** The book of Matthew:
 - 1) Yeshua is born. Obsessed with a lie that the child will lead a revolution and usurp his royal crown, a Roman king executes every Jewish boy in the region of Messiah's birth. (see Matthew 2:13-18)
 - 2) Decades later, another Roman ruler sentences Yeshua to death, based again on more lies. (Ma tt 26:59-61)
15. Throughout the Bible a pattern emerges:
 - 1) Satan's timeless weapon of choice is deceit.
 - 2) The father of lies, lies. And his goal is murder.

Modern Myths

16. **P160-161** The Nazi Holocaust: (lies then and now)
 - 1) Hitler publicly noted that people fall victim more easily to a big lie, repeated often, than to a little one.
 - 2) Accordingly, he instituted a propaganda campaign – built on lies ... to set the stage for his future Jew-free regime.
 - 3) Lie 1: Jews murder non-Jews to use their blood in unleavened Passover bread.
 - 4) Lie 2: Jews are a biologically inferior people – part pig and ape – with evil genes that will destroy the human race.
 - 5) Lie 3: Jews harbor a pernicious plot to subvert and take over the world. (The Protocols of the Elders of Zion)
 - 6) Lie 4: Jews caused the Black Plague of the 1300s and, more recently, AIDS.
 - 7) Lie 5: Jews are Satan's agents on earth. They killed Christ. That is why Allah wants them killed now.
 - 8) Lie 6: Jews control the global economy and are at fault for every nation's money problems or economic collapse.
 - 9) Lie 7: Israel causes earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and storms to destroy other nations.
 - 10) Lie 8: Jews control the media, feeding the world false information to try to dispute all of the above "facts".
17. **P161** Hitler's minister of propaganda, Josef Goebbels, summarized:
 - 1) All Jews, by virtue of their birth and race, are part of an international conspiracy against us.
 - 2) They started this war ... The treatment they receive from us is hardly unjust. They have deserved it all.
18. Goebbels inverted logic echoes in much of the Islamist world today.
19. Israel is held responsible for every assault she is forced to endure, simply because she exists.
20. What has been done to curse God's people through lies and false reports is being done again.
21. Israel finds herself having to fight a war on at least three different fronts:

- 1) The traditional military front.
 - 2) A public relations war of words wages against Israel in the media.
 - 3) Israel's third front is known as lawfare ... exists in the sphere of international law and multinational governing bodies.
22. Anti-Israel "irrationality and hysteria" rules over "truth and reason" in the realms of media and lawfare.
23. **P162** Melanie Phillips discerns that today's war against Israel is a war against truth.

Inventing and Reinventing News

24. In reporting on the Arab/Palestinian-Israeli conflict, facts and events may be misrepresented and truth disregarded.
25. Some reporters and photographers regularly stage "news" event to shoot.
26. Scripted scenes are acted out, depicting fictitious Israeli oppression, then released internationally ... as facts.
27. Images ... aim to plant picture ... a viciously oppressive-like Israeli pitted against brave little Palestinian David.
28. One picture is worth a thousand words, it can also spread a thousand lies.
29. One photo of a roomful of "innocents" (in a dark room) betrayed a streak of sunlight beaming through curtains. The photo pictured Hamas leaders meeting in what was actual broad daylight staging a nighttime scene. It turned out they had engineered the blackout themselves to gain sympathy and international support against Israel.
30. **P163** Exposé shows that today's media spins and sells to the world a narrative of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that is biased and often unsubstantiated.
31. Social networks and blogs are flooded with fake photos generating hate for Israel and the Jews.
32. **P164** (we) live in an information-saturated Digital Age in which truth is an increasingly rare commodity.

Lawfare

33. Lawfare is warfare ... by manipulating or changing the laws of traditional Western civilization for otherwise unobtainable political goals. ... it is an abuse of the law for disingenuous means.
34. Examples of Lawfare:
 - 1) Claims filed ... false charges of torture in order to portray themselves as victims. (suggested in an Al-Qaeda manual)
 - 2) Hate speech lawsuits based on speaking peaceably but publicly about fundamentalist Islam and terror funding.
35. **P165** Lawfare seeks to take advantage of Judeo-Christian-based democracy-style laws to achieve Islamist goals.
36. Israel's right to exist is now being assailed through lawfare and universal jurisdiction at precedent-setting levels.

Anti-Israel Lawfare at the UN

37. A major victory for the use of lawfare (for Palestinians) occurred when the UN upgraded Palestinians' status to that of nonmember observer state in 2012. ... the upgrade breached a major provision of the Oslo Accords.
38. **P166** The UN is heavily influenced by sharia-oriented Arab and Islamic states.
39. This unified bloc is typically unconcerned with traditional Western values of freedom and moral justice.
40. Collectively, it has long constituted an automatic majority against Israel on issues relative to the Jewish state.
41. In 2002, former US ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick spoke of her "very deep shock" over extreme anti-Semitism pervading the UN. ... described the world's treatment of Israel as "nearly unbelievably insulting and outrageous." ... Successive American ambassadors to the UN have made similar observations.
42. Today Israel stands as the only member state of the UN repeatedly – and illegally – threatened with genocide by another member state (Iran).
43. Israel is forced every day to defend herself from distortions and lies in the realms of media and lawfare.

Chapter 10: Israeli Statehood and the Arab/Palestinian Plight.

1. **P169** A true story opens on May 14, 1948.
2. **P170** Ben-Gurion decrees: "By virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people ... we hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine, to be called the State of Israel ... for the fulfillment of the dream of generations – the redemption of Israel."
3. Sirens wail to warn of Egyptian bombers overhead. Joining them are the armies of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq,

- together with militants from throughout the Arab world. All have a common goal: to annihilate the Jewish state in Allah's name. The War of Independence has begun.
4. Israel is not so much in a fight for land as for her life.

Palestinian History: The Back Story

5. **P171** Collectively, Palestinians have no traceable ancient tie to the land of Israel and never identified as a self-governing people group.
6. Generally, they coexisted alongside Jews who had, in small numbers, lived in Palestine since biblical times on inherited or legally purchased land.
7. From the 1500s up until WW1, the entire Middle East was ruled by the Ottoman Turkish Empire, a type of Muslim caliphate. No autonomous Arab state was on the map.
8. According to a census taken in 1882, approximately 25,000 Jews lived in Palestine, along with 260,000 Arabs.
9. Palestine was by then mostly desolate and depopulated.
10. By the early 1900s, Palestinian Arab identity was said to be extremely mixed.
11. **P172** An official British document in 1920 stated the majority living in Palestine were not indigenous Arabs.
12. When Zionist pioneers began arriving in the early 20th century, the number of Arabs immigrating to Palestine also sharply increased.
13. With Jews from the West came new job opportunities, vastly improved medical care and a higher standard of living, all of which attracted their tribal neighbors.
14. Later, countless more poured in from surrounding countries ... to fight the formation of a Jewish state.
15. Together with the small indigenous Arabs, these individuals and their descendants comprise the Palestinians.
16. Palestinians are ... the only modern group whose creation and self-definition ... rests largely on the planned elimination of another, namely Israel – “the Zionist entity.”

Zionism and the Reestablishment of a Jewish State

17. Zionism is defined ... as the national liberation movement of the Jewish people.
18. The Zionist movement contends that the Jewish nation ... is entitled to live autonomously in its ancestral homeland.
19. **P173** Zionism is not and has never been entirely secular; a strong religious element has always underlain it.
20. Officially launched in 1896, modern-day Zionism involves the return of the Jewish people to their God-given ancestral homeland.
21. The modern story starts with WW1, when the Ottoman Turks aligned with Axis nations, and lost the war.
22. The Allies dismantled the Ottoman empire and created Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq for the Arabs and Persians to inhabit.
23. In an international agreement known as the San Remo Resolution of 1920, they set Palestine aside for the Jews.
24. The League of Nations directive, called the Mandate for Palestine, reserved explicitly for the Jews not just present-day Israel, but all of Judea, Samaria, Gaza and Jordan.
25. The Mandate for Palestine was scarcely issued when Palestinian Arabs began rioting and conducting terror operations in protest of it.
26. From the beginning, Islamic terror had everything to do with opposing the existence of a Jewish state.
27. **P174** In an effort to appease Palestinian Arabs – and although international law forbade such an action – Great Britain unilaterally took back 78 % of the land allotted to the Jews. She then gave it to Palestinian Arabs – specifically to create a Palestinian state. Today that state is known as Jordan.
28. But appeasement did not work ... after Jordan was established, Palestinian rioting and terror killings of Jews persisted.
29. Great Britain turned the political foray over to the UN ... the UN became responsible for creating a Jewish state.
30. Plans for the reestablishment of Israel were underway well before the onset of WW2.
31. **P175** Israel's fundamental right to exist under international law rests on the recognition of the Jews' ancestral, sovereign control over identifiable land that, since their forced removal from it, remained sparsely occupied and mostly undeveloped.
32. The UN continued with a policy of Arab appeasement. In 1947, it partitioned the remaining 22 % of the original

Mandate for a Jewish homeland into two proposed states: one for Jews and yet another, second state for Palestinian Arabs. The Partition Plan, UN Resolution 181, recognized the Jews' right to sovereign control over a sliver of space amounting to a mere 10 % of the original British Mandate. It offered the Arabs who lived within Mandate territory a state – in addition to Jordan – consisting of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

33. Zionist pioneers felt it best to accept the UN's offer.

34. The Arabs thoroughly rejected the Partition Plan, which legally voided the offer to them. ... They wanted it all.

Israel's Rebirth – Into War

35. Israel did not want the War of Independence to occur and tried extremely hard to prevent it.

36. **P176** Every effort was made by the Jews to persuade the Arab populace to stay.

37. Most chose to flee, creating a local refugee crisis.

Arab-Nazi Alliance

38. An unshakeable Islamic/Arab-Nazi alliance predated WW2, and as a result of it, many Arabs vehemently despised and feared the Jews.

39. Hitler formed a pact with Jerusalem's grand mufti, Haj Amin al-Husseini.

40. The notoriously anti-Semitic mufti held religious and political sway over Muslims throughout Palestine and Middle East.

41. **P177** He and Hitler schemed together to annihilate the Jewish people worldwide.

42. The Fuehrer would focus on Europe and the mufti would target Palestine's growing Jewish population.

43. Husseini mobilized an Arab militia, which served as a formal Nazi brigade.

44. Supplied with German weaponry, the brigade murdered Palestinian Jews in acts of heinous terror during WW2.

45. After the Holocaust ended in Europe, he and other Arab leaders hoped to immediately start another.

Creating a Refugee Crisis

46. When Israel declared statehood, Palestinian Arabs panicked. An estimated 600,000 to 700,000 fled.

47. The majority of Arabs who left their homes did so because their leaders told them to.

48. **P178** The Arab Legion and Arab Liberation Army directed wholesale civilian flight from entire villages.

49. Arab leaders freely admitted to having created the refugee crisis.

Palestinian Injustice

50. The War of Independence was not fought without collateral damage to both Palestinian and Jewish civilians.

51. There would not have been a war if the Arabs had not insisted on starting one.

52. Some Arab families and villages were wrongly expelled or inexcusably overrun by Jewish soldiers.

53. In at least one such raid at Deir Yassin, genuinely innocent victims were massacred. Israel denounced it.

54. **P179** Many Arab families who were forced to leave their homes did not actually own the lands they left.

55. A large Palestinian state (Jordan) existed just across the border. Those who might be displaced were expected to seek refuge there, just as 800,00 Jewish refugees were forced to leave their homes and relocate to Israel.

56. Lacking objective documentation of their plight, Palestinians have amassed global sympathies through a narrative that invents history.

57. Many share tragic personal tales – that prove either unverifiable or outrageously embellished.

58. Sadly, some of these accounts are presented by Christians as honest-to-God facts.

59. Emotions are stirred, then inflamed against Israel. Gradually, hearts are hardened against the Jewish people.

60. Jesus loves and died for the Palestinian people: He does not want us to disparage them. We must compassionately acknowledge their suffering and seek a right response to it.

61. But even genuine suffering must be viewed in context to rightly ascertain truth and transform realities justly.

Palestinian – and Jewish - Refugees

62. **P180** Palestinians were not the only refugees to result from the War of Independence.

63. According to official UN figures, over 800,000 Jewish refugees were forced to flee homes and lands in North Africa and the Middle East where they had lived for generations.
64. Jews were expelled, stripped of citizenship or both in retaliation for Israel's declaration of statehood.
65. Unincorporated areas proposed by the Partition Plan for a second Palestinian Arab state were illegally annexed and occupied ... by Jordan and Egypt. Jordan seized Judea and Samaria including East Jerusalem, Egypt staked claim to Gaza.
66. Neither Jordan nor Egypt ever gave the territories they annexed back to the Palestinians to liberate them.
67. The Palestinians were compelled to stay put indefinitely in refugee camp limbo.
68. Israel began offering ... to negotiate for the refugees' return – and full repatriation – back into the Jewish state.
69. No Arab leader was willing to negotiate with the Jews (as this) would involve an implicit recognition of her existence.
70. By refusing either to negotiate for the refugees' return or to absorb them themselves, they could continue the war against Israel in the political realm.
71. **P181** By 2013, of an estimated Palestinian population of 5 million, only 30,000 actually ever left a home in Israel.
72. Former UNRWA director Ralph Galloway concluded early on: "The Arab States do not want to solve the refugee problem. They want to keep it as an open sore ... as a weapon against Israel.
73. Of the situation an Arab American journalist comments: "What are the real roots of this conflict? ... That Palestinians want a homeland and Muslims want control over sites they consider holy? ... These two demands are nothing more than strategic deceptions, propaganda ploys. ... The real goal ... is the destruction of the State of Israel.

Palestinian Statehood and the Phased Plan

74. **P182** Since 1964 the Palestinian agenda has been to liberate a Palestine that includes ... all of Israel.
75. Israel fought for her life in the Six Day War of 1967 ... she defensively acquired Gaza and the West Bank.
76. In 1973 Egypt and Syria launched another unprovoked attack, the Yom Kippur War. Again Israel prevailed.
77. As a result of these mounting Arab defeats, the PLO announced its "Phased Plan".
78. The Phased Plan refers to slightly revised goal of liberating Palestine ... in stages:
 - 1) Phase One is the establishment of an independent combatant national authority ... Gaza and the West Bank.
 - 2) Phase Two is the reconfiguration of Gaza and West Bank into launching pads for provoking an all-out regional war.
 - 3) Accomplished by military operations, lawfare diplomacy, cyberattack or any combination thereof.

On the Occupation

79. **P183** When Israel ... gained Gaza and the West Bank, she acquired land that had been originally allotted to her in 1920.
80. UN Security Council Resolution 242 ended the fighting in 1967. It was a truce that purposefully did not define borders.
81. The 1949 armistice lines ending the War of Independence were never meant to be permanent ... the lines had proved indefensible, leaving the middle and most populous section only nine miles wide.
82. By 2011 the international community ... called them "pre-1967 borders" and urged Israel to retreat to them.
83. Egypt and Jordan ... refused to take back Gaza or the West Bank. Reclaiming these territories would have betrayed the pan-Arab plan ... to leave in place a local population to help destroy Israel.
84. **P184** Gaza and the West Bank remained in a state of perpetual war with Israel, ruled by the increasingly militant PLO.
85. Israel was authorized ... to administratively govern the territories ... called an occupation.
86. If Palestinians sincerely accepted Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, the war and the occupation would be history.

Peace Negotiations

87. In 1993, the PLO morphed into the Palestinian Authority under the Oslo Accords.
88. **P185** The Palestinians gained the right to negotiate peace with Israel. They proliferated terror instead.
89. In 2000 Israel offered the Palestinians full sovereignty over 95 % of the disputed territories, including East Jerusalem.
90. The Palestinians said no ... and immediately launched a violent intifada of deadly terror.

91. The Palestinians could not end the conflict with anything less than ending Israel.
92. Yasser Arafat, who signed the Oslo Accords and walked out on the offer of a sovereign state, said in Arabic: I do not consider the [Oslo] agreement any more than the agreement which was signed by our prophet Muhammad and the Qurayish. Arafat referred to an agreement that established the right, called *hudna*, for Muslims to fake peace when they are weak so they can wait for better timing to fight when they are strong.
93. A moderate Palestinian leader compared the whole peace process to a proverbial “Trojan horse.” ... it had been designed to fool Israel into letting the Palestinians arm themselves in order to destroy Israel.
94. The Palestinian borders according to the higher strategy are from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.
95. **P186** With one perceived betrayal following another, by 2013 Israelis were not so willing to believe Palestinians were sincere about peace.
96. In 2011, Netanyahu tried to restart peace talks ... Abbas refused, demanding that Israel first agree to a list of preconditions.
97. Netanyahu replied with one precondition of his own. He demanded that Palestinians recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state. ... but the Palestinians refused.
98. In 2012, Palestinians sidestepped negotiations, and thus breached the Oslo Accords, by seeking to forge a path for statehood in the UN. At the same time, they launched a war from Gaza and a terror wave in the West Bank.
99. **P187** Palestinians have sometimes agreed to recognize a country named Israel – but never as a Jewish state.
100. If Palestinians acknowledge Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state, they relinquish a strategy for turning it into a Palestinian/Islamist one by flooding it with millions of Arabs returning there.
101. From Israel’s perspective, granting several million Muslims permission to immigrate and repopulate the country is tantamount to committing national suicide.

Israeli Settlements

102. In 2012, the PA began claiming that Israeli settlements were the main reason for the failure of the peace process.
103. Settlements officially authorized by the Israeli government are not illegal under standards of customary international law.
104. When Israel acquired the West Bank, no state or political entity held legal title to it. The last rightful owner of the land had been Israel, and historically, a Jewish presence has been maintained in Judea and Samaria for thousands of years.
105. **P188** After WW1, Britain obtained the land and through international agreements, returned legal title to the Jews.
106. When the UN offered the land to Palestinian Arabs in 1947, it wrongfully tried to take that title away. But the Palestinians rejected the offer, thereby rendering it null and void.
107. Years later, Jordan illegally annexed the West Bank, but Israel defensively – and therefore, legally – acquired it from Jordan in the Six Day War.
108. Under international law, the land has been technically disputed since 1967.

Future Palestine

109. Repeatedly, Israel has demonstrated her willingness ... to accept Palestine as a new sovereign state.
110. Palestinians still insist (in Arabic) their state must stretch from the “river to the sea” and encompass all of Israel.
111. **P189** Surveys reveal that a solid majority of Israelis would agree to live alongside a peaceful Palestinian state.
112. Similar surveys show the majority of Palestinians would never accept peaceful coexistence with a Jewish state.
113. In 2011, 66 % of West Bank Palestinians said that while they would accept a two-state solution as a “first step” they wanted to eventually replace Israel with a single Palestinian state.
114. In 2012 (and 2013), 88 % of all Palestinians preferred a strategy of terror over diplomacy to achieve it.
115. The root of the Palestinian plight is well hidden beneath the surface tension exposed to public view.
116. Deep-seated realities that will not change unless faced forthrightly are disguised and distorted.
117. Injustices have repeatedly come about at the hands of Arab, not Israeli, leaders betraying their own people.
118. That the world faults Israel – and threatens her survival – for a Palestinian plight that is Islamist/Arab generated is highly unjust.
119. God wants transformational justice for both Israelis and Palestinians. But justice must be pursued and attained His

way – according to righteousness based on truth.

Chapter 11: Israeli Injustice?

1. **P191** Israel built its security wall in response to the Palestinian Second Intifada of 2000-2005.
2. **P192** The bombings came to an abrupt halt once the security wall was built.
3. Palestinians, the UN, social justice activists, a few left-wing Israelis want it down.
4. Does justice require that this life-saving structure be dismantled and the grisly killing of Israeli civilians resumed?
5. P193 A simple working definition for **justice** is the administration of righteousness according to truth.

Does Israel Use Disproportionate Military Force?

6. From 2005 through 2012, Israel endured approximately 12,000 terror attacks from Gaza in the form of rockets, etc.
7. When the crisis couldn't be solved through diplomatic means, Israel assassinated the terror mastermind responsible.
8. Gaza launched a full-scale retaliation with rockets intentionally aimed at maximizing civilian casualties targeted cities.
9. **P194** In Operation Pillar of Cloud/Defense in Gaza Israel undertook efforts to minimize civilian casualties of war.
 - 1) Before striking targets, the army sent text message to civilian cell phones.
 - 2) Dropped mass leaflets over neighborhoods and aired broadcasts warning noncombatants to leave.
 - 3) Used surgical strikes to pinpoint just the militants and their weapon stores.
10. Palestinian terror organizations have changed the rules of conventional warfare to maximize civilian casualties.
11. Rocket launch pads and weapons caches are intentionally placed inside or adjacent to homes, schools, etc.
12. For militants this serves two purposes:
 - 1) Any outside attack is discouraged altogether.
 - 2) If an attack resulting in casualties does take place, the incident can be used to score a public relations victory.
13. Sometimes, to further enhance the appearance of Israeli brutality, jihadists summon families with children to sneak back into or around a target Israel has just warned them to leave.
14. **P195** Evidence of excessive force is displayed that may or may not include fake photos and video footage.
15. From the Israeli perspective, chronic charges of excessive military force or war crimes against humanity, based on death tolls she deliberately tries to minimize and her enemies intentionally maximize, are patently unjust.

Is Israel an Apartheid, Racist State?

16. In 2001, at the UN Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa, an international movement was formally launched to delegitimize Israel, or undermine the legality of her existence.
17. The UN conference called for dissolution of the Jewish state.
18. The World Council of Churches proposed that Zionism be equated with racism.
19. Durban condemned Israel for being an apartheid state ... because it insists on remaining predominantly Jewish.
20. **P196** Any fair-minded person who has spent a few days in Israel would recognize the apartheid charge as absurd.
21. Israel is a robust democracy in which Israeli Arabs legally integrate with Jews and enjoy full rights of citizenship.
22. All professions are open to Israeli Arabs.
23. Their right to speak out against Israel is protected – precisely because Israel is not an apartheid state.
24. Deceptively comparing this to South African apartheid incites irrational hate for Israel and Jews.
25. **P197** Challenging Israel's identity as an apartheid/racist state simply because it is Jewish might be acceptable if all countries with official state religions or ethnicities were similarly challenged.
26. No such accusation is hurled at any Islamist sharia state, including the putative state of Palestine, with its official religion of Islam.
27. Israel is committed to protecting its Muslim, Christian, and other minority populations.
28. Palestinians insist no Jew will ever be allowed to live there, – let alone gain citizenship.

Do Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions Promote Justice?

29. **P198** An international BDS movement against Israel is observed by countries and organizations around the world.
30. Birthed at Durban I, the movement advocates the boycott of Israeli goods, products and sometimes people.
31. The BDS campaign also pressures public and private institutions to divest from Israeli companies and from any

companies that do business with Israeli enterprises – particularly in the West Bank.

32. The stated goal of the movement is to economically isolate and thereby strangle the Jewish state.
33. Several large Christian denominations are among the most vocal advocates of BDS.

Does Israel's Military Violate Human Rights?

34. **P199** The concept of human rights, in its purest expression, derives from the Bible.
35. God's Word attributes inherent worth and dignity to every human being, for all are created in His image.
36. The Bible advocates mercy and compassion for the needy and oppressed.
37. Based originally on biblical values, an international human rights movement developed in the mid 20th century.
38. It gradually jettisoned the Judeo-Christian worldview for secularist goals.
39. When Islamism appeared on the global scene, without biblical moorings the human rights organizations were unable or unwilling to withstand it.
40. Israel has borne the brunt of today's new skewed human rights movement.
41. **P200** Israel has had to maintain a strong military defense simply to stay alive and that defense force has had to deal with enemies who do not conform to traditional Western standards of military conduct, fair play, reason or logic.
42. Israel has tried hard and successfully to require its military to operate within the rule of law.
43. Israeli defense forces have adopted what is probably the highest ethical standard of any modern army.
44. **P201** Sometimes, charges of human rights abuse come from checkpoints to prevent militants from sneaking in:
 - 1) It is not uncommon for terrorists to disguise themselves as pregnant, sick or injured women.
 - 2) Some have tucked explosive devices in their underwear or private body parts; strip searches may be necessary.
 - 3) Even apparent humanitarian emergencies have been used to stage terror operations; booby-trapping ambulances.
45. Does justice require that Israel bear full blame for the dilemma?

How Do Human Rights Organizations Treat the Conflict?

47. The UN Human Rights Council has made the Jewish state the one and only permanent standing item on its agenda.
48. In 2003, the Council passed a resolution that condones terror – if it is aimed at Israel.
49. In 2013 the Council declared that private companies must consider boycotting Israel because of its allegedly criminal occupation.
50. Human Rights Watch issues condemnations almost monthly and almost exclusively against Israel.
51. The NGO's original founder has rebuked it for sacrificing its vision and mandate because of what he calls an "unjust obsession with Israel, the only nation in the Middle East that genuinely strives to safeguard human rights."
52. Amnesty International publishes regular reports that single out and uniquely chastise the Jewish state.
53. International human rights champion Natan Sharansky ... cautions that human rights can be safeguarded only through clear moral criteria. He warns these criteria are rapidly eroding, evidenced by the double standard used against Israel and measures taken to delegitimize her by today's human rights activists.
54. **P203** As a result of global censure of Israel, only in Israel do the following phenomena occur:
 - 1) An entire civilian population endures foreign militant attack – regularly – without reprisal.
 - 2) Proportionately large swaths of land are relinquished to enemy states with no guarantee of peace in return.
 - 3) Terrorists convicted of mass murder publicly declare their intent to kill more Jews when released from jail.
 - 4) Israel suffers more than a million cyber terror attacks every day.
 - 5) National borders are illegally breached on a semi-regular basis by militants and civilians in cahoots with them.
 - 6) Israel is pressured to shrink itself to suicidally narrow borders that cannot be defended from invasion.
 - 7) Israel is being threatened with nuclear genocide.
55. Why the above? A respected secular journalist concludes, "Singling out Israel for opprobrium and international sanction – out of all proportion to any other party in the Middle East – is anti-Semitic, and not saying so is dishonest."

When Is Criticism of Israel Anti-Semitic?

56. Not all criticism of Israel reflects anti-Semitism
57. **P204** The US Department of State regards criticism of Israel to be anti-Semitic when:
 - 1) An expression delegitimizes Israel,

- 2) A double standard is used for Israel vis-à-vis other states, or
 - 3) An attempt is made to demonize Israel by using images associated with classic anti-Semitism.
58. Across the nations and even in some churches, it seems the new anti-Semitism flourishes in full 3-D
59. A small number of very left-wing Jews, including Israelis, comprise some of Israel's most viciously vocal critics.
60. **P205** of Israel's left-wing historian-activists, Benny Morris ... recanted much of his life's work in 2012. He disappointedly concluded that the core reason for the ongoing conflict and injustice was the Palestinians' persistent refusal to accept the existence of a Jewish state.

Pursuing Justice

- 61. The issue is not a cycle of violence; it is about the survival of the Jews on a miniscule slice of their historical homeland.
- 62. **P206** As we near the end of the age and spiritual warfare heightens, underlying currents of anti-Semitism are bound to intensify. Secularism, Islamism and more will increasingly impinge on biblical values of moral justice. The Father is sovereignly allowing individuals and nations to make choices that will chart their destinies.

Chapter 12: Countering Christian Zionism: Christian Palestinianism

- 1. **P207** Palestinian believers who carry God's heart for the Jews comprise a very small remnant in Palestinian church.
- 2. The majority of Palestinian Christians do not claim a spiritual rebirth experience or intimate walk with the Lord.
- 3. They identify as Christian mainly in a cultural sense.
- 4. **P208** Political-nationalist aspirations are generally more important to them than intimate surrender to Messiah, personal study of His Word or sharing the Gospel.
- 5. Increasingly, they are influenced by the Islamist world in which they live.

The Traditional Palestinian Church

- 6. Traditional Palestinian Christianity does little to quell the conflict with Israel.
- 7. The traditional Palestinian Christian view reflects the same anti-Jewish theology expressed by much of the Church throughout the Arab Middle East.
- 8. **P209** God says, "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness"(1 John 2:9)

Palestinian Evangelicals

- 9. A new theology, with varying expressions, has emerged out of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
- 10. Palestinian evangelicals are confronted with a dilemma:
 - 1) Should they side with Palestinian nationalism or
 - 2) With a biblical view supportive of the Jewish state?
- 11. **P210** Most have resolved the issue by denying God's present restoration of Israel.
- 12. They interpret the Scriptures symbolically, so that any Jewish ties to the land can be superseded by new developments and realities.
- 13. At the core of their reasoning is a hermeneutic of the Bible virtually the same as that used in replacement theology.
- 14. Many believe that all Old Covenant promises, including those about land, have been fulfilled in the Person of Messiah.
- 15. Palestinian fulfillment doctrine ... teaches that Israel's calling is superseded and done away with, leaving no biblical justification for her existence today.

Christian Palestinian Fulfillment Theology

- 16. Frequently, Palestinian evangelical views on Israel incorporate into fulfillment theology ... liberation theology.
- 17. **P211** Liberation theology esteems justice for the oppressed as a foremost theme of Scripture.
- 18. Social justice becomes the lens through which the entire Bible is read.
- 19. Palestinian theology teaches that Old Covenant prophecies concerning Israel and the Kingdom vanish in Jesus Christ, who has fulfilled them.
- 20. The reasoning is not scripturally based and the logic is rather circular.

21. **P212** It is not the Church that disinherits or replaces Israel this time, but Jesus Himself.
22. Zechariah 14:3 refers to the apocalyptic battle in which Jesus returns to Jerusalem. ... The passage can only be fairly understood as a prophecy yet to be fulfilled, on the ground of the physical Mount of Olives.
23. Palestinian fulfillment theology interprets the Bible allegorically.
24. Allegorical approach rejects the Hebraic-based interpretation of Scripture taught by the Scriptures themselves.
25. The allegorical method is primarily symbolic and subjective.
26. "Israel" is not seen as referring prophetically to the physical land or people of Israel, the Jews or their restoration.
27. Such an approach to Bible interpretation is intrinsically disposed toward delegitimizing Israel's existence.
28. **P213** Some Christian Palestinians adopt ... a preterist theological view.
29. Preterism teaches ... prophecies ... fulfillments have already entirely occurred.
30. Preterism doctrine denies any future for national Israel or a last days restoration of the Jews.
31. Preterism can allow Israel to be superseded by any group presenting a claim, including militant Muslims.

Sympathizing with Islam

32. Palestinian evangelicals rarely read the Old Covenant. The Jewish state is rarely viewed through the lens of Scripture.
33. But one aspect of the Hebrew Scriptures still has major significance for them – the link between Israel's sin and exile from the land.
34. They do not study prophecy or think much about the end times.
35. Most don't expect Jesus to physically return to Jerusalem as it encourages a Jewish restoration to the Holy Land.
36. **P214** Christian Palestinians avoid and reinterpret the Old Covenant ... lack a solid foundation in the Scriptures.
37. They are a small minority within an Islamist majority ... desperate to prove their patriotism ... resistance against Israel.
38. Some have embraced anti-God and anti-Jewish dispositions reflective of fundamental Islam.
39. If Israeli administration in the West Bank ends, an Islamist government could come to power, making Christian life much worse.
40. How will they deal with an Islamist government once they are forced by sharia law into *dhimmi* status?
41. Christians in Gaza are now dealing with sharia law ... intimidation, harassment, forced conversions, martyrdom.

Justice for the Foreigner

42. **P215** Christian Palestinians often argue that Israel fails to follow her own code of moral justice.
43. Exodus 22-23 does require that Jews not mistreat or oppress a stranger or foreigner in the land.
44. In context the Scriptures presuppose strangers have first submitted to the God of Israel and the covering of His people.
45. Such an individual was called a *ger* and was placed under the protection of Israel and her God.
45. Israel was never to tolerate a violent stranger not submitted to the ways of Yahweh.
46. Repugnant to God was the idolatrous foreigner who polluted the land by worshiping false gods. (Ex 23:32-33)
47. The foreigner who despised God's people and whose aim was their annihilation could never claim protection.
48. Collectively, Palestinians do not qualify as *ger*-type foreigners.

The Christian Palestinianist Movement

49. **P216** Sampling of what evangelical Christian Palestinianist leaders teach:
 - 1) Jesus was a Palestinian, His Jewish identity merely a misconception of Western Christianity.
 - 2) Real Christianity exists only in Palestine.
 - 3) Christian Zionism "is not connected to Christianity in any way."
 - 4) Jesus is on the cross again with thousands of crucified Palestinians around Him.
 - 5) Palestine has become one huge Golgatha. The Israeli government crucifixion system operates daily.
 - 6) Zionism is just another form of racism.
 - 7) The notion that God has purposes for the Jewish people is at best deeply flawed and at worst heretical.
 - 8) The New Covenant cancels any plans for the Jewish people.
50. **P217** A Christian Palestinian Manifesto was released in 2012:

- 1) Its stated purpose is to challenge evangelicals to bring peace, justice and reconciliation in Palestine and Israel.
 - 2) It denies the covenantal inheritance of the Jewish people to the land of Israel.
 - 3) It declares that “the occupation” is the core issue of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
 - 4) There is no mention of the historical and ongoing Palestinian agenda to annihilate the Jewish state.
 - 5) The document is silent about any legal or moral right Israel may have to exist.
 - 6) The Manifesto does include a statement saying that anti-Semitism and delegitimization of Israel are wrong.
51. Most Jewish believers do not regard the Manifesto as a fair call to peace, justice or reconciliation.
52. **P218** Another Christian Palestinian decree written in 2009 is Kairos:
- 1) Kairos concludes that Jewish occupation of Palestinian land is a sin against God and humanity.
 - 2) It makes no mention of any sin on the part of Palestinian terrorist and Islamists in prolonging the occupation through terror.
 - 3) It claims that any theology legitimizing Israel’s presence in the West Bank is not Christian.
53. Christian Palestinians and Arab denominational leaders from Israel collectively make no secret of their aim to overturn any pro-Israel stance within the international Body of Christ.
54. They seek to counteract Christian Zionism or Biblical Zionism ... their impact on secular Western society is increasing.

Western Responses to Christian Palestinianism

55. **P219** Many Western Jews and Christians believe that Christian Palestinianism aggressively promotes anti-Semitism, replacement theology and the delegitimization of Israel.
56. At a minimum, it is appropriate to ask if the Palestinian Church as heeded the exhortation of Romans 11:17-25 not to be ignorant or arrogant toward Israel, but to tremble in humility.
57. A Christian Zionist leader in the UK comments: “The big lie is Christian Palestinianism, the anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian crusade going on in the Church today that will say ... ‘We love the Jewish people’ and also ‘We hate Israel.’”
58. In 2012, a highly regarded rabbi in the US stated: “Christian Palestinianism had so influenced the Church that relations between mainline Protestants and Jews in America had hit its lowest point”.
59. Evangelicals are attempting to compel the world to take action that ... could lead to the slaughter of millions of Jews.
60. **P220** Some have unwittingly joined forces with the enemies of Israel who aim at nothing less.
61. The spread of Christian Palestinianism is related to current Western trend to dismiss the concept of absolute truth.
62. Primacy of the scriptural text has been the gold standard of biblical scholarship ... but is currently under examination and attack.

Forgiveness at the Cross

63. Palestinian believers freely share that their theology stems in large measure from personal pain and offense.
64. Let us remember that they are not the first Christians through history to feel offended or victimized. ... But they did not seek to reinvent the message of the Scriptures to accommodate their suffering.
65. **P221** Jesus is greater than any of our circumstances – and can give us the love, peace and joy with which to overcome.
66. A Palestinian pastor stated: “Palestinian preachers generally did not discuss taking pain and offense about Israel to the Cross”. With his next breath, he said they probably should start.

A New Christian Zionism

67. Some Christian or Biblical Zionists attribute the new Palestinian theology to a demonic force opposing God’s promises to the Jews.
68. **P222** What we might learn from Palestinian believers and how to best respond to them:
- 1) We can acknowledge that certain Israeli policies ... have caused unwarranted suffering and sometimes abuse. We can focus support on Israeli policy makers who advance biblical righteousness.
 - 2) Some Christian Zionists have in the past expressed little concern for Palestinians. ... They feel they have been marginalized by the Western Church and many deeply resent it. To rectify the past, we must seek the Lord for His compassionate, honest and wise response.
 - 3) We are to intentionally remember that being pro-Israel does not mean being anti-Palestinian.
 - 4) We must remember the Lord does not want our ultimate focus on either Israel or putative Palestine, but on Him.

69. Those who care passionately for the Palestinian people may confuse love with unsanctified mercy.
70. Unsanctified mercy seeks to alleviate suffering at any cost regardless of the injustice that may result. It does not align with God's will or His Word. It does not flow from a focus on Him.
71. **P223** Christlike love for Palestinian Christians will not be expressed by aligning with them against Israel. It will be expressed by aligning with them for Jesus and His heart for the Jews.
72. When Palestinians understand God's love, mercy and grace for Israel, they will experience it at for themselves. Healing from heaven will flow to them. Palestinian Christians will begin to walk in the manifest power of the Gospel of the Kingdom as never before.
73. A leading pro-Palestinian theologian writes: "The question is, am I as a Christian going to view the Middle East through the lens of prophecy or the lens of justice?"
74. The time has come to drop the dichotomy. God does not choose between presumably pro-Palestinian justice and presumably pro-Israel prophecy.
75. God's immense love, expressed in His Word, beautifully reconciles prophecy and justice. It is not a matter of either/or but both/and.
76. The Gospel of the Kingdom revolves around Jesus and His restoration of all nations in mercy and grace.
77. The Gospel thus gives Palestinians, Israelis and everyone else a bountiful future and a hope.

Chapter 13: A Future and a Hope

1. **P226** Israel's reestablishment after the Holocaust of WW2 strikingly parallels Ezekiel's vision of restoration. The prophet saw a valley of dry bones, physically and spiritually dead. But God miraculously revived the dry bones. Then He settled His people back in their land. (see Ezekiel 37:1-14)
2. Israel's restoration would have nothing to do with righteousness on her part. It has been solely by mercy and grace.
3. We see Israel's shortcomings and her sin. We wonder why, if He is truly restoring her, she is not walking more in His holy ways.
4. **P227** Does Israel's modern-day restoration fulfill Bible prophecy or not?

Does Israel's Restoration Fulfill Bible Prophecy?

5. The tension that can appear to exist between Israel's restoration and her present condition of spiritual unbelief is resolved when we read the Bible according to proper interpretive principles.
6. Ezekiel says God will return the Jewish people to their land before He fully restores their faith:
 - 1) First, He will "gather them from all countries."
 - 2) After that, He will "sprinkle clean water" on them and "put a new spirit" in them.
7. Other Hebrew prophets confirm this sequence of events:
 - 1) They describe a Jewish regathering to the land before the end of the age.
 - 2) They are contested by the nations and culminating in apocalyptic warfare.
 - 3) After they are back in the land, Jews collectively turn to Messiah in the context of a military assault. (Zech 12)
 - 4) The Second Coming of Jesus follows. (Zech 14)
8. The New Covenant describes a similar end times scenario:
 - 1) Yeshua declares, "Jerusalem will be trampled on by Gentiles until times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Luke 21:24)
 - 2) Messiah foresees that when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, the trampling of Jerusalem ends.
 - 3) First, a predominant Jewish presence is restored to Jerusalem.
 - 4) After that, the city welcomes Him back. (see Matthew 23:39)
9. Romans 11:26-27 reveals that in the future, the Jewish people are living in the land when "the deliverer will come from Zion" and "turn godlessness away from Jacob."
10. None of these events can be interpreted with biblical integrity as having already occurred in the past.
11. **P228** The reality we see today reflects their last days unfolding.
12. The promise of land ownership to Israel in the Abrahamic covenant is unconditional.
13. In the Mosaic covenant Israel's ability to physically inhabit the land is conditioned on her obedience to God.
14. If exile occurs, it is only temporary, not permanent. (see Deu. 28-30)
15. God promised a singular time would come in which Israel would be regathered to her land, then follow in His ways

- and never again be uprooted. (2 Sam 7:10-16; Jer 31:21-40; Amos 9:11-15; Rom 11:26-27)
16. This is the promise He has been prophetically working out over the past hundred years. The process is not instantaneous; it is progressing gradually over time.
 17. As God regathers the Jews, He is also saving and growing a remnant among them that loves and follows Yeshua. They are preparing the nation for spiritual revival in the future.
 18. **P229** After Ezra, the Jewish people lived in the land for 500 years, with only a remnant faithfully serving the Lord.
 19. Israel's spiritual condition then was comparable to her condition today ... her collective unbelief at this phase of her restoration is consistent with the Scriptures.
 20. This does not excuse Israel's sin, but demonstrates God's extreme mercy and grace that sustains her today.

Twice Cursed and Divinely Reversed

21. God's Word describes two – and only two – exiles and returns to the land (see Isaiah 11:11):
 - 1) The first exile occurred from 723 to 586 BC. The Jews who returned under Ezra came from Babylon.
 - 2) The second exile which took place in AD 70, dispersed the Jews all over the earth.
21. This second dispersion would end when God regathered His people "from all the countries". (Ezekiel 36:24)
Unlike the first, the second regathering is global in nature.
22. Other prophets were shown a similar worldwide return in the last days. (Isa 11:10-12; Jer 16:15; 23:3; 29:14)
23. The Zionist movement starting in the late 1800s represents the only global Jewish regathering in history.
24. It is not a coincidental mistake of history in which the Jewish people regathered themselves.
25. Our God is sovereign over the rise and fall of nations (Acts 17:26-27). He alone can remove His covenant people from their land or return them back to it.
26. **P230** God uses human beings in the process, just as He used King Cyrus, Artaxerxes and others to bring about Israel's first regathering (see Ezra 1:1-4; Neh 2:4-9).
27. In the process of Israel's restoration today, the loving support of believers from the nations is a sign that the "time to show favor" to Zion has come (Psalm 102:13; Isaiah 49:22).
28. Their blessing and succor points presciently to the fullness of the Gentiles. The fullness of the Gentiles suggests that the times of the Gentiles are coming to a close.
29. In Israel's present restoration ... God has merely and magnificently done what He said He would do, reversing His curse and fulfilling His Word.

Israel Is a Work in Progress

30. Israel's restoration to the land and to the Lord is not an instantaneous event but a work in progress.
31. **P231** Human beings exercise free will and demonic opposition exists. ... temporary setbacks occur.
32. The Jewish state has relinquished most of the land acquired in wars she was forced to defensively fight.
33. The nation is beset by much of the same sin affecting the rest of the world – and also the Church.
34. There is sexual and ethical immorality, drug addiction, human trafficking, widespread abortion, etc.
35. But if we deny the prophetic truth of Israel's restoration because Jews still sin,
to be fair, we ought to also deny the prophetic truth of the Gospel because Christians still sin.
36. Israel's restoration will not reach perfected fulfillment until after the Lord returns.
37. What have we seen and heard about modern Israel?:
 - 1) For the first time in 2000 years Jews have returned from the ends of the earth to their ancestral home.
 - 2) Their ancient language has been revived.
 - 3) Against all odds, Israel has defended herself from millions of mortal enemies surrounding her.
 - 4) The nation has thrived, rebuilding ancient cities and making deserts bloom.
 - 5) Fruit from the Promised Land blesses every continent ... oranges and grapes to biomedical/technological etc.
 - 6) Jerusalem is mostly not trampled down.
 - 7) Since the city was returned to Israel in 1967, more Jews have come to faith in Yeshua than in the previous 1900 years.
 - 8) Indigenous believers now worship Messiah in every city and town.
 - 9) Some Israeli believers go out to the nations ministering the Gospel.

38. **P332** Blessed is he who is not offended because of what God is doing in our day!

Can We Be Neutral Bystanders?

39. The prophet (Obadiah 10) reminds us that we will be treated according to how we have treated the Jews. (Gen 12:3)
40. Obadiah's message applies uniquely to Christians because they have been embraced like brothers into a Jewish-rooted family of faith.
41. Ignoring Israel's assault or exploitation by others is the same as aggressively attacking her. (Obadiah 11)
42. **P233** When Israel's enemies act violently against her, God does not want us staying silent, ignoring her plight or neutrally standing by.
43. If we do not get involved, or at least pray, we may ourselves be counted by Him as her enemies.
44. Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban said at the inception of the Six Day War: "As we looked around us we saw the world divided between those who were seeking our destruction and those who would do nothing to prevent it."
45. Obadiah admonishes seriously those who go beyond neutrality and take open delight in Israel's defeat. (Obad 12-14)
46. Obadiah issues a clarion call to every generation: "The Lord's vengeance will soon fall upon all Gentile nations. As you have done to Israel, so will it be done to you. Your acts will boomerang upon your heads." (Obadiah 15 TLB)

Is Arab Palestine in Prophecy?

47. **P234** When God gave Ezekiel visions of a Jewish restoration, He included a sobering message for those seeking to overrun "the mountains of Israel" or her "ancient heights" (Ezekiel 36:1-3)
48. The mountains and ancient heights include Judea and Samaria, also known as the West Bank.
49. God decrees judgment for those staking claim to these territories for their "ancient hatred" and for shedding Jewish blood (Ezekiel 35:5).
50. Then God chastises other nations joining in the fray: "... I have spoken against the rest of the nations ... for with glee and with malice in their hearts they made my land their own possession ... But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home." (Ezekiel 36:2-3, 5, 8)
51. **P235** The Scriptures indicate that despite many warnings, the nations impose ill-intended divisions of Israel's land. They are severely judged: "At that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and ... 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 NIV)
52. In modern times; the nations have divided up Israel's land over and over again, going back to the British Mandate.

Jerusalem: Pray for the Peace or Prey for the Piece

53. Psalm 122:6 gives us a succinct and enduring prayer request: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be secure.' "
54. Yeshua wept on only two occasions in His earthly ministry, one being over Jerusalem. (Luke 19:41)
55. How best to pray for Jerusalem:
- 1) Pray for the Prince of Peace to be welcomed into the hearts of those who live here. He alone – no international community or coalition – can bring lasting peace to Jerusalem.
 - 2) Pray that His Kingdom will come and His will be done in Jerusalem as it is in heaven.
 - 3) Listening to the leading of the Spirit, go on to the specific and critical issues of the day.
 - 4) Realize that praying for Jerusalem means not just lifting up Israel's capital city, but the whole Jewish state.
 - 5) Pray for Jerusalem's large Arab population, too.
56. **P236** Jerusalem is destined to serve as the flashpoint of Kingdom conflict on earth.
57. Entities and empires will prey for their piece of the place where God's name has been put.
58. As events unfold, God will note our hearts' response to them.
59. Will we resign from responsibility or stand up and speak out?
60. At minimum, He wants us to care and to pray.
61. The 10 categories below provide a flexible framework into which specific details can be added as the Holy Spirit leads and circumstances change. Pray for:
- 1) The outpouring of a "spirit of grace and supplication" (Zech 12:10), leading to the salvation of Jews, Arabs and

- others in Jerusalem. (Isa 30:19; Rom 10:1; 1 Tim 2:3-4);
- 2) Strengthening and maturing of the Body of Messiah (John 17; Acts 4:29-31; Rom 15:26-27), including laborers for the harvest (Luke 10:2);
 - 3) Righteousness and wisdom for all spiritual, governmental, social, military and other authorities (1 Tim 2:1-2; Pro 21:1);
 - 4) Domestic and internal unity, accord and peace within Jerusalem (Psalm 122:3, 8);
 - 5) Physical restoration through God's regathering of the Jewish people (aliyah) and material prosperity (Psalm 147:2; Jeremiah 30:17; Psalm 122:9);
 - 6) Security, protection and defense from attack (Psalm 91; 125), including salvation for Israel's enemies who seek to overtake her (Psalm 83:18);
 - 7) The outworking of prophetic events according to the ideal timing of God (Eccl 3:1-8; Matt 24:22);
 - 8) Your church's and nation's blessing of Jerusalem (Gen 12:3; Obadiah);
 - 9) Intercessors who give God "no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth" (Isa 62:6-7);
 - 10) Fulfillment of Jerusalem's destiny as the City of the Great King (Matt 5:35) that blesses all nations (Psalm 48; Isa 2:2-3; 62:1-2)

Praying for Jerusalem's Temple

62. **P237** Bear in mind that the Jewish people preparing to build a third Temple hope to reconstruct not just an edifice, but a whole system designed to substitute the blood of animals for Messiah's atonement.
63. Resumed animal sacrifice will render the Crucified One, in their eyes, more irrelevant than ever.
64. Some of these zealots anticipate that the Temple will herald the coming of their messiah – a man, definitely not Yeshua, who establishes world peace.
65. Yeshua may completely cleanse this Temple when He returns, then rule and reign from that purified place.
66. The Temple project is mentioned in Scripture only in connection with its desecration. (Dan 9:25-27; Matt 24:15; 2 Thes 2:3-4; Rev 13:14-15)
67. **P238** The Bible has a fourth Temple where only the true Messiah will be worshiped in holy splendor. (Ezekiel 40-48)
68. This fourth Temple will be enormous in size, many times larger than the entire Temple Mount. (Ezekiel 42:15-20)
69. Whether the sacred structure pertains to the coming Messianic Age, whether it exists in the new heaven and earth – or both – we cannot yet be sure.
70. Yeshua died for living temples He would, by the Holy Spirit, indwell (2 Corinthians 6:16).
71. We can invest wholeheartedly in those living temples: Jewish, Arab and other believers in Jerusalem who love and follow the Lord. They carry the presence of the Prince of Peace wherever they go.

Psalm 83 Conspiracy

72. To align with God's heart and Kingdom plans, those who pray for Israel need to have at least a general understanding of end time prophecy concerning her.
73. Different believers hold different interpretations of specific end times events and details. Some Christians even insist the events will not occur at all because they have been fulfilled spiritually in Jesus.
74. **P239** Psalm 83 describes a besetting Middle East campaign against a beleaguered Jewish state.
75. A military operation based on the alignment of nations in this passage has never historically taken place.
76. Others believe the psalm literally relates how every nation in her neighborhood unites against Israel:
 - 1) Edom and the Ishmaelites (now Jordanian and Palestinian areas, together with Saudi Arabia).
 - 2) Moab (Jordanian and Palestinian areas).
 - 3) Hagrites (Syria, Saudi Arabia and possibly Egypt).
 - 4) Gebal (north Lebanon).
 - 5) Ammon (Jordanian and Palestinian areas).
 - 6) Amalek (Sinai desert).
 - 7) Philistia (Gaza).
 - 8) Tyre (southern Lebanon).

- 9) Assyria (areas of Syria, Iraq and possibly Turkey).
- 10) Lot (Jordanian and Palestinian areas).
76. Verse 4 sounds their cry: "Come ... let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more."
77. Since the moment she became a modern state, Israel's enemies have rallied to this refrain.
78. Psalm 83 ... is not necessarily limited to a military campaign in the traditional sense. The weapons used against Israel here refer mainly to a conspiracy of spoken words.
79. A war of now wages relentlessly against the Jewish state by all the people groups described above. It seems Israel is already experiencing a limited prophetic fulfillment of Psalm 83.
80. The psalm closes with a prayer: "May they ever be ashamed and dismayed ... Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD – that you alone are the Most High over all the earth. (Psalm 83:17-18)
81. Yahweh's overarching goal in end times warfare is to manifest His supremacy.
82. He will ultimately use the Islamist/Arab/Palestinian-Israeli conflict to do it.

Ezekiel's Vision of War

83. P240 Ezekiel 38-39 describes a cataclysmic war that has not yet taken place.
84. "... In future years you will invade a land ... whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate ... and now all of them live in safety." (Ezekiel 38:3-4, 8)
85. This "great horde" descends from the "far north" (verse 15), joined by Persia, Cush Put, Gomer and Beth Togarmah (see verses 5-6).
86. The Jewish people are living in their land but are not yet following the Lord.
87. His purpose in the war is to draw both Israel and the nations to Himself.
88. The passage indicates that Israel experiences a significant ... period of peace and prosperity before the assault.
89. Some Bible scholars believe this has already been achieved, and so the war could occur at any moment.
90. Others believe the war may not take place until the Great Tribulation.
91. **P241** For many years, prophecy teachers identified Russia as leading the Ezekiel 38 invasion.
92. With the rise of fundamentalist Islam, some now theorize the onslaught will be led by either Iran or a revived Turkish-based caliphate.
93. Other than Russia and part of Turkey, the nations and peoples listed in Ezekiel 38 appear to be located in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.
94. Every state in that region is now Islamic and none is friendly toward Israel.
95. Yahweh plans to pulverize this coalition that invades Israel when she is enjoying relative calm and rest.
96. He decimates her enemies with a monstrous earthquake, accompanied by lightning, fire and brimstone, torrents of bloodshed and a plague (Ezekiel 38:19, 22).
97. Displaying His awesome power, God stuns the world in His defense of the Jews:
- 1) "And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 38:23)
 - 2) "I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay upon them. From that day forward the people of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God ... I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the people of Israel." (Ezekiel 39:21-22, 29)

Zechariah's Prophecy of Jerusalem

98. The prophet Zechariah describes a scenario in which God pours out His wrath on a cohort of nations invading Jerusalem. In chapters 12-14, he foresees a series of events leading to the Second Coming and Millennial Age: "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling ... On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves ... On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem."
99. **P242** In this context, Jerusalem recognizes her Messiah, repents and returns to God: "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son ... On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and

the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.”

100. In His physical body, Yeshua arrives with His armies and defends Jerusalem. “on that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem” (Zechariah 14:4)
101. He unleashes cataclysmic judgments against those who attacked His city and His people.
102. Then, ushering in the Messianic Age, He assumes glorious kingship over all the earth. (see Zechariah 14)
103. Spiritual dynamics that crescendo in the battle for Jerusalem have already begun to manifest:
 - 1) Israeli sovereignty over the city is threatened by the nations.
 - 2) A spirit of grace and supplication is drizzling over Jerusalem where some Jewish people report they are receiving entirely supernatural revelations of Yeshua.
104. **P243** The more the world comes against Jerusalem, the more God wants us contending for her to “look on me, the one they have pierced,” and see Messiah, His Son.

When Do the Battles Occur?

105. Not just Ezekiel and Zachariah, but practically all the prophets record glimpses of cataclysmic end time battles:
 - 1) Joel 3:2 speaks of the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
 - 2) The War of Armageddon is referenced in Revelation 16:16.
 - 3) The Day of the Lord, with all its devastating warfare, is described in Amos 5:18 and Malachi 4:5.
 - 5) Isaiah and others foresee similar attacks against Zion.
106. The prevailing view is that these eschatological battles are completely and chronologically distinct from each other.
107. Commentators have had various interpretations on the timing and order of Israel’s future wars.
108. An alternative view ... the prophets were shown different battles all taking place during the same colossal, years-long military campaign. Together they describe a single gargantuan war that is fought on different battlefronts shortly before the Messianic Age.
109. God has not yet clearly disclosed to His people all the details of these end times battles.
110. **P244** Our response to Him, in both prayer and deed, may profoundly affect how realities play out.

Israel’s Future Suffering and Sanctification

111. Certain prophetic Scriptures portray Israel as devastatingly overrun, nationally shattered and partially rescattered amid the fighting.
112. These verses can seem inconsistent with Israel’s present regathering and restoration.
113. As a result, some Christians have concluded that the Jewish nation exists today only for her “necessary failure “.
114. Is this a stance the Bible teaches we should take?
 - 1) Remember that God grieves over the suffering of His people. (Isaiah 63:9)
 - 2) The prospect of Israel’s future suffering should cause us to grieve rather than harden our hearts.
 - 3) God wants us praying passionately for Israel in her day of trouble and caring for her needs (Mat 25:34-40)
115. Verses about Israel’s future suffering can be properly understood only in connection with other related passages.
116. Israel’s restoration is gradual and progressive ... she appears to take some steps backward instead of forward.
117. **P245** This does not change the big picture, the overall trajectory of what Yahweh is doing with Israel. (Acts 3:17-21)
118. The Jewish people are being fully restored to their land and their Lord.
119. On the one side, prophetic passages in the Bible indicate severe distress lies ahead:
 - 1) International opposition to God and His people will reach its zenith ... just before the onset of the Messianic Age.
 - 2) The Hebrew Scriptures refer to this as the “time of Jacob’s trouble” or “the day of the Lord” (Jer 30:4-7; Joel 1:15; 3:14)
 - 3) The New Covenant describes it as a period of “great tribulation” so Christians call it the Great Tribulation.
120. On the other side, the Great Tribulation is not limited to the Jewish state:
 - 1) The entire earth convulses under the heinous rule of the Antichrist and the outpouring of God’s judgments.
 - 2) Military conflagrations erupt in many places other than Israel.
 - 3) Not only Jews, but all who follow Yahweh are fiercely persecuted during this time.
 - 4) In the end, every nation – not just Israel – is broken and laid low.
 - 5) These years prove so devastating that half of all humankind is killed. (Rev 6:8; 9:15-18)

- 6) In that sense, we could say that every nation is doomed and exists for its “necessary failure” apart from Yeshua.
121. The Great Tribulation represents a relatively brief period of history.
122. Those few years do not upend God’s everlasting covenants. They do not undermine the trajectory of His love or mercy and grace toward Israel.
123. During the Great Tribulation, many Jews turn to faith in Yeshua and proclaim the Gospel, in the power of the Spirit, to nations abroad. A great harvest of souls is reaped.
124. At a certain point related to the Great Tribulation, believers are caught up in the air to be with Yeshua in what is known as the Rapture. (see 1 Thes 4:15-17; 1 Cor 15:51-52)
124. **P246** At the Second Coming, Yeshua arrives “with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones” and spectacularly defeats the Antichrist. (Jude 14)
125. The devil and his hordes are banished from the planet for a thousand years. (Rev 20:2-3)
126. Messiah judges all nations, based in part on how they responded to Jewish suffering in the Great Tribulation.
127. He tenderly and completely regathers Jews who are not in the land.
128. Then He restores His Jewish “brothers and sisters” to Himself, their Savior and King, with unmatched loving-kindness. (Mat 25:40; Romans 11:26)
129. Israel’s consummate restoration follows, as well as that of the nations – and even the earth itself.
130. Under Messiah’s 1000-year leadership, the planet is rehabilitated to an Eden-like condition. (Rom 11:15)
131. Then after more testing comes the glorious new heaven and earth.

From Here to Eternity

132. A key reason we are told about future events is so we will pray proactively concerning them, and not wait passively to be evacuated out of them.
133. Through prayer, the nature and severity of suffering can be greatly diminished:
- 1) Recall that ancient Nineveh received a firm prophecy from Jonah, but when the city repented in prayer, the prophecy did not come to pass quite as predicted. (Jonah 3)
 - 2) For even in wrath, God desires to remember mercy.
 - 3) Usually someone must stand in the gap and wholeheartedly ask Him to release it (mercy).
134. **P247** As the apocalyptic hour approaches:
- 1) God wants our hearts aligned with His, postured to weep with those who weep.
 - 2) He wants us ministering the Gospel of the Kingdom in the power of the Spirit.
 - 3) He wants us caring about and comforting the Jewish people in their distress.

Chapter 14: Altar of Sacrifice

1. **P249** Romans 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.
2. All believers are called, to varying degrees, to the sacrament of suffering for the Kingdom’s sake.
3. 2 Timothy 3:12 “All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”.
4. **P250** Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was a Romanian Jewish believer imprisoned by Nazis and Communists, for 14 years.
5. For his faith in Yeshua, he endured excruciating, repulsively inhumane tortures.
6. During that time, he said, he also experienced unspeakable joy in the Savior’s abiding presence and intimate love.
7. After a miraculous release from prison, Wurmbrand founded a ministry for persecuted believers around the world.
8. Pastor Wurmbrand ... assured me that opportunities to die to self in order to live for Yeshua were not limited to dark Romanian prisons. “Each day, wherever you are and whatever you do, you can choose to offer your body as a living sacrifice – or not.”

Living Sacrifices

9. The apostle Paul was well acquainted with suffering and sacrifice for Messiah’s sake.
10. **P251** In Romans 9-11 the Spirit has just given him – and us- revelation of God’s covenant mercy and grace.
11. God’s plan of redemption for humankind involves one nation through which all others are eternally blessed.
12. That nation has sacrificed much. Now, through the Church, Israel may receive mercy as a result of how God has used

her to release mercy to the Gentiles (see romans 11:31).

13. The apostle continues “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship” (Romans 12:1)
14. **P252** The Almighty said to offer up more – our bodies – even as Yeshua did.
15. “Follow God’s example ... and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1-2).
16. “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.” (Mark 8:34-35)
17. In the days ahead, the call to sacrificial worship and Christlikeness, or the “fullness of the Gentiles”, will be linked more and more with Israel.

The Choice

18. **P253** In God’s hand and plan, Israel will prove a prove a point of division among humankind – a last days’ great divide.
19. Lies will arise about the Jewish people obscured in a worldly reasonableness that will persuade and pervert many.
20. Devilish deceptions about Israel/Zionism/the Jews will overtake the nations, including many Christians.
21. The politics of genocidal anti-Semitism – and the indifference that made it possible – are still with us.
22. Anti-Semitism reflects the anti-Christ spirit.
23. **P254** The slightest spark could ignite regional conflagration in the tinderbox of the Middle East.
24. Expect Israel to be at the center of it – along with the Commander of the Armies of Heaven.
25. The Jewish nation will remain a testing ground in years to come.
26. His tests are designed to conform us to the image of His Son, refining us for outrageous blessing and destiny.
27. In the end, the Bride of Christ – those fervidly loving Him, radically obeying Him and denying themselves for Him - will align with the Jews.
28. This is about your choice, based on your heart and the Word that is already in you.
29. The test has already begun. You are already taking a stand each time you choose how to access and process the news, or how to pray, or how to study the Scriptures ... or how to respond to this book. ... God is watching.

The Remnant in Revelation

30. **P255** Will you be a part of the joining of God’s Old and New Covenant people in a shared last days’ Kingdom destiny?
31. God is preparing the way for Yeshua’s return by preparing hearts.
32. God is looking for those willing to learn to love unconditionally, whose heartbeats resonate to His own.
33. God will join them together with like-minded Messianic Jews as one new humanity ... to set the stage for the greatest revival – and revelation – on earth.
34. The book of Revelation ... foretells of some down-to-earth, seemingly soon-coming events.
35. One of these involves “the 144,000” (Rev 7:3-17; 14:1-5).
36. Coming from “all the tribes of Israel,” with 12,000 per tribe, they are distinct from the “great multitude” (Rev 7:4-9).
37. The 144,000 stand on Mount Zion, “follow the Lamb wherever he goes” and are “offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb” (Rev 14:1, 4).
38. Apparently, they are gathered from within the Jewish state, Messianic Jews awaiting Yeshua’s return.
39. But offered as first fruits, many may be martyred. A sacrament of suffering may await us.

Heroes of the Holocaust

40. **P256** Corrie ten Boom, with her family, took up a cross of self-sacrifice for the Jews of Holland during the Holocaust.
41. The ten Booms loved the Jewish people ultimately for one reason: They loved God.
42. What was this family’s reward for their blessing of Israel, their kneeling to enrich the Jews?
43. Imprisonment and sentencing to a concentration camp, where they all, except Corrie, died.
44. Corrie was miraculously released from prison one day before her scheduled execution, the result of a clerical error.
45. **P257** Archbishop Stefan of the the Bulgarian Orthodox Church saved virtually all of Bulgaria’s 50,000 Jewish citizens from the Holocaust. The archbishop persuaded the government to refuse German orders to deport Jews.

46. Such heroes were the exception to the collective Christian response to WW2.
47. Martyred for his own stand against Hitler, Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The Church ... has been unwilling to suffer for what she knows to be right. Thus the Church is guilty of becoming a traitor to the Lordship of Christ."

The Joy of the Cross

48. Standing for God and sharing His heart for Israel means sacrifice of self – and for some perhaps even martyrdom – in the spirit of Romans 12:1.
49. Those who bless Israel are blessed. They bless God who blesses bountifully of Himself in return.
50. If He uses the Jewish nation to summon us to the cross, the cross summons to us the Blesser Himself.
51. **P258** 51. P258 Famed missionary-martyr Jim Elliot said "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
52. If I am willing to share in the fellowship of His suffering, becoming like Him in His death, I may know Him in the glorious power of His resurrection. (see Philippians 3:7-11)
53. Yeshua endured the cross for the joy set before Him. So, too, will those who wholeheartedly follow Him.
54. "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her" (Isaiah 66:10)
55. As you pour yourself out for God's Jewish nation, prepare to exult in the King of Glory and His infinite splendor, forever. Because in the end, it is all about Him.
56. May the Lord bless you from Zion, He who is the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 134:3)

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[Note: This Golden Nuggets review was prepared by Jesse K Hyder for his personal study.

May the Lord bless you also as you use it to review the book by Sandra Teplinsky, "Why Still Care About Israel?
For your full understanding of the issues it is suggested that you also obtain a copy of the actual book]