

How the War in Israel Could Reshape the World Order

Sat, Oct 14, 2023 8:00AM • 53:59

Host: David Wheaton 00:08

How the War in Israel Could Reshape the World Order. Soeren Kern joins us today right here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. The Christian Worldview is a listener supported radio ministry. You can connect with us by visiting our website, the Christian worldview.org, calling toll free 1-888-646-2233, or by writing to box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

In what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and others are calling Israel's 9/11, Hamas, a militant Islamist group based in Gaza, which is a small but densely populated Palestinian territory in southwest Israel, launched a deadly attack this past Saturday, which has killed more than 1200 Israelis. Israel immediately declared war, clearing invading Israeli talons of Hamas and then bombarding Gaza. Now, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) are staging massive numbers of troops for a potential ground invasion of Gaza, which would present a very difficult urban battle that would include clearing hundreds of miles of underground tunnels. The potential for escalation is high as Israel is surrounded by those who seek her destruction and eagerly await any opportunity to do so.

For example, Hezbollah, another radical Islamist group based to the north of Israel and supported by Iran is just waiting to jump in. Soeren Kern, Christian geopolitical analyst, and writing fellow for Middle East Forum is an expert on Islam. He joins us today to explain many of the issues surrounding this war and how it sets the stage for the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Soeren, thank you for coming on the program all the way from over in Europe. I want to start out by reading just a short news report from the American Jewish Committee website, where they say, "at 6:30am on Saturday, October 7, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group controlling Gaza launched an unprovoked and vicious surprise attack on Israel using rockets, paragliders, boats, motorcycles and other vehicles, and whatever means they could. Terrorists infiltrated Israel with one goal, to murder and kidnap Israelis."

One more paragraph, "Over 1200 Israelis have been killed and many of them, according to reports, have been brutal murder of non-combatants execution style, reportedly beheading of children, even celebration of these murders taking place in Gaza. Over 130 hostages had been taken." This number

could be changing, by the way, "and more than 4500 rockets have been fired at Israeli towns and cities."

Soeren, this has been news all over the world. What were the factors that led to this attack by Hamas, a militant organization based in Gaza, small little territory in Israel, who by the way, are Sunni, not Shia, but they're Iranian funded. Iranians are a Shia Muslim. Why is this particular attack, that's now being called a war, why is it more significant than previous attacks that have been taking place? You know, month after month, year after year?

Guest: Soeren Kern 03:47

Well, sure. Thank you for having me on your program, I think that what makes this different now is that Israel has been attacked in a way that has not occurred since the creation of the State of Israel, and especially going after noncombatants, as you say?

I think basically, there are a lot of things that led up to this. There has been a general focus by the Israeli government on the threat posed by Iran, and particularly by the nuclear program, and also by the proxy, Iran proxy, and in southern Lebanon. The Hezbollah group called the missiles that they have ready to fire against Israel. There's also been a lot of political infighting in Israel and a lot of division within the country between left and right over judicial reform and other political issues in the country.

There's just generally a feeling that Hamas has been very vocal over the last couple of months, but nobody, I think, in the Israeli government expected this to happen. This is because there's been a long standing policy in Israel of what they call the "mowing the lawn" policy. That means that every couple of years, there's a war between Hamas and Israel. Israel goes after the Hamas infrastructure, the Hamas leadership, and the whole thing quiets down for a while, for years, and then it comes back again. It's a cycle that's been going on for at least 10 or 15 years, and the Israeli government really underestimated the determination of Hamas.

I think it's very important that you mentioned that Hamas is Sunni. And that the Iranian government is Shia. Hamas is not just a Palestinian Liberation Organization. They're not really actually interested in the liberation of, or the creation of, a Palestinian state. You have to understand that this is an Islamist movement, and this is a jihadist movement. It's a movement that is committed to jihad. Even within the Hamas charter is the destruction of Israel. That's their purpose, the destruction of Israel.

I think the Israeli government always felt that Hamas was more manageable than Hezbollah, just because of the size. During the civil war in Syria, there was a real falling out between Hamas and Iran, because the Hamas leadership supported the Sunni side and the Syrian civil war. But at least,

over the last 18 to 24 months, there's really been an effort by Hamas leadership to re-ignite this relationship with the Iranian government. I think all this, the whole context really, takes place within the Biden administration, which is really a successor to the Obama administration, which is really seeking to reshape the geopolitical alliances in the Middle East. They're trying to really create Iran as a regional hegemon at the expense of traditional American allies like Israel, Saudi Arabia, and even to some extent, Turkey. So, in the context it has really emboldened Iran, and really emboldened Hamas, and is really in the bigger picture, the Biden administration's really insane policy of trying to make Iran the regional hegemon.

Host: David Wheaton 06:47

Why would the United States, with Iran's history and stated intentions to destroy Israel and all the terror they have supported all over the world, why would the United States no matter Democrat or Republican, want them to be a regional power in the Middle East?

Guest: Soeren Kern 07:03

It's a very strange, I guess, strategy on the part of the Obama administration. In my opinion, the Obama people are the ones who are actually in charge of the Biden administration. The people who are running American foreign policy right now are the same people that were running it during the Obama administration. During the four years of the Trump administration, there was a break in this Obama policy, where President Trump went back to dealing with traditional American allies. As far as I can tell, and historians will eventually write books about this, but what I think, is that the Obama administration believes that the United States should be out of the Middle East and out of all foreign wars. According to this sort of crazy analysis on the part of the Obama people, is that if Iran can be strengthened, it would create a sort of unnatural balance of power between the Sunni powers and the Shia powers in the Middle East.

Now, the problem, of course, is that Iran is very close to acquiring a nuclear weapon. It's considered a nuclear threshold state. It's possible within less than a month, if their decision were taken, that Iran would go nuclear. For all we know, it already has the nuclear capability. What this will do eventually is create a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, a domino effect, in which Saudi Arabia has already said that if Iran goes nuclear, Saudi Arabia will, and I believe that Turkey will also go nuclear. I cannot envision a situation in which Iran and Saudi Arabia are nuclear powers and Turkey is not.

So the Obama administration has really set the Middle East on a disastrous course for global conflict in the future. Unfortunately, the Obama people are just continuing it's, you know, we've all read about these payments for American hostages, ransom payments with the Iranian government. So many concessions that have been made. All the Trump administrations really hard sanctions have

been lifted. I think, whether or not you are a fan of President Trump or not, there was a certain stability in the Middle East during his administration. The mullahs in Iran were really down. There were hard economic problems. There were a lot of other senior leaders who were assassinated. You know, for some inexplicable reason, the Biden administration just reversed all of those policies in the Trump administration that were working, and that is now really how we got to this situation.

Host: David Wheaton 09:25

Soeren Kern with us today here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program talking about the war in Israel taking place right now. Soeren does this agreement that was in the works between Israel and Saudi Arabia have anything to do with this conflict?

Guest: Soeren Kern 09:41

The Iranians are really concerned about the Saudi Arabian government signing a peace treaty with Israel, and that would really bring not just Saudi Arabia, but much of the Sunni Arab world, into a state where it accepts the State of Israel as a legitimate member of the Middle East. This is something that the Islamist, particularly in Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas, are trying to prevent at all costs. This is really one of the reasons why Iran is acting now. They want to prevent the Biden administration from negotiating the Saudi agreement between Saudi Arabia and Israel. There's something about the Saudi treaty that is very interesting, and particularly over control of the Temple Mount. So we know from Daniel 9:27 and onwards, that there's going to be sacrificing, even in the Temple Mount. So I think that the peace treaty is at some point going to allow Christians and Jews and Muslims to share the Temple Mount.

Host: David Wheaton 10:44

Now that's obviously very significant, Soeren, and I know you don't want to speculate too much on that. But that's something for all of us to keep in mind, this agreement that's going on in the background between Israel and Saudi Arabia. One of the things that's been discussed in this war Soeren is, how could this happen? From a standpoint of Israel's intelligence community, surveillance of Gaza, that has to be just enormous because these people want Israel's destruction?

How on earth could this scale of attack happen, where literally, they're coming over the fence, with hang gliders, and this music festival was not very heavily protected by military, and so forth. It seems almost hard to believe in a place like Israel, surrounded by enemies, that an attack on this scale, in such a basic way, this, just get through the fence, and fly over the fence and start shooting, how this could actually take place.

It's actually leading some to forming theories about this, that Israel may have allowed this, and that's hard to believe, in order to pave the way for some future getting the Palestinians out of Gaza. It leads to a lot of conspiracy theories, because it just seems hard to believe that Israel, with their security and surveillance state, that this would get by them.

Guest: Soeren Kern 12:07

Yes, it's very hard to understand it. I'm sure that most analysts agree that this was an intelligence failure on a colossal scale. Eventually, historians will dig through all of the correspondence and all the writings and we'll probably come to some kind of an understanding of what went wrong. I think, as I mentioned, there's a lot of internal divisions within the Israeli body politic, and there's been a lot of uprisings in the Palestinian territories in the West Bank.

I think that the Israeli government has relocated a lot of troops from the Gaza Strip area, into the West Bank to try to maintain a peaceful order there. I think also, as I mentioned before, that the Israeli government, has always viewed Hezbollah as the greater threat than Hamas. I would add, that United States intelligence agencies didn't see 9/11 coming. There was failure after failure after failure by American intelligence. Even to understand that, the Indian government was going to test a nuclear weapon. It just goes on and on and on.

So, you know, intelligence agencies are not infallible. They have limited resources. And I guess, a lot of political decisions were probably made within the Israeli government to take a focus on the Palestinian issue on the West Bank, and in northern Israel, and I suspect that President Netanyahu is going to have to resign after this war is over.

We don't know how long this war is going to take. The Israeli government hasn't really set out what its goals are. Is it just going to be another policy of "mowing the lawn"? Or is it going to be really the final destruction of Hamas. I believe that's really what needs to happen, and the Israeli government is going with aerial bombardment right now to take out as many of the weapons storage sites, Hamas, their information sites, or command and control sites. But eventually, if Israel wants to root out Hamas, it is going to have to do a land invasion. They're going to have to essentially send the Israeli troops, and essentially reoccupy the Gaza Strip. I think this is something that is going to take months, many months, three, four or five months. This really is guerrilla warfare, and this is something that is going to lead to, and create, bloodshed not just on the part of the Palestinians, but also on the part of Israeli troops.

There is going to be a political reckoning for this intelligence failure, but I think right now, there's a unity government that's been formed. There's an understanding that all of the internal political

bickering needs to be put on the side because this really is an existential problem for Israel. As you mentioned, really at the beginning of this, what makes this conflict different is the ability that this can turn into a multi-front war. We now have the possibility that Hezbollah will attack in northern Israel, that Iran will get involved, and we even have the possibility of Turkey and Russia getting involved. There have been comments to that. So really, what we have here is a completely new scenario, which is really in a global context, this makes this really a different situation.

Host: David Wheaton 15:05

Much more coming up with geopolitical analyst Soeren Kern about the war in Israel. You are listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I'm David Wheaton.

Featured Resource: Knowing the Spirit 15:14

When Jesus is laying out the Holy Spirit's job description in John 16, and He says, "it's to your advantage that I go". Think about that for just a second. Jesus, the Christ tells His disciples, it's actually advantageous that I go. They are thinking, what? We don't want you to go, who could be better for us. What does He then explain?

That was pastor Costi Hinn who was raised in and then saved from the distortions of the Holy Spirit that are so prevalent today. Costi's new book, *Knowing the Spirit who He is, what He does, and how He can transform your Christian life*, graciously clarifies truth from error, and is available for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. To order this 261 page, softcover book that retails for \$19.99, go to the Christianworldview.org or call toll free 1-888-646-2233. Or, write to Box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

Featured Children's Resources:

Scripture commands that children are to be brought up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Offering Biblically sound resources for children is one of our top ministry priorities. At our store at the Christianworldview.org. you will find carefully selected children's Bibles and books along with video and audio resources.

Check out the Bible infographics for kids books. Little Pilgrims Progress, and the popular Adam raccoon set. Theo is a 15 episode video series addressing key doctrines of the faith that is a must see for children and adults. Satan and the world are bent on capturing the heart and mind of your child. Instead, get sound resources that will train them up in the way they should go. Browse and order at the Christianworldview.org. Or give us a call for recommendations at 1-888-646-2233 That's 1-888-646-2233, or the Christianworldview.org.

Host: David Wheaton 17:22

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, TheChristianWorldview.org where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children, and support the ministry.

Soeren Kern, geopolitical analyst and writing fellow for the Middle East Forum is our guest today as we discuss this new war in Israel. Just back to that article that I read earlier from the AJC says, "the Israeli Defense Forces, the IDF says, that it has called up 300,000 reservists in 48 hours. The largest mobilization since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, which by the way, this came on the anniversary of that 50 years later, when Israel then called up 400,000 reservists. So this is a scale that hasn't been seen for 50 years. They are amassing on the border of Gaza, and remember, Gaza is not a big area, something like 20 miles long by not very wide. It's a small little territory in the southwest part of Israel, bordered by Egypt on one side, and the Mediterranean Sea, and then Israel on the other. So they are almost locked in there, in Gaza.

It seems like what you were just saying, that this may be different than the past, where you say they just, "mow the lawn". You'll beat them back a little bit, so they weaken them for the next time that they might be going in. The ramifications of that, taking land back now from the Palestinian territory there, and what the ramifications would that be worldwide. Then you also mentioned Hezbollah, which is the Iranian backed Shia Islamists, who are based to the north of Israel, who have already started doing some incursions into the north.

So there's potentially a two front war. The US Navy has naval ships nearby now. So discuss further Soeren, what some potential outcomes could be. If Israel actually does a land invasion of Gaza. If there's a second front started by Hezbollah, this turns into a whole different outcome at that point. What do you see that to be?

Guest: Soeren Kern 19:37

Sure. Well, I think the reason why the United States is sending, I believe two aircraft carrier groups into the eastern Mediterranean is to deter Iran and Hezbollah from getting involved in the war. The Turkish President was very upset also that the Americans are moving their forces in, but I think that the regional leaders are very afraid of American power projection, so I hope that moving these American troops into the region will serve as a deterrent.

Now, as I mentioned earlier, that the reserves are now at 380, almost 400,000 reservists. This is a massive mobilization for a country as small as Israel. As I mentioned, the the only way that Israel is going to defeat Hamas permanently, is to do a land invasion, a ground invasion and really take

control over that and root out every single last Hamas person. Then somehow create, I guess, an alternative Palestinian government, that is more, I guess, political and less Islamist. I think you asked me earlier about why are the Sunnis and the Shia cooperating? It is their mutual hatred for Israel. I mean, they're Islamist groups. That is really why they're working together.

They have completely different theologies, different eschatology, different objectives, political and other, but the unified mutual objective is really the elimination of the State of Israel and so much larger, extinction of the Jewish people. So I think that the problem right now is that if Israel goes in, and there's a land invasion, it's going to be extremely bloody. There's going to be obviously a world public opinion, turning against Israel, as it's always been in the past sort of wars in Gaza.

So Israel has a very small window of opportunity here to really achieve its military objectives. I think if there are a lot of Palestinians dead, it's going to be very difficult for countries like Iran, Hezbollah, not to get involved in this conflict. So we really, as I mentioned, are seeing the possibility of a regional conflagration. We're really talking about, in many ways, the survival of the State of Israel. Of course, we know that God brought these people back into the land. We know the prophecies, and Ezekiel 35, 36, and also 37, 38, 39, the dry bones. The Lord bringing all of the Jews back into the land in 1948. They became independent, and the Lord has really protected these people from unbelievable threats over the last 75, 80 years.

I think that this is one of those scenarios really where the Jews are going to need divine intervention and divine protection, if this turns into a regional war, if the Iranians do go nuclear, and they try to use nuclear weapons against the Jewish state. So we have so many factors in this conflict that are really "ifs", we don't really know what's going to happen next. But we do know, I think it's pretty clear, that if the Israelis really want to root out Hamas in a permanent way, it's going to be a lot of bloodshed on both sides.

Host: David Wheaton 22:43

Soeren Kern with us today here on The Christian Worldview. Links to his work at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org. World opinion on this conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis, depends on who you listen to and what part of the world you're in. I read a tweet from someone who is a sympathizer, a supporter of the Palestinians. He said, "there's been 75 years of ethnic cleansing by Israel toward the Palestinians. There has been 15 years of blockade on the Gaza Strip. It has been confiscation of Palestinian lands, pogroms on Palestinian towns, desecration of Palestinian sacred sites, daily raids into Palestinian homes, and constant humiliation of an entire people. Nothing about this attack by Hamas into Israel is, 'unprovoked'."

Now, on the other side, you have those who are the Israelis, and those who support them will say that Hamas is a terrorist organization. They don't even acknowledge their existence, their right to exist. They attack them, they kill civilians, as they did here. They weren't killing Israeli military people. This wasn't a typical war, they come in and try to kill and take hostage and maim as many people as possible or civilians. They openly state they want Israel's destruction.

So I'd like you to comment on the moral equivalence that's drawn in the world, maybe in the media specifically, but also even more now, Soeren, we're seeing in America, Dearborn, Michigan, there was a rally for the Palestinians. High level members of Congress, Rashida Tlaib, from Michigan. Ilhan Omar from Minnesota, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, the far leftist from New York, really against Israel and supportive of the Palestinian cause.

Maybe you could talk about the moral equivalence being drawn between these two groups of Palestinians and the Israelis. And the fact that it seems like in America, there has actually been far more support for the Palestinians, not saying more support for the Palestinians than the Israelis, but there's far more support just as a percentage for this Palestinian Hamas cause.

Guest: Soeren Kern 25:07

I think ultimately, it's a generational issue. That the generation, of particularly Christians, but Americans in general, who grew up with the birth of this nation of Israel through the Six Day War, through all the challenges that the Jewish State has had to get to this point. A lot of the supporters are very old, or they're dead, and the younger generation really does not see the Israeli cause, the same way that maybe my parents did, or early generations did.

A lot of this has to do with Marxism, woke-ism, and this concept called "intersectionality", in which in some way all conflicts in the world, whether it's the ISRAEL/PALESTINE conflict, or whether it's the conflict that homosexuals have to be accepted, or whether it's the black liberation movement. All these different social conflicts, all these different political conflicts in the whole world, are somehow interconnected. So I think that, particularly in the United States, the younger generation is really growing up, even in the church, without a real appreciation for what is Israel, what is the Lord trying to accomplish through the rebirth of that nation?

I think another part of this is really immigration, mass migration to the west from the Muslim world. We have brought in a lot of people, millions and millions of people into the West, not just in the United States, but in Canada, Australia, particularly in Europe, of people who do not share our values. They do not have an appreciation for JudeoChristian worldview, or ethics, They automatically support the Palestinian cause, because of Islam, because of the supremacy, that ideology. We know

that Islam is not just a religion, but it's also a political ideology, sometimes referred to as Islamism. So I think there's a lot of appeal on all of these newcomers from an entire younger generation in the West that's been indoctrinated by Marxism.

At the same time, by the slow death of earlier generations that really loved Israel, and really appreciated the story of the Jews coming back into their land. It's very simplistic, and goes into many more dimensions, I'm sure, but probably these are two very important ones that help explain what we're seeing on the television screens right now.

I think it's very important to understand that we've been in the Ukraine/Russia war for two years now. There's hardly ever been any sort of protest or any anti-war movement anywhere in any Western city, and that has been a bloodbath. In the Ukraine, hundreds of 1000s of people have been killed, entire cities have been completely leveled. I mean, it's been a terrible, terrible war in the middle of Europe, in the 21st century. It is almost unspeakable, what's going on in Ukraine, and very few people have come out to say anything about it.

But the moment that it turns to Israel and Palestine, all of a sudden, the whole world is upset. I think, again, we can really trace this back to a spiritual dimension, that ultimately, this really is a spiritual war that we're witnessing. A lot of people are just basically antisemitic. They hate the Jews for whatever reason that may be. So the anti-Zionism is often used by antiSemites to say, we're not antisemitic, we're just anti-Zionist. But ultimately, they're two sides of the same coin, and I'm afraid, I'm really afraid, that the anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment in the world is going to be turning for the worse here in the near future.

Host: David Wheaton 28:44

Very well said Soeren. Just another question or two for you. Modern Israel, is largely Christ rejecting. It's a hedonistic, materialistic nation like America, a nation that aborts their children, advocates for homosexuality, and other values like we see here in our own country. So how should Christians balance the biblical call to support the Jewish people, and yet realizing at the same time that we can't unequivocally support any people, any nation, who pursues life in a society, in opposition to God and His Son, Jesus Christ?

Guest: Soeren Kern 29:31

Yes, I think that's a really tricky question. My personal sense is that we as Christians are to support the Jewish people. The apostle Paul writes that the Jews are Christ rejecting, because they've been blinded. At some point, they will be unblinded. I think that possibly this sort of existential crisis in Israel is going to lead a lot of people to call out to God. I read just before we recorded this, that the

Jews are having a fast, a global fast, to call out for God's mercy on the state of Israel and the Jewish people. It's very important for us to bless Israel, because the Bible commands it. The Jewish people are God's chosen people. If you go all the way back to the Tower of Babel when God dispersed people all over the face of the earth, and Deuteronomy 28 indicates that God specifically reserved the Land of Israel for his people.

The whole Old Testament really is the story of how God raised up a people, his own people, from among all the pagan nations and he brought them into the land, and they were disobedient, and they were punished. Then they were blessed, and it's just a complete, constant cycle of blessing and cursing and blessing and cursing. The fact that the Jews are back in the land since 1948, is a pretty big indication that our Lord is about to do something with the Jewish people. I'm not saying that the Israeli government is perfect, and certainly, no government is perfect, but my personal sense, as a Christian, is that I want to be as supportive as possible of the Jewish people, and particularly of the State of Israel.

I think the Israeli government has an unbelievable challenge, it's really the continued existence of the Jewish people. The whole purpose of the creation of the State of Israel, from a secular perspective, was to ensure that the Holocaust of the second world war could never happen again. So personally, I support the Jews. I don't always agree with every action that the Israeli government takes, but I think there is blessing to Christian believers for supporting Israel.

I think within the Christian community, one of the problems really is reformed theology. They say that they're theology is reformed, but their eschatology is really the exact same eschatology of the Roman Catholic Church, and that's an amillennial theology, that's a replacement theology, that believes that the church has now replaced Israel, that all the blessings that God gave to the Jewish people in the Old Testament, are no longer valid; the only beneficiary of those blessings is the church.

That's a faulty theology in my mind, and it's leading to a lot of antisemitism, within Protestant Christianity in particular, also within Catholicism. Here in Spain, a Catholic country, there is a lot of latent anti semitism, I think, due to Catholic theology and the replacement theology. There's so much confusion within the church, and so much confusion among Christians about what they should do. But my personal view is, give the Jews the benefit of the doubt, and trust in the Lord. The Lord has promised us blessings, "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you." I think we need to leave those things in the Lord's hands. Ultimately, He will make things right and there'll be perfect justice in the end.

Host: David Wheaton 32:45

Soeren, we thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview Radio Program yet again, and we thank you for your insight on this war going on in Israel. We're going to be watching it carefully. We are praying for the State of Israel and the Jewish people. And we thank you for your analysis. We wish all of God's best and grace to you and your family.

Guest: Soeren Kern 33:07

Thank you David. Thank you for having me on your program.

Host: David Wheaton 33:10

Okay, a brief pause to tell you about some ministry resources. When we return, three P's. Perspective on the Jewish people, prophecy, and propaganda. That coming up on The Christian Worldview Radio Program, I'm David Wheaton.

Featured Resource: The Essential Church DVD 33:25

God's truth is enduringly true throughout all the generations, it transcends culture. The church is always going to be an embattled people. If it's swimming with the tide, it's not being the Church of Jesus Christ. Look to the past learn from the past, because the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

That was from the just released documentary, The Essential Church, which chronicles how three churches followed God's command to gather during the pandemic, rather than comply with arbitrary government mandates. Normal retail is \$12.99 plus shipping for this two hour film. For a limited time, you can order the DVD for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Order at the Christian worldview.org or call toll free 1-888-646-2233. Or write to box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

Featured Resource: Knowing the Spirit 34:24

When Jesus is laying out the Holy Spirit's job description in John 16, and he says, it's to your advantage that I go, think about that for just a second. Jesus the Christ tells His disciples, it's actually advantageous that I go, and they are thinking, what? We don't want you to go, who could be better for us. What does he then explain?

That was pastor Costi Hinn who was raised in, and then saved from, the distortions of the Holy Spirit that are so prevalent today. Costi's new book, *Knowing the Spirit: Who He is, What He does, and*

How He Can Transform Your Christian Life, graciously clarifies truth from error, and is available for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. To order this 261 page, softcover book that retails for \$19.99, go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call toll free 1-888-646-2233. Or write to PO Box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

Host: David Wheaton 35:31

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview, I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, TheChristianWorldview.org, where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children, and support the ministry in this final segment today.

First, I'd like to comment on that last question to Soeren about Christian's perspective on the Jewish people. The Bible says in Romans chapter 11:28, Paul writes, *"from the standpoint of the gospel, they [these are the Jews], are enemies for your sake. But from the standpoint of God's choice, they are beloved, for the sake of the Father's, for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you once were disobedient to God, [again, Paul writing to Gentiles here in Rome] but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience. So these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you, they also may now be shown mercy, for God has shut up all in disobedience, so that he may show mercy to all."*

So there's this balance here that Paul writes about. Most Jews oppose Christ and the gospel and are rebels against God. That's what Paul's saying in this passage. Judaism is a false gospel of law keeping that you can become right with God by keeping the law, and that only leads to God's judgment, not to salvation. Galatians 2 says, *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, [which Judaism and Jews try to do] but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law, since by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified."*

So Christians should not blindly overlook the rebellion of the Jews, because they're God's chosen people. They are in the same state of rebellion right now, as they were many times in the Old Testament. For example, you've heard about this musical festival that took place where Hamas came in and killed so many people. It was actually held during Sukkot, which is a religious time of year where they commemorate the Exodus 1000's of years ago.

Well, what that music festival was, out in the desert, was actually what's called a "Psytrance rave". Reading from the website for the festival, "the tribe of Nova proudly presents a parallel universe, Israel edition. This special collaboration with a festival that represents the heart and soul of the Brazilian trance music community is considered to be one of the largest and most respected

international electronic alternative festival throughout Latin America. The central driving force behind it, the festival, is a set of fundamental and important human values, three of them, 1) free love and spirit. 2) environmental preservation, and 3) appreciation of rare natural values that the festival embodies."

"Every two years," it goes on to say, "it spreads the love for exquisite electronic music in all its variations, establishes an authentic connection to the social artistic ideology, and channels all these elements for empowerment, and the dissemination of the trance culture, not the trans culture, but the trance culture, which emerges as a universal cosmic light from the wild jungle and spreads throughout the world."

That's from the actual website for this rave, Psytrance festival, that was attacked by Hamas. Now I don't think Hamas attacked the festival because of what it embodied, but because it was an easy target right near Gaza. This was a Woodstock like scene of sex, drugs, trance music, and false spiritist religion, and this type of worldview is typical in Israel and America today. So know that.

But at the same time, remember that in the big picture, Israel and the Jews are God's chosen people with a future generation that *will believe* in their Messiah. So Christians need to support and pray for Israel and the Jews, yet without overlooking the clear rebellion of God that they are currently engaged in. Paul writes in Romans 11, *I say, then God has not rejected his people, has he? He hasn't rejected the Jews right? May it never be! For I too, am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin, God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew, or do you not know what the scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, where Elijah says, Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have torn down your altars, and I alone am left and they are seeking my life.*" Chapter 11:4. But what is the divine response to him, "Elijah," God says, "I have kept for myself 7000 men who have not bowed the knee to Baal," verse five in the same way, "then there has also come to be at the present time, a remnant, according to God's gracious choice."

In other words, there are Jews who are saved, God always has a remnant, and there'll be far more of them in the future. Here's why there is such a national blindness toward the things of God and of Christ. Paul writes in Romans 10:7. "What then? What Israel is seeking it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened, just as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day."

Skipping down to verse 11. "I say, then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression, the transgression of the Jews, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make

the Jews jealous. Now, if their transgression is riches for the world, and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be?" That from Romans 11. In other words, the church age, which we're in right now, has been a time of salvation for the Gentiles. Now, of course, a small minority of Jews have been saved during this time, but large scale salvation for the Jews is yet future. So for Christians, the perspective is, we support their struggle for survival as a people and as a nation, yet without overlooking or somehow rationalizing the rebellion against God that they're currently engaged in as a people.

The second point to discuss here is the issue of prophecy. In Matthew 24, Christ gives a very detailed description of future events to his disciples. It starts out in 24:3 with a key question the disciples asked as He, Christ, was sitting in the Mount of Olives. The disciples came to Him privately saying, *"Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign of Your coming? And of the end of the age?"* Good question. In Matthew 24:4 Christ starts to lay out the answer. He talks about the precursor to His return, and Jesus answered and said to them, *"see to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ and will mislead many, you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars."* That's exactly what's taking place right now. *"See that you are not frightened for those things must take place. But that is not yet the end. But all these things are merely the beginnings of birth pangs."*

That's where we are right now. Birth pangs. In Matthew 24:9 and following Christ gets into the persecution and proclamation of the gospel that will take place before He returns, *"then they will deliver you to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. At that time, many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many, because lawlessness is increased. Most people's love will grow cold."* Then he says this, *"The one who endures to the end he will be saved. This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world, as a testimony to all the nations and then the end will come."* There's the proclamation of the gospel. Now in verse 15, the perilous times we see in the tribulation before Christ's literal return to Earth.

"Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken up through Daniel the Prophet standing in the holy place, let the reader understand, then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains." This is in the tribulation period, when the Antichrist arises, he turns on Israel. He goes into the temple which has been rebuilt, and he demands worship of himself. And then it says in verse 21, *"there will be a great tribulation."* This starts the really terrible part of this tribulation period, *"such has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will, unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short."*

And then comes verse 29. I'm skipping quickly through this, verse 29, is the glorious return of Christ. *"But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light in the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man, Christ, will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."* And then He concludes this passage in Matthew 24, by saying this, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."* Never has been said a more truthful statement than that. The world has its own perspectives. God has the truthful one in His Word.

Then Christ concludes the chapter by saying this, *"But of that day and hour when I'm going to return, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven or the Son, but the Father alone, for the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah."* What were those days like?

Verse 38 *"For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be."*

In other words, there will be exceeding sinfulness on the earth, there will be a blindness and rejection of Christ and the gospel, and then Christ will return and judgment will come. And He says, *"Finally, be on the alert, for you do not know what day your Lord is coming. For this reason you also must be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour, when you do not think He will, who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of His household, to give them their food, the proper time? Blessed is that slave, whom his master finds so doing when He comes."*

So Christians, we must look at the bigger picture here. These events in Israel, at least as of now, are not a specific fulfillment of a biblical prophecy. But, they are steps toward what will happen in the future, the wars and rumors of wars, which will lead Israel to wanting peace. That's what they really want, a homeland and peace. The Antichrist will come during the tribulation, and break that covenant with Israel and demand worship.

And it's very interesting what Soeren had to say about the Israeli agreement with Saudi Arabia. How there may be something in there to do with the Temple Mount and the rebuilding of the Jewish temple. In the meantime, Israel is not going anywhere. They are not going to be wiped off the face of the map. God will protect them, even in the midst of their rebellion, just as God protected them in the midst of their rebellion in the Old Testament. But God will also use the enemies of Israel like Hamas, like Hezbollah, like Iran, to not allow them to have peace, because they're not following their

Messiah at this point. So watch the signs, Iran and Turkey are rising. These are all countries in Scripture, prominent nations in the end times, along with Russia, the stage is being set for the end of days.

And finally, just briefly, the last thing to comment on is this irreconcilable conflict and propaganda war that's taking place. This conflict between Israel and the Islamist, is never going to be resolved. It goes back centuries, millennia. It's like a, "genetic hatred" of Islamist toward the Jews, because Satan hates the Jews and he inspires hate against him. No matter how Israel responds, how carefully they respond, those who hate Israel will always consider her to be the aggressor and the oppressor in the region. Listen to what Paul writes in Galatians 4 *"for it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman, Hagar, and one by the free woman, Sarah, but the son of the bondwoman Ishmael was born according to the flesh In the son of the free woman, Isaac through the promise."*

This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants, one proceeding from Mount Sinai, Ishmael, bearing children who are to be slaves, she is Hagar, and he writes here to Jews, and you brethren, like Isaac, the son of the free woman, Sarah, our children a promise. And listen to Galatians 4:29 *"but as at that time, he who was born according to the flesh, Ishmael, persecuted him, who was born according to the Spirit, Isaac, so it is now also."*

There's two applications here, the legalist, those who try to follow the law, always hate those who follow the true gospel of grace. But the second one is this, the descendants of Ishmael, the Arabic peoples, of which Islam has a major part of, have always hated Isaac and his descendants, the Jews. This is not changing.

So there's a propaganda war taking place. And one thing that's been surprising is the degree of support for the Palestinians after this brutal murder of Israeli citizens. Antisemitism has exploded, the circular process goes like this: the Islamists will brutalize the Jews in some way, kill them indiscriminately, then the Jews will respond forcefully for their survival, then the Islamists will spread images of their dead children that they've been using as human shields. Then, world opinion turns against Israel, and Israel backs off because they want peace and to be accepted by the world. Then the Islamists rebuild and attack again, it's a circular process.

So don't be swayed by the moral equivalence game that's played out in the media, where Israel is just as culpable, actually more culpable. They're an apartheid state. They're the "oppressors" here. Now, Israel is comparatively far more humane of a people in a society. These Islamists are barbarians. They have no standards for human life or warfare. Neither side is going to give any room to the other's claim on the land. The reality is, most all borders in the world are determined by forcible

conflict. There is no hope for reconciliation between these two sides. But individually, there is great hope for reconciliation with God when we obey Christ's command to repent of our sin, and believe in the good news about who Jesus Christ is and what He did for us on the cross.

If you'd like to find out more, give us a call, or go to our website, TheChristianWorldview.org and click on the page, "What Must I Do To Be Saved? Thank you for joining us today on The Christian Worldview. Until next time, Think Biblically, Live Accordingly, and Stand Firm.

Host: David Wheaton 52:58

The mission of The Christian Worldview is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope today's broadcast encouraged you toward that end. To hear a replay of today's program, order a transcript ,or find out what must I do to be saved? Go to the [Christian worldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233.

The Christian Worldview is a listener supported nonprofit radio ministry furnished by the Overcomer Foundation. To make a donation, become a Christian worldview partner, order resources, subscribe to our free newsletter, or contact us, visit TheChristianWorldview.org call 1-888-646 -2233, or write to PO Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. That's PO Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. Thanks for listening to The Christian Worldview.