

# TOPIC: Some Bless, Most Curse — Why the Widely Divergent Stance toward Israel?

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**Host: David Wheaton** 00:08

Some Bless, Most Curse-Why the Widely Divergent Stance Toward Israel? That is the topic we'll discuss 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, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), calling toll free 1-888-646-2233 or by writing to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

A "moral equivalency" is argumentation that attempts to make two opposing sides equal, when in reality, one side is far more immoral than the other. Example: Israel and Hamas. The Islamic group Hamas, based in the Palestinian territory of Gaza, barbarically slaughtered 1400 civilians in Israel on October 7th and immediately those who side with the Palestinians make the moral equivalency that Israel is no better with their racist, oppressive, colonialist, genocidal, apartheid state as they would put it.

A better moral equivalency to Hamas murdering non-combatants, including children, would be the American zealots who advocate for the so called "right" to kill pre-born children at any time and for any reason during pregnancy. In fact, the latter group, the abortion zealots, have been much more effective from a death toll standpoint than the former, Hamas. And the people of Ohio just voted for abortion to be a "right" in their state constitution. In last week's program Chris Katulka, of Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, clarified the disinformation (i.e. lies) that so many believe and espouse about Israel and the Jews, such as, that they are occupying Palestinian land. Chris detailed the ancient history of Israel with God establishing for them a far larger area of land than they currently inhabit and how in 1948, they were unexpectedly granted a portion of that historic homeland for them to resettle.

This weekend in Part Two of the interview, Chris will explain what is behind the widespread anti semitism in the world, how Christians should obey God's command to bless the descendants of Abraham and Sarah (the Jews) despite their current God and Christ rejection, and what all these events going on mean for biblical prophecy. Before we get to the interview with Chris Katulka, I would just like to read a few paragraphs of a recent column by Mike Gendron, who was recently on

The Christian Worldview Radio Program. He heads Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry. Mike Gendron writes, "Historically, this prolonged struggle in the Middle East has been between the Jewish descendants of Abraham through Isaac and the Arab descendants of Abraham through Ishmael. You see that back in Genesis 17. Islam, the religion, was formed out of Arab paganism and its roots can be traced back to Ishmael and Esau. Their religion founded by Muhammad in the late sixth century, is a socio political religious system with a mission to convert the world into an Islamic society governed by laws of Allah. Not too long after the religion became established, the Muslims conquered the land of Israel in 637 A.D. Here is where the conflict over the land in Israel began."

He goes on to say, "Who has the right to the land of Israel? Since 1948, the growing and never ending conflict has been centered on who has the right to the land of Israel. The Jewish people believe they have a long standing and exclusive right. Yet Muslims believe that any land conquered in the name of Allah must remain in the possession of Islam. The Jews know that God gave them the land as their everlasting possession. Although most Jews today do not believe in the God revealed in the Bible, maybe a portion of the God revealed in the Old Testament, but certainly not the God of the New Testament, which is the same God. The title deed for the land is the inspired Word of God.

The Lord made a covenant with Abraham, saying, "*To your descendants, I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.*" Genesis 15. He declared, "*I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land where you live as a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*" Genesis 17." Then Mike writes, "There appears to be no human solution to this ongoing conflict over the rights to the land. This is an irreconcilable difference if I may add. However, there is a divine solution, but it will not be resolved until the King of Kings returns to set up his earthly kingdom from the throne of David in Jerusalem. 2 Samuel 7. So if you're hoping that there's going to be peace and understanding between the Jews and the Arabs as to whose land it is, and that's how this is going to be settled, that is not going to happen ever until Christ returns."

Mike Gendron goes on to say, "Who are the Palestinians? In the second century, he writes, Roman Emperor Hadrian decided to punish the Jews by changing the name of Judea that we see in the Bible to Palestine. Yet this has nothing to do with modern day Palestinians, who did not even exist at that time. After the conquest of the land by the British Empire in 1917, around the time of World War 1, many Arabs from neighboring countries made their way into the land of Israel as migrant workers. Years later, after Israel declared its independence in 1948, Arab armies invaded the land with the goal of eliminating every Jew." [Chris Katulka talked about that last week.] "In the Six Day War of 1967, Arab nations tried again to destroy Israel, but Israel miraculously prevailed and took the Golan Heights, Judea, Samaria, the Sinai Peninsula in the Gaza Strip." Again, Chris talked about that last week. You can go and hear that program where he explains that. All of this to say, Mike Gendron

writes that there has never been a Palestinian state, a Palestinian language or a Palestinian culture. Furthermore, no Arab state has ever had Jerusalem as a capital. The Quran never even mentions Jerusalem. Yet the Bible cites Jerusalem over 800 times.

Palestinians as a people group were never even mentioned until 75 years ago. Regrettably, these historical facts have been replaced with Palestinian propaganda, which has been dispensed throughout Western media and academia alike. Now, that last paragraph, how often do you hear that truthfulness spoken in the media at all today? That has been completely lost except in more conservative Christian outlets. He goes on to write about Hamas and the Gaza Strip. Hamas was originally a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood and its call for the destruction of Israel. That genocidal intent and mission is in their charter. Israel, unbelievably, gave control of the Gaza strip to the Palestinians in 2005. There are two important propositions to consider as the ongoing conflict between Jews and Muslims continue, and here it is. If Islam puts down her weapons, there will be no more Islamic terror attacks. If Israel puts down her weapons, there would be no more Israel. Then Mike Gendron concludes with biblical prophecy about Israel.

The Jewish people will have to endure much more persecution and tribulation in the years ahead, but our merciful God has a glorious future for those who will call upon Him to be saved. Our Lord declares, *"Two thirds shall be cut off and perish: But 1/3 shall be left alive."* These are of the Jews. *"And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon My name, and I will answer them. I will say, They are My people. And they will say, The Lord is my God."* That's from Zechariah 13:8-9. Mike goes on to say, this is the Faithful Remnant who will look upon the One they have pierced, one they crucified and say, *"Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord."* Matthew 23.

For the last several weeks on the program, with everything going on in Israel, we've been talking a lot about Bible prophecy. So we thought it would be good to find a good resource that will keep us focused on what God has planned for the future. You probably remember one of our guests on the program who we really like, Steve Miller. He's the author of, *Foreshadows: Twelve Mega Clues that Jesus' Return is Nearer Than Ever*. We offered that book. I think he was on the program about a year ago or so. He now has a devotional out titled, *One day nearer: Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus Glorious Return*. We're going to be offering this book today for a donation of any amount. I'm going to read after the interview with Chris Katulka one page of it, which gives a bullet point on a panorama of biblical prophecy. So stay tuned for that coming up after the interview with Chris.

Let's get back to the second part of the interview with Chris Katulka of Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. Chris, thanks again for coming on the program. A man named David, and it's a difficult last name, Patrikarakos. He's a reporter that attended an Israeli Defense Force, IDF briefing, about the

Hamas attack. They weren't allowed to take video, they were just allowed to take notes, but the IDF showed video of what took place on that attack on October 7th. I'm going to read a couple paragraphs to you to give listeners an idea of just how barbaric this attack was.

He says, "The footage starts: A truck with Hamas terrorists on board, and again, he's jotting down what he's seeing in this briefing by the IDF, the Hamas terrorists on board whoop and cheer. They fan out into the street shooting cars. They drag blood-soaked corpses out of vehicles onto the street. A female body is thrown onto the road. Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar (Allah is great), is the repeated cry." Next paragraph, "Hamas enters a kibbutz. A car pulls up and the driver looks left to speak to the checkpoint. A Hamas terrorist emerges from the right and shoots him. Blood spatters the inside. GoPro footage from a Hamas fighter in the next video they show, his gun sticks out in front of him like a video game. He runs through a kibbutz, he sees a dog running eagerly toward him, he lowers the rifle and shoots the dog, two to three shots stone dead. A man in his underpants and his two children also in underpants run screaming. Hamas enter, they throw a grenade and kill the father. They take the two kids covered with their father's blood into a room. 'Daddy's dead!', screams one, 'It's not a prank. He's really dead. I wish I was dead. I wish I was dead', screams the child."

Just a couple more paragraphs, I know this is hard to hear, but I think it's important to understand the worldview behind this attack by Hamas on these Jewish civilians. It goes on to say, "The footage moves. A man in his football shirt lies on the ground covered in blood. He moans in pain. A Hamas terrorist picks up a hoe and starts hitting him over and over on the head screaming, Allahu Akbar. The footage moves to a rave. That party that was going on. Partygoers run screaming. Men and women are dragged screaming out of cars. Bloodied corpses are thrown into the dirt and surrounded by Hamas cheering and whooping. Audio was put up on the screen: A Hamas terrorist calls his father. "Father, I killed 10 Jews. Check your WhatsApp. I sent you the photos. Father, I killed 10 Jews. I killed 10 Jews with my bare hands. Check your WhatsApp. Father, be proud of me." Honestly, it makes my skin crawl to even read it."

Then the report concludes this way, "What I saw today has nothing to do with resistance. It was about wanting to kill Jews, and that they did. They killed over 1400 civilians in this barbaric attack. 1400. Do you know how hard it is to kill that many people? This wasn't just like a mass shooting we see in America where 15 or 20 people die, which is a huge tragedy. This is 1400 people. This is a slaughter that went on and on and on. Now, in light of this, and this information has been out, this is nothing new that I just read. People have heard about this.

There are many pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel protests. Even Jewish people in New York City are already calling for a ceasefire. They're getting together at events, protests and so forth. You mentioned the college campuses. It's all over the country, pro-Palestinian marches on campuses. Members of

Congress, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar and so forth, others, are totally in favor of the Palestinians and this cause, even after that barbaric attack I just read about. The UN Secretary General just recently drew this moral equivalency that these attacks, he said, "weren't done in a vacuum. In other words, there was reason. They're frustrated for settlements and all these other things that, you know, there's reason for these attacks."

Chris, how do you explain that there's so much open support? This is the difference I think this time, than what I remember in the last 20, 30 years. So much open support for a barbaric, and speaking of genocide, that's what the motivation is of Hamas. They don't just want to gain some land back as you just discussed. It's really about them not wanting even the presence of the Jews or Israel in the land at all. So they are a genocidally motivated organizations like Hamas. How do you explain there's so much open support for this organization and the dismantlement and the removal of Israel from the land?

**Guest: Chris Katulka 15:11**

You did a great job building that entire question, because you highlighted the barbarism of what Hamas did. And then the shock, that there are Americans from all backgrounds, who, whether they're educated or not, whether they're in universities, it doesn't matter what their color is, they are targeting Jewish people on college campuses. Like you said, in our very own halls of Congress. Even in the UN, there is an anti semitism, it's the hatred of the Jewish people. David, we've seen anti semitism for a long time at Friends of Israel. It's something we highlight all the time, but we've never seen it like this before.

This is reminiscent of 1933 all over again. And it's something that you're hearing many Jewish people concerned for their very own lives. The only way that I can explain the virulent anti semitism that we're seeing happen right now is that it's spiritual. We always remind our audiences, our listeners at the Friends of Israel Today, whether we're doing a conference or speaking in a church, this is not the first time that the Jewish people have been targeted. You can look at them going all the way back to Egypt, or Assyria in the Bible, or the Babylonians, or the Persians, or the Greeks, or the Romans, or the Spanish Inquisition, or the Crusader period, or the Russian pogroms, or the Holocaust. They were targeted as being Jewish people, they were blamed for something, even though they had done nothing, they were blamed. They become the problem. They're the colonialists. They're the ones who control the media. They're the ones with all the money. If you notice, these are the kinds of things that begin to boil to the top.

One of the big questions right now, David, among the scholars and whatnot, is the question of whether or not anti-Zionism is anti-semitism, and what that means is people will often get up and say, Oh, I like Jewish people. I'm not anti-semitic, but I hate the Jewish state, the state of Israel. I

hate it. I will do anything I possibly can to boycott Israel, divest from Israel, sanction Israel, I hate Israel, but I like Jewish people. So a lot of times they try to make this distinguishing picture. People even try to do that today, when they look at what's going on between Israel and Hamas. And then "oh, no, we like Jewish people. We don't like Israel." What you end up always seeing over and over again, is when you see a rally against Israel, what always bubbles to the top is anti-semitism. You'll always see a target of the Jewish people. All of a sudden, they'll target a Jewish business, or they'll target a Jewish individual.

Why is this here? Why is it always been around? I believe it's a spiritual issue. I believe it's grounded in the fact that God is not through with Israel and the Jewish people. They are connected to His plan of redemption. You would think in 2023, we would have learned the lessons of the Holocaust that go back only 80 years. But yet here we are, once again, the enlightened people in Universities are anti semitic and anti Israel. The Muslim world is on fire when it comes to Israel right now. Europe has opinions, the UN, all of these things. Why? Why is it like this with Israel and the Jewish people? We're not talking about the fact that they're taking over the entire Middle East, because the country of Israel is the size of New Jersey, it's nothing. It's one Jewish state in the entire world. Why?

Go to Psalm 83, read about the fact that there has always been an anti semitism, and I think it's spiritual because Satan hates what God loves. God loves His people, His chosen people, Israel, and the Jewish people. He also loves the church. There's Christian persecution that's going on around the world. There's also anti semitism that's on the rise. Anti semitism is up 1,100% since the Israel Hamas war started. So this is definitely, I believe, it's not just a political issue or racial issue. It's a spiritual issue that goes back 1000s of years. It's something that we need to be praying for. That's why David calls for us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

**Host: David Wheaton 19:17**

That was very well said. I completely agree with you. This is a spiritual darkness, an irrational Satan inspired hatred of the Jewish people. For all the reasons you just mentioned, you know, God chose the nation of Israel to give the Ten Commandments and the laws and all the things that came through the Jewish people in the Old Testament, and then of course, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to bring Christ through the line of the Jews as well. As you mentioned, there's the future plans for them, which we're going to get to in just a minute here. That's another thing why there continues to be this hatred toward the Jewish people.

Chris Katulka is our guest today from Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. Foi.org is the way you can connect with this ministry. We're also offering a devotional by Steve Miller. One Day Nearer: Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus' Glorious Return, to keep our minds and our hearts focused on that most important hope of the believer. You can get it for a donation of any amount to The

Christian Worldview. It's a softcover, 385 pages and retails for \$19.99. Get in contact with us the usual ways. Our website, toll free number and address will be given during this short break for some ministry announcements. You're listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I'm David Wheaton.

### **Featured Resource: Knowing the Spirit** 20:40

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 [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

### **Featured Children's Resources** 21:44

Scripture commands that children ought 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](http://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 [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or give us a call for recommendations at 1-888-646-2233. That's 1-888-646-2233 or [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org).

### **Host: David Wheaton** 22:49

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://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. Our topic today is, *Some Bless, Most Curse: Why the Widely Divergent Stance Toward Israel*. Chris Katulka, radio host with Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry is our guest.

Chris, in an online publication called, *American Purpose*, a writer named Robert Satloff, I don't know who he is, but he said this, "The enormity, the audacity and the depravity of what Hamas did, butchering more than 1300 civilians in a way not experienced by the Jews since the darkest days of the Holocaust, changed the rules of the game, if you could call it a 'game'. To Israelis this may have been a surprise, but it was not like Anwar Sadat surprise, war as politics. But it was the rudest of awakenings, opening eyes to the almost incomprehensible realization that while they were engaged in what they thought was an almost gentlemanly conflict with the Palestinians down there in Gaza and so forth, defined by clear rules and boundaries, the enemy was readying itself for a diabolical, there's the Satan inspired part of it, bloodthirsty massacre."

Okay, let's bring this up to the present day here with what's going on there now. You have the Israel Defense Forces having gone into Gaza and controlling much of the area now. What are you hearing is the objective this time around? The rules of the so called game have changed. Before it was like they'd call it mowing the lawn or mowing the grass or they kind of beat them back a little bit and backed down their capability for a while then they'd build themselves back up and attack again. This time seems different. Is the plan from what you're hearing, Chris, to take back the land of Gaza? What would the ramifications of that be? Tell us what you know about what the objective is for Gaza and Hamas now.

**Guest: Chris Katulka** 24:54

Israel woke up for sure on October 7, when Hamas committed that atrocity, that butchery. But I also say something. Israel has been calling out Hamas for a long time and the world has said, be nice to them. You know, it's not like this just happened out of the blue. Most of the time the media only clues into what's going on in Israel, when finally Hamas launches enough rockets into Israel at one time that Israel has to respond and do an operation which has happened several times over the past 15, 16 years at least since 2007 or 2006. So it's not as though this just happened out of the blue. When he calls it a gentlemanly relationship, it's not.

These people were building terrorist tunnels underneath Gaza to actually sneak into Israel to commit acts of terror. It's just that the world was blind to the genocidal nature of Hamas even though, David, their Hamas charter calls for the elimination of the State of Israel and for the eradication of the Jewish people. They're saying the quiet parts out loud. Am I surprised by October 7, what they did? I am surprised by the butchery. Friends of Israel, we have a magazine called *Israel My Glory*, it's been in publication since 1942. I actually went back to 2006 when Hamas took control, and you know what we called them in 2006? As a Christian organization in America, we called Hamas a genocidal organization. Why? Because they told us. So the fact that people are waking up now, Oh, I didn't realize how bad it was. Hello, they've been launching rockets all the time.



I have an app on my phone, David, that lets me know when a rocket is launched from Gaza into Israel. It buzzes all the time. Israel has built more than 60 bomb shelters in Israel prior to the October 7 massacre because it's just such a present reality for the Israelis. So yes, the Israelis did wake up. I think they were just as surprised as we were. But they've also lived with this for so long. I think it's almost like, hey world, we've been telling you, but every time we go in, to finally want to take care of Hamas, you tell us to stop.

So the world has been governing how Israel should approach Hamas. I don't know if Israel is going to take control of Gaza. I don't know how they're going to do that. Quite honestly, you know, that's the big question I think everyone's waiting to find out. Once they root out Hamas once and for all, well then what? You do have the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. I think it would be very dangerous for them to take control of Gaza again. I think it would definitely provide more safety, but I think it would create a lot of chaos in the Middle East.

I don't know if you saw recently, but the Turkish President, Erdogan, said to more than 100,000 of his Turkish people who are all in favor of the Palestinians that he might even send troops, Turkish troops down to Gaza to defend the Palestinians. You don't want that kind of scenario in Israel. So again, I don't know how it will play out. I think that's what a lot of people are waiting to see. Okay, Hamas is gone, now what? Is there an installment of the more, "moderate arms" of the Palestinian people like the Fatah party in the West Bank coming in? I quite honestly, David, I don't know. But here's the other reality, 81% to 86%, something like that of Palestinians in Gaza, approved of what Hamas did on October 7.

So just let that sink in for a moment, as well. It's not just the leadership of Hamas, it's boiled down into education of children, how children are educated in Gaza, and in the West Bank. They're educated to hate Israel and the Jewish people. They're educated to do that. So it's really going to take more than just removing Hamas. I don't know how they'll do it. I'm interested to see if Israel takes over Gaza, or if they put a more moderate leader, help to encourage a more moderate leader to take control.

**Host: David Wheaton 28:47**

It doesn't take much imagination here to see how this spirals and escalates into a regional conflict. What you just mentioned about Turkey, so many countries are taking the side of the Palestinians. Again, Israel, just a little country. Border disputes. Gaza is a little tiny strip. It's amazing how world stability revolves around what takes place in Israel, which shows you there's something supernatural about that place and we know why.

Chris Katulka, again, from Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry joins us today here on The Christian Worldview, talking about some truthful history of the nation of Israel, and what is going on. Very different than you'll hear in the mainstream media.

Now, one of the things in the background here, Chris, has been what's called the Abraham Accords. That was a deal going on between Israel and Saudi Arabia. What do you know about the Abraham Accords and whether that factored into the attack by Hamas and what is going on now today in Israel?

**Guest: Chris Katulka** 29:56

There are people that like to link the two. That Saudi Arabia has definitely leaned into Israel, not just recently, but they've been partnering with Israel for security reasons for several years now, especially since Obama's JCPOA. If you remember, that was the Iran deal that he was making. Obama's Iran deal really forced many of the Arab countries, Middle Eastern countries, and even those Gulf States into the arms of the Israelis, because Iran became a threat not only to Israel, but it was a threat to many countries like Saudi Arabia, so Saudi Arabia has had at least security relations with Israel for quite some time.

You can see there's a warming that's taking place between these two countries. Yes, there is definitely a picture that there was a warming going on in the relationship that Hamas steps in and does this heinous attack. The Abraham Accords have become an incredibly important strategic relationship, though, for Israel and these other Arab countries, like the UAE, like Bahrain, and Sudan, and other countries as well, because right now, as Hamas commits those acts of atrocity, it doesn't mean that the Abraham Accords have severed.

Now, that doesn't mean that those countries won't criticize Israel. I mean it. I think they're not all like the United States now, but it does create a relationship that's a lot deeper than it was in the past. So there isn't just simply like, oh, we hate Israel now. No, they have diplomatic relationships, they have to work together, they share information. So the Abraham Accords have become a very strategic relationship that I hope continues on. I hope that there's a tension that continues to be given to these relationships that Israel's made in the Middle East. It's definitely strengthened the Middle East and changed the Middle East, the face of the Middle East. But it feels like we're kind of going backwards again, with what happened on October 7 with Hamas, and Iran, and Lebanon, and Syria. But really, those relationships have been very strategic.

**Host: David Wheaton** 32:05

One quick follow up on the Abraham Accords. What do they specifically do? Is there something in there, I heard about the actual Temple Mount control of that, What do these Abraham Accords do?

**Guest: Chris Katulka** 32:16

It builds a relationship that wasn't there in the past. So let's just use the United Arab Emirates, for instance, which is a very strategic generator of wealth at a very strategic city and country in the Middle East. Before these two countries, Israel and the UAE were completely separated. Now they share information. They have security information they share. They have diplomatic relationships they share. There's an ambassador to the UAE from Israel, and there's a UAE ambassador in Israel now. Again, these relationships help to strengthen Israel's position in the Middle East.

That becomes very important, because now it doesn't necessarily feel like the entire Middle East is coming against Israel. You know, what you have to remember is that during the 1948 Independence War and the Six Day War, also known as the '67 War, you might have a country like Jordan that attacked Israel in the '48 War or '67 war, but behind them were countries like Saudi Arabia, who were strengthening them. You had Egypt that was moving in, in order to attack Israel. Now, all of a sudden, these countries like Jordan, like Egypt, they criticize Israel all day long, but they have strategic relationships with them. So you don't see an attack with Jordan, you don't see an attack from Egypt. That's huge. Of course, the northern border of Lebanon is dominated by Hezbollah, which is an Iran proxy. So that's a real threat.

But then when you think about Saudi Arabia, they're not there funding or they shouldn't be funding a country to come and attack Israel, like they may be would have in the past and providing aid for those things that we saw earlier. Same thing with UAE. Qatar is actually a country that has somewhat of a relationship with Israel, but then also at the same time, they are funding Hamas, and they actually house the Hamas leaders. So there's gonna have to probably be some questions there. But again, from the Six Day War, or the Independence War, or even the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the conversations with most of the Arab world are much different now between Israel and many of these countries, because they actually do talk to one another. Again, like I said, you'll see criticism, but there are communications that are going back and forth.

**Host: David Wheaton** 34:20

You wonder what the ramifications of that will be when we get into the end time scenarios, these relationships that Israel has built with former sworn enemies of the state of Israel, and how they might turn out to be deceptive alliances when all is said and done in the future.

Chris Katulka with us today. He is the radio host of Friends of Israel Today, the radio program of Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. You can find out more about them and get connected with their ministry at [foi.org](http://foi.org). Chris, we've been talking a lot about the support of Israel. But you see throughout the Old Testament time and again, you saw the nation of Israel, the Jews, they would

rebel and go their own way against God. God would allow judgment to come upon them from other godless nations, Babylon and other places, go off into exile, and so forth.

We see this as a cycle over and over again. The Kings rebelled against God. In Ezekiel chapter seven, the prophet Ezekiel writes this in the time before Israel was going to be exiled off to Babylon. Ezekiel writes, *Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me saying, And you, son of man, thus says the Lord to the land of Israel, An end! The end is coming on the four corners of the land. Now the end is upon you, and I will send my anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways and bring all your abominations upon you. For my eye will have no pity on you, nor will I spare you, but I will bring your ways upon you, and your abominations will be among you; then you will know that I am the Lord.* That's from Ezekiel 7.

That's not an unusual response of God toward his own chosen people when they have been given so much, given that status of privilege and priority with God and yet turned and went their own way as our hearts often do. The reality today is that the majority of the Jewish people in the nation of Israel is Christ rejecting. I know there are some Jewish believers but that's a really small minority.

The country, like America, is in really full throated rebellion against God, with the values they support, and they have all the same kinds of moral issues, sin that we have in our own country. How do we Christians support God's chosen people? I will bless those who bless you. How do we do that, yet without supporting their present rebellion against God?

Chris Katulka from Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry will answer that question after this short pause to tell you about some ministry resources. Also, a reminder that we have a new devotional called, *One Day Nearer; Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus' Glorious Return* by author Steve Miller, one of our past guests here on the program who wrote, *Foreshadows*. You can get this devotional for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. It's 385 pages, softcover, and retails for \$19.99. Get in contact with us to order it the usual ways which will be given during this short timeout. You're listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I'm David Wheaton.

### **Featured Resource: The Essential Church 37:35**

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 [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233 or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

**Featured Resource: Knowing the Spirit** 38:34

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 [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

**Host: David Wheaton** 39:41

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://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.

Our topic today is, *Some Bless, Most Curse-Why the Wildly Divergent Stance Toward Israel?* Chris Katulka is our guest. He's a radio host for Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. I asked him at the end of the last segment, How do Christians find the balance of blessing God's chosen people, the Jews, and yet not ignore the fact that they are currently in a state of God and Christ rejection?

**Guest: Chris Katulka** 40:22

A fantastic question. I'm going to let the Bible answer that, because you can't escape God's covenant relationship with His people. It's connected to that Hebrew word, *Chesed*. *Chesed* often appears as "loving kindness" in the scriptures, but it's more like a covenantal relationship. *Chesed*, loving kindness, isn't an emotional love, it's a covenantal love, and so oftentimes in the Old Testament, Israel is like a wife, and God is like a husband.

You see that even played out in the prophet Hosea. The whole story is a picture of Israel's relationship with God, and yet God remains covenantally faithful to Israel, despite Israel's disobedience. Paul picks up on this and says in Romans chapter 11:28, *as regards of the gospel they*

*are enemies for your sake.* He's talking about his own people. So as regards to the Gospel, as you're saying, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards for election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers; for the gifts and the calling of God, are irrevocable.

So you cannot untie Genesis 12 from Israel. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you, or even the promise of the land. God promised the land, God promised descendants, and God promised a blessing to Abraham and to his descendants. That ultimately, the reason they're chosen is because through Abraham, all the families of the earth would be blessed it said. But the picture there is that God is never through with His people, despite how disobedient. I mean, I'm saying this and I've heard it said a bunch of times since the Hamas war, I've heard Jewish people call themselves, "Were a stiff necked people. It's written in the Bible." I'm only quoting them. I'm not saying it. It's written in the Bible. There is an acknowledgment of a stubbornness that God knows about. So when you're supporting Israel, I like to think it's the way that you're standing up against the hatred of the Jewish people, as not only a Christian, but also as a Nation when God said, I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. He wasn't speaking to Christians, technically, he was speaking to the Nations. You see that get worked out over and over and over again throughout the Old Testament, and even into the New Testament, and even today, and so that when you get to the book of Numbers, and you get the Numbers 22, 23 24, and you get to Balaam, and the donkey, and that story, the whole thing is an image of what it means to try to curse Israel.

There is a magician of some sort that was called up by the Moabite king, you got to curse these Israelites, you got to get them out of here, curse them. And every time he tried to curse them, only blessings came out. That is a picture of Genesis 12:3. You cannot curse the Jewish people. God will only bless them.

And if you try to curse them, you will experience God's wrath. Can I also say this, too? When you actually study the two Hebrew words, I will bless those who bless you, the Hebrew word for blessing there is the same one, I will bless those who bless you. But when you get to, I will curse those who curse you, they're actually two different Hebrew words. The actual rendering of the Hebrew should sound like this. I will bless those who bless you, but the one who takes you lightly, I will curse. So it's not even the fact that you have to come in and curse Israel. All you have to do is take that relationship that God has with Israel lightly. That's enough for cursing to come. I don't think that's gone away. I think it's still present to this very, very day.

And so, again, how do you wrestle with the secular Israel in light of what God is doing? That's something that I think the spirit of God's got to work on in your own life. We only see what's going on in 2023. God sees the whole picture. When you see the whole picture, I think you're able to better understand, okay, I understand this moment. But it's my duty to support Israel and the Jewish

people during this time and not to take it lightly, to take it very seriously, because it is the difference between God's righteousness, His goodness, and Satan's evil and diabolical plan to undo God's plan of redemption.

**Host: David Wheaton** 44:28

Yeah, it seems that you can do both. You can support their existence and what God says about them and so forth and so on without overlooking the fact that they're like you said, their enemies for the gospel's sake, enemies of the gospel. You can do both at the same time without hating the Jewish people and knowing God has a future plan for them and using it as gospel witness to them as what Friends of Israel is doing and what we can do individually as well.

Thank you for walking the balance beam there and how we view the nation of Israel in light of their current rebellion against God. Chris Katulka with us today here on The Christian Worldview. Chris, what are you hearing within Israel right now, either from Jewish believers in Christ, or maybe even in just the Jewish religious community over their present situation and the state of Israel's heart before the Lord and why these attacks are happening and the turmoil going on in the country? Is there any kind of, I haven't heard it at least on the mainstream levels, like national repentance or introspection as to what's going on here?

**Guest: Chris Katulka** 45:35

That's a really good question. The moment the event happened, I texted one of my really close Israeli friends who is a believer. I said, How's it going? What are you feeling? He just wrote back, we need to repent. That was his thoughts. I think that's the thought of many Israeli believers is repentance.

You know, for the average Jewish person, average Israeli, I don't think they're thinking about those things. I think they're thinking more along the lines of God is on our side. If they believe in a God. You have to remember something about Israel. A vast majority of Israelis would consider themselves secular. Secular doesn't mean that they don't believe in God at all. It just means they don't necessarily believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and practice Judaism. I've not heard anything in particular from the Orthodox community. Now, what I do know about the Orthodox community is that normally they don't serve in the military, like the rest of the country does. They have an opt out option if you're ultra orthodox. They believe they're praying for the country. Now they have gotten active in the military, which has been a big surprise. They've taken up an opportunity to defend their nation, but I don't know if that necessarily is a call for them to repent. I've not heard anything like that. I have heard it from my Christian friends in Israel.

The hard part is as a believer in Yeshua, Jesus in Israel, there is both the connection to your country. They're very nationalistic people, Israelis, but then at the same time, there's a connection to the Lord Jesus. So there is that heart wrenching, we need to repent. I did hear that come out of the mouth of one of my dear friends, who I think has a good pulse on at least Bible believing Christians in Israel.

**Host: David Wheaton 47:15**

Chris, just a couple more questions. I asked you at the very beginning of the interview to give us a sense of the history, a brief history of Israel, the modern state of Israel. Now, here toward the end, I'd like to ask you to walk us through what you understand the Bible to teach about the end times, what Scripture says about the end times as it relates to Israel. What's on the horizon? I know it's always fraught with risks to try to say, oh, what's going on now is going to lead to this and that to predict the future. But at least give us an idea of what you understand the Bible to teach about what the future is going to be. Maybe not what specific events, but where things are going to move with the End Times in Israel.

**Guest: Chris Katulka 47:56**

The reason I love ministering with Friends of Israel is that we are very responsible when it comes to God's prophetic word. We do not like to sensationalize prophecy. That's not our job. God's already written it in His Word. We don't need to add to it. We don't often read the newspaper, and then interpret Bible prophecy through it. But there are these instances that kind of begin to pop up and you go, Okay, that's interesting. I always like to say we'll keep an eye on it and see what happens.

When you see something like Turkey, Iran, China making a relationship with one another, now China's not in the picture biblically, but in Ezekiel 38, and 39, there are many countries, it's a regional battle, there's many countries surrounding Israel that come from the area of Russia, and Turkey, and in the North Africa area that are surrounding Israel, that there is still this event that's yet to take place. It's called the Battle of Gog or Magog. Now it is very interesting. That's why when you see the President of Turkey saying, I'm going to send troops down into Gaza, you go, Okay, wait a minute, I didn't see that one coming. Or when you notice the specific relationships that are taking place. Iran, which is Persia in Ezekiel 38 and 39. When Iran is making relationships with Russia, and Russia with Turkey, it's an interesting alliance that's going on there that is again pictured in Ezekiel 38 and 39. A battle that I actually think does happen before the pre-trib rapture of the church, that the church is raptured. I think you can find it pretty clearly, in First Thessalonians 4, that the church is caught up and we are not meant for God's wrath it says earlier in First Thessalonians 1:10.

So the rapture is definitely the big event that's next on God's prophetic clock. But there's also this interesting battle that takes place as Israel is back in the land, and so that is an interesting battle. You see these events taking place so it does kind of cause the hair on the back of your neck to rise up a



little bit. You go okay, this is interesting. Again, we're not claiming it is the fulfillment of any of these things. The next event that will take place, biblically, is I believe, the rapture of the church, but Israel has to be in the land for all these things to happen. And that is the reason why, again, Israel is an important player in the story of God's redemption.

Again, you're seeing all of these things being worked out. Whenever a Christian says, How should I interpret what's going on in the Middle East or what's going on with Israel? I always let them know you live in such unique times. I hope that your listeners hear this. You live in such unique times. For 2000 years, the Jewish people were scattered in a diaspora around the world with the hopes of returning to their ancient homeland, as the prophets had promised. Now, as a result of 1948, they are back. As a Christian, you live in a time period where you could get on an airplane at any moment, and fly to the Holy Land, and experience the Land of Israel and see it for yourself with Jewish people returning to the land, just as the prophets promised. That kind of stuff cannot be ignored. So when you're seeing those events happening, and again, that constant tension in the Middle East and around the world, anti semitism on the rise, I think we have to be responsible when it comes to God's prophetic Word, not sensational, but also know we live in unique times.

**Host: David Wheaton 51:03**

We certainly do. And keep your eyes on Israel. The future does not revolve around the United States of America. Quite possibly the US will be involved in some way. Maybe in that world system called, Babylon, but things revolve around what's going on in Israel with God's chosen people. So we need to keep a close eye on there and just trust that God has His plan. We can't make specific predictions at this point, but we need to pay attention. Thanks again to Chris Katulka for joining us today from Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, [foi.org](http://foi.org) is their website.

Okay, to briefly summarize what it means to bless Israel and the Jews. Believe God, that he has chosen Israel and the Jews for his divine purposes. Thank Him that He gave us His law and His son, the Messiah, and the Gospel through them. No, you don't have to overlook their God rejection. They are enemies of the gospel at this point, and thus as a nation, they will make ungodly decisions as all nations do. They need to be born again the same way Gentiles are. By repenting and believing in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. There's not a dual covenant, there's not a second way to be saved for the Jews, and so we support their existence in the land. Don't be in favor of dividing or giving away land. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem knowing that peace will only come when Christ returns, defeats, judges and reigns.

I apologize that we ran out of time. I wanted to read that page on Bible prophecy from Steve Miller's devotional, but you can order the devotional for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. The title is, One Day Nearer: Daily Devotions in Anticipation of Jesus' Glorious Return.

Our contact information is given immediately following today's program. Thank you for joining us today. Until next time, Think biblically, live accordingly, and stand firm!

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