

ISRAEL'S 
MESSENGER
SUMMER 2024

NO WORDS
אין מילים

JEWISH AWARENESS ministries

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from JEWISH AWARENESS ministries

ISRAEL'S MESSSENGER | SUMMER 2024

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Ken Overby

סְלָה
~ Selah ~

22 GOD'S WORDS WHEN WE HAVE NO WORDS

Ken Overby

ISRAEL'S MESSSENGER
SUMMER 2024

NO WORDS
אין מילים

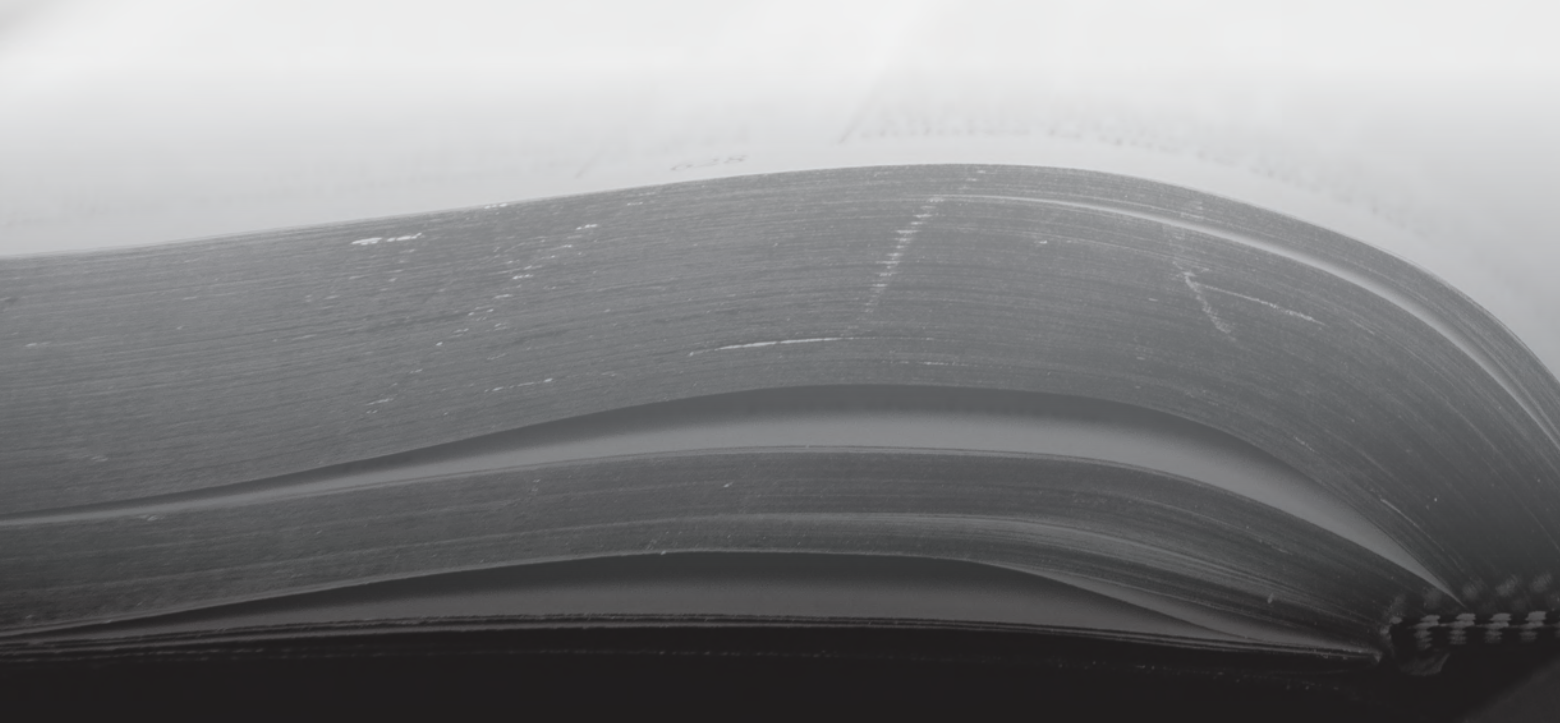


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The dramatic statement of this issue is like a poetic Hebrew pause - סְלָה - Selah, which indicates a musical rest for the listener to think about the lyrics. Solomon said there is "a time to keep silence, and a time to speak" (Ecclesiastes 3:7)

DIRECTOR

We find ourselves at a loss for words at the anti-Israel protests following the October 7, 2023 massacre of 1200 Israelis. The Nazi skeleton came out of the closet of American universities. It's time to be still and know the God of Israel who will have the last word on America. It's no longer a matter of if but when will His words of judgment be fulfilled on this nation that has forgotten God and is now beginning to turn against His nation and persecute His people. The top of each page highlights a description of a sad new reality that no words can justify. The word in bold identifies an underlying root problem. As you peruse each page take a moment to think and pray for Israel and for America. Be still and know that He is God. Selah



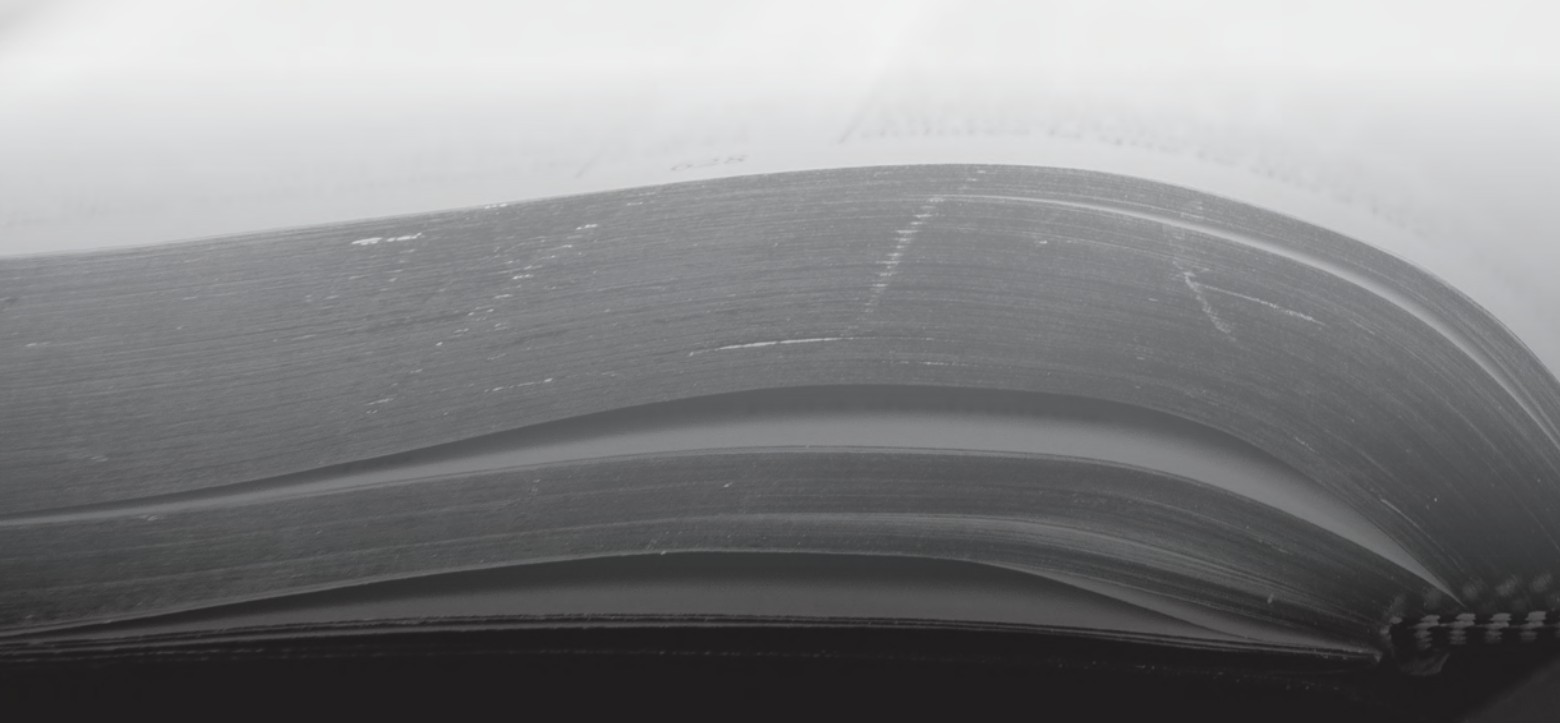
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NO WORDS CAN EXPLAIN

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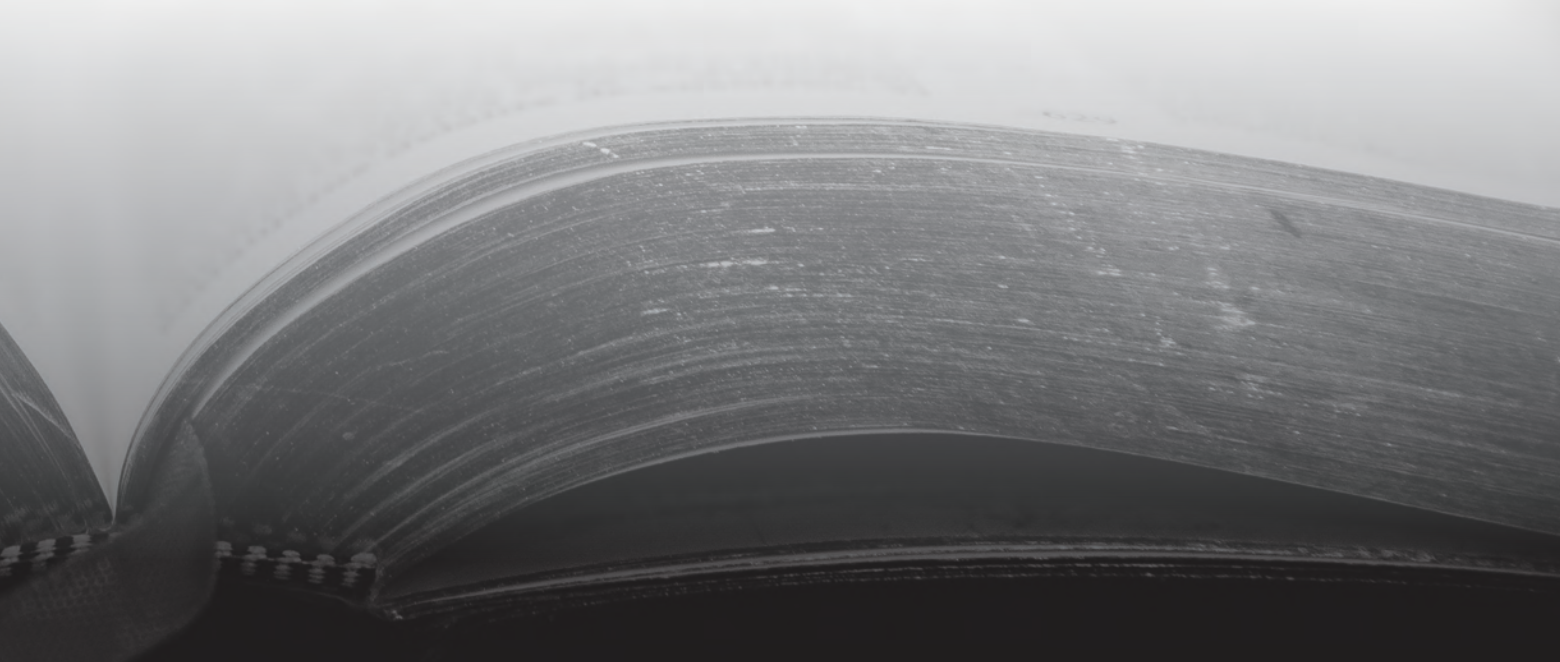
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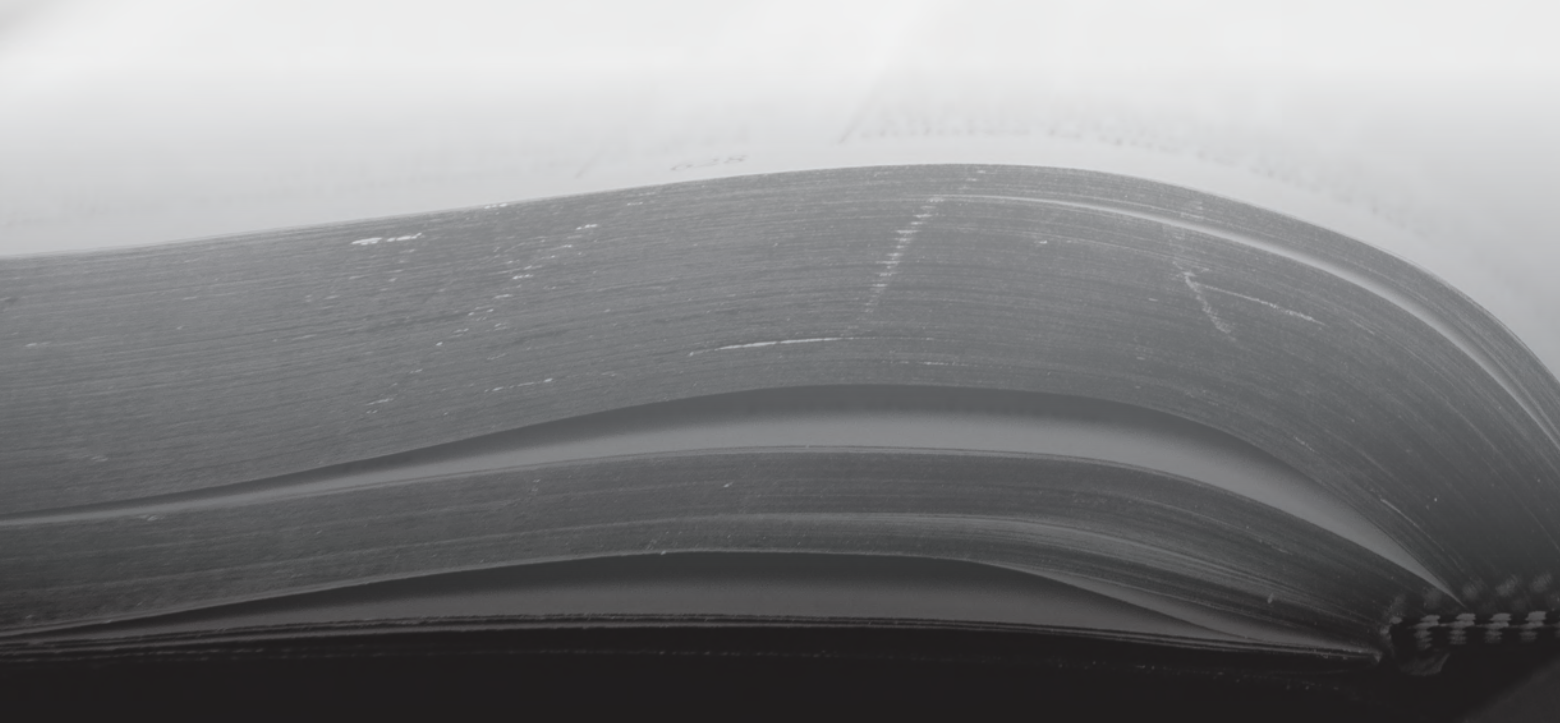
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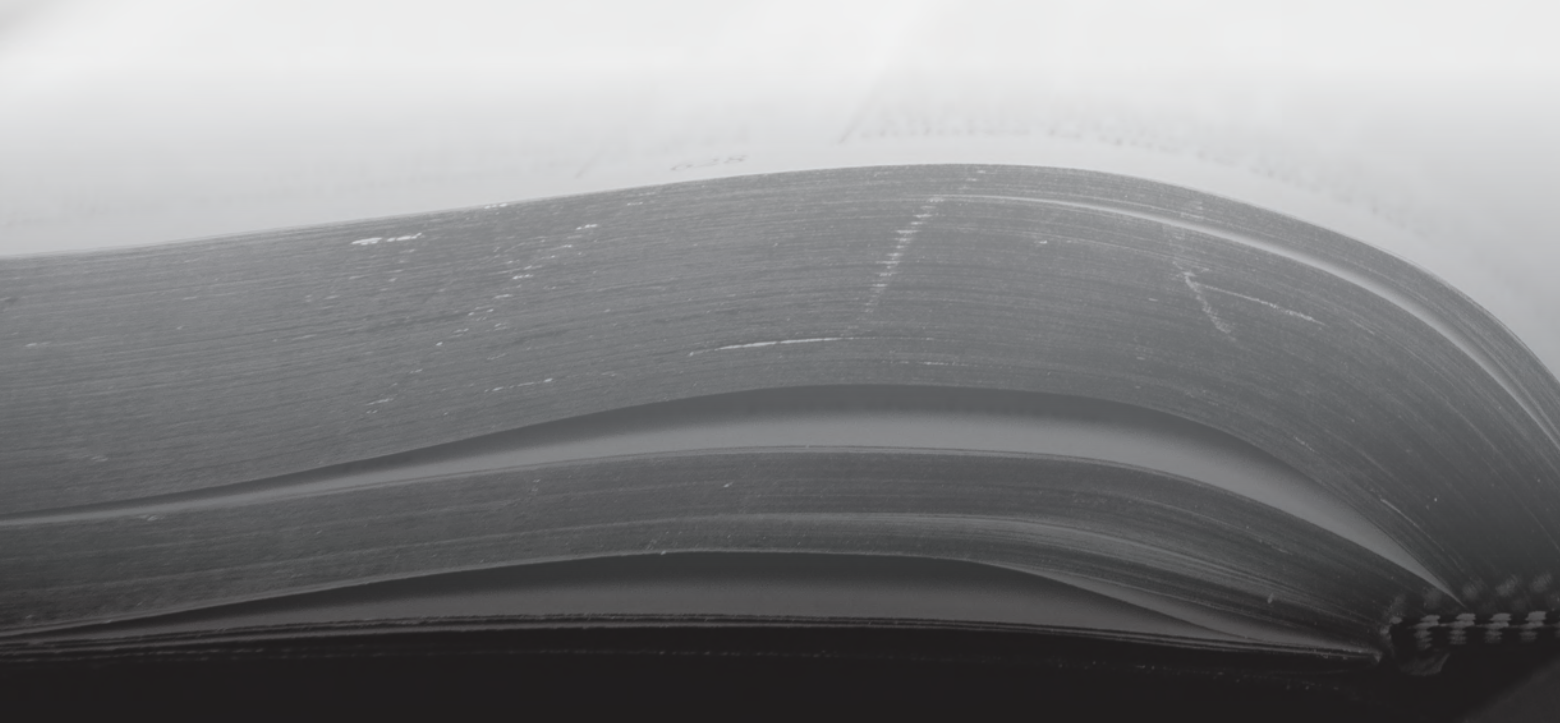
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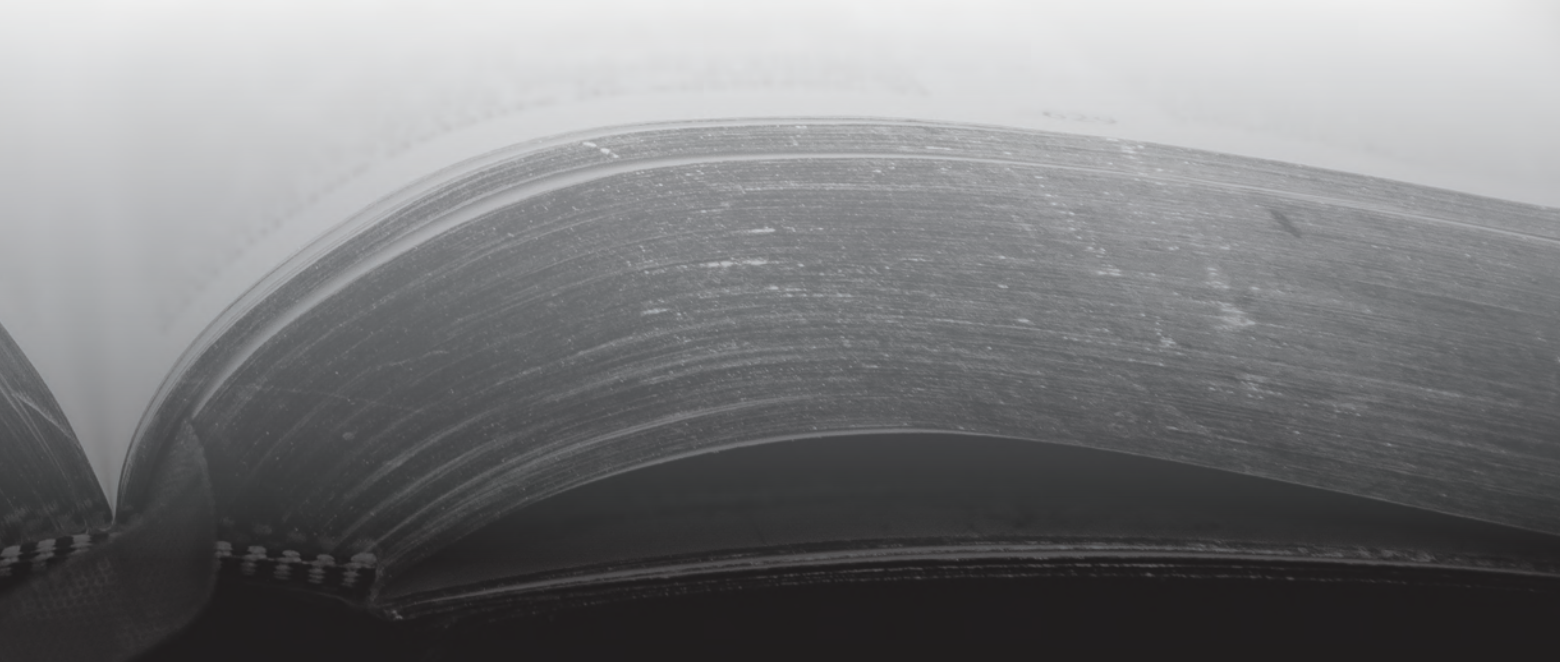
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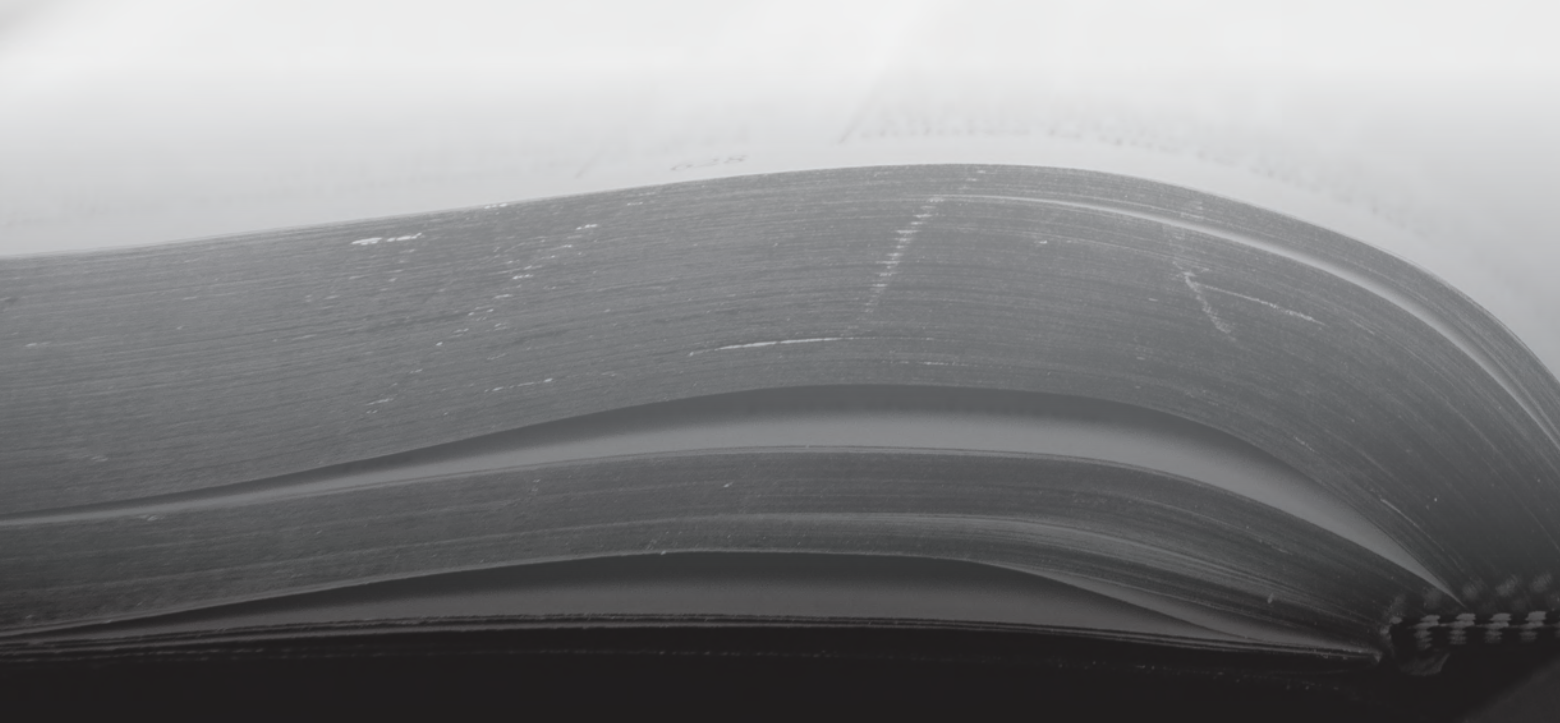
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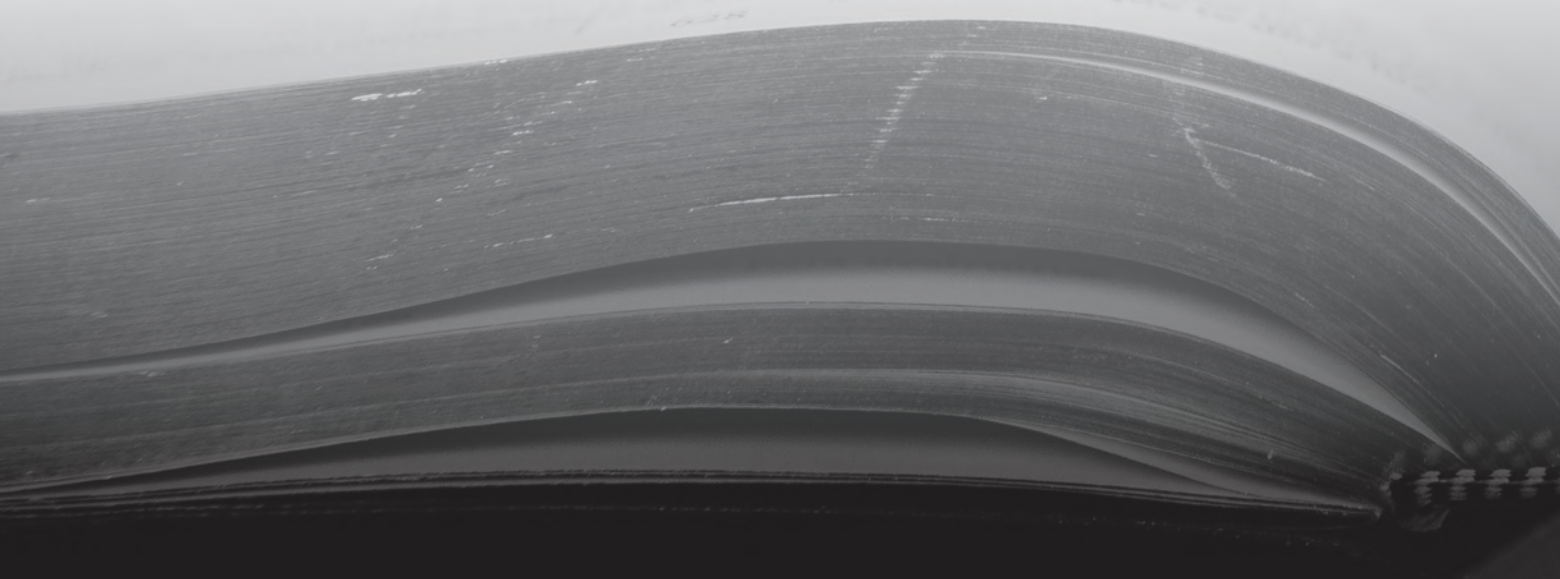
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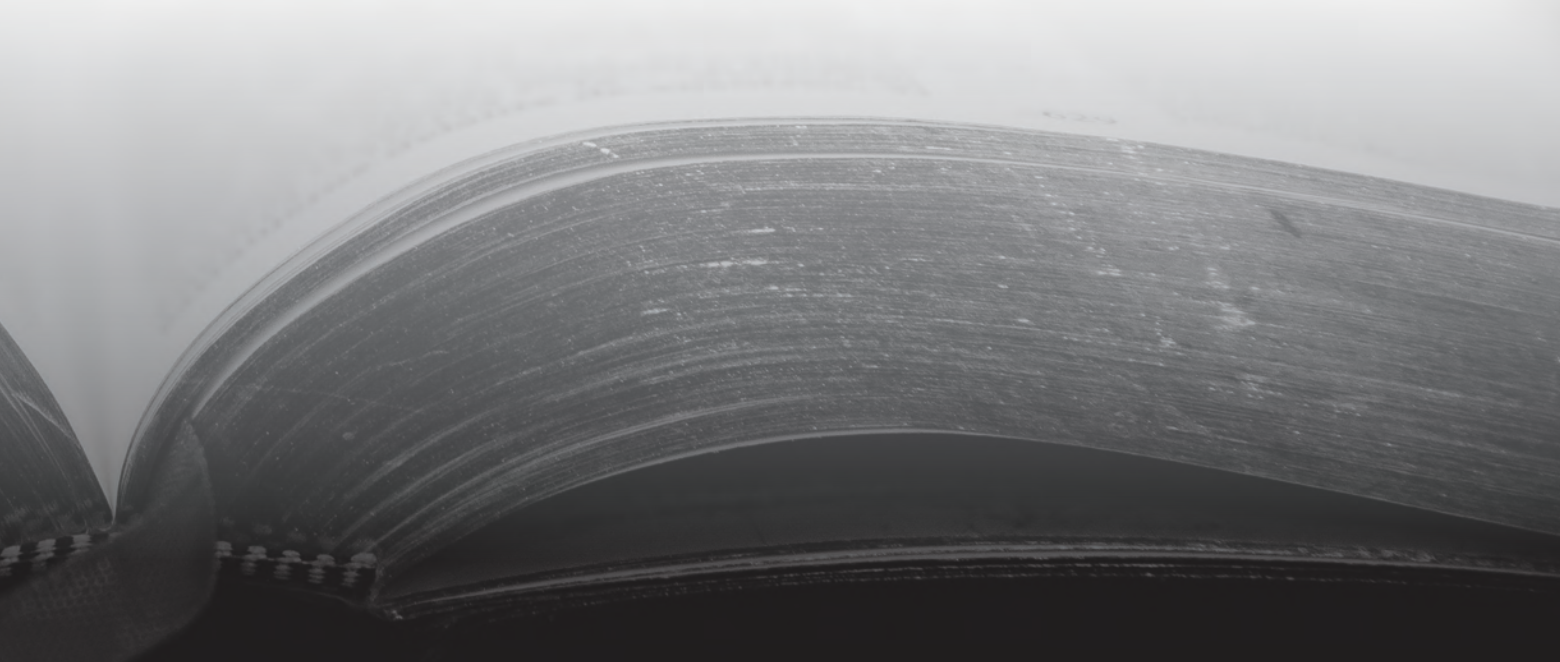
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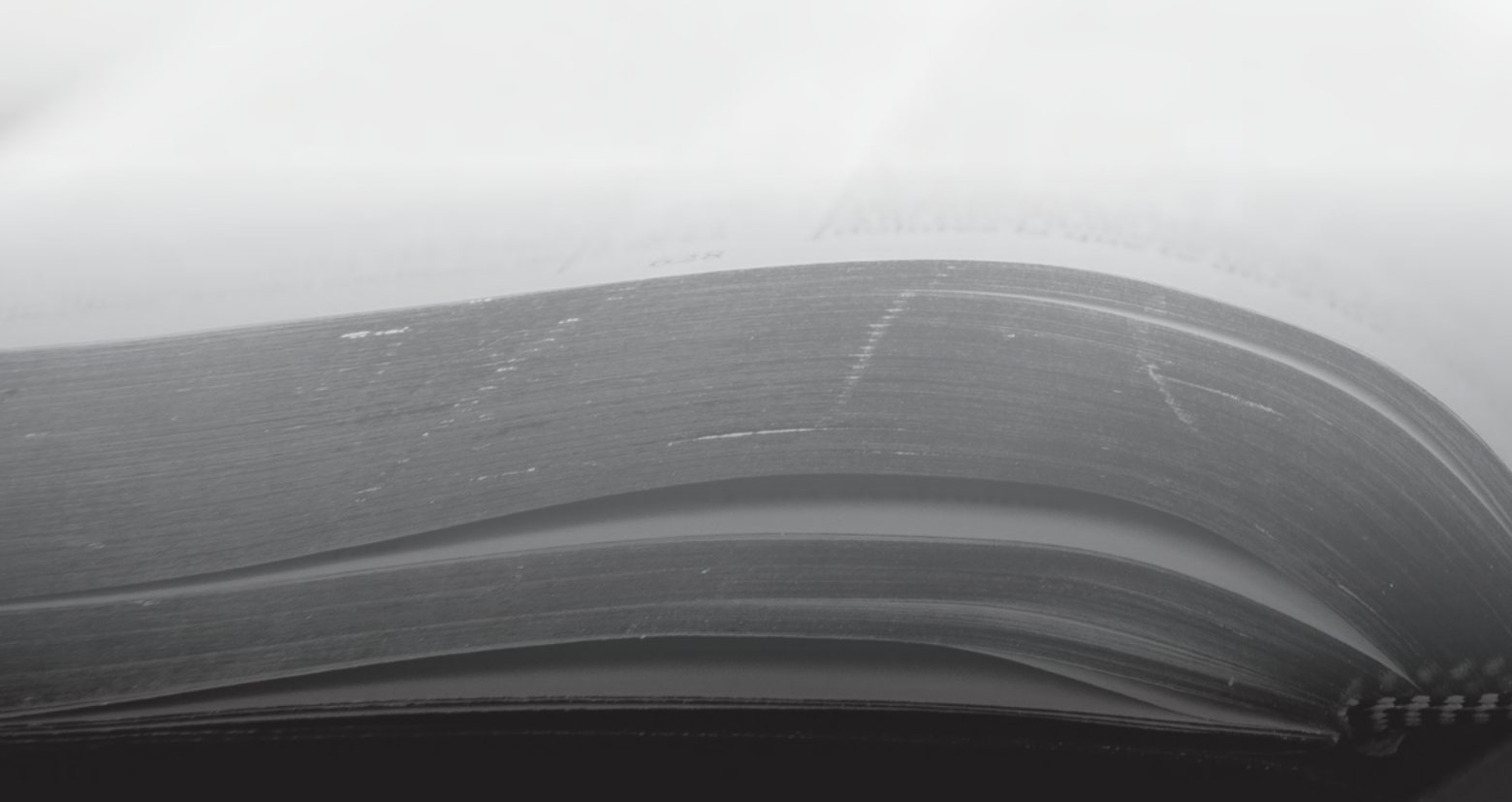
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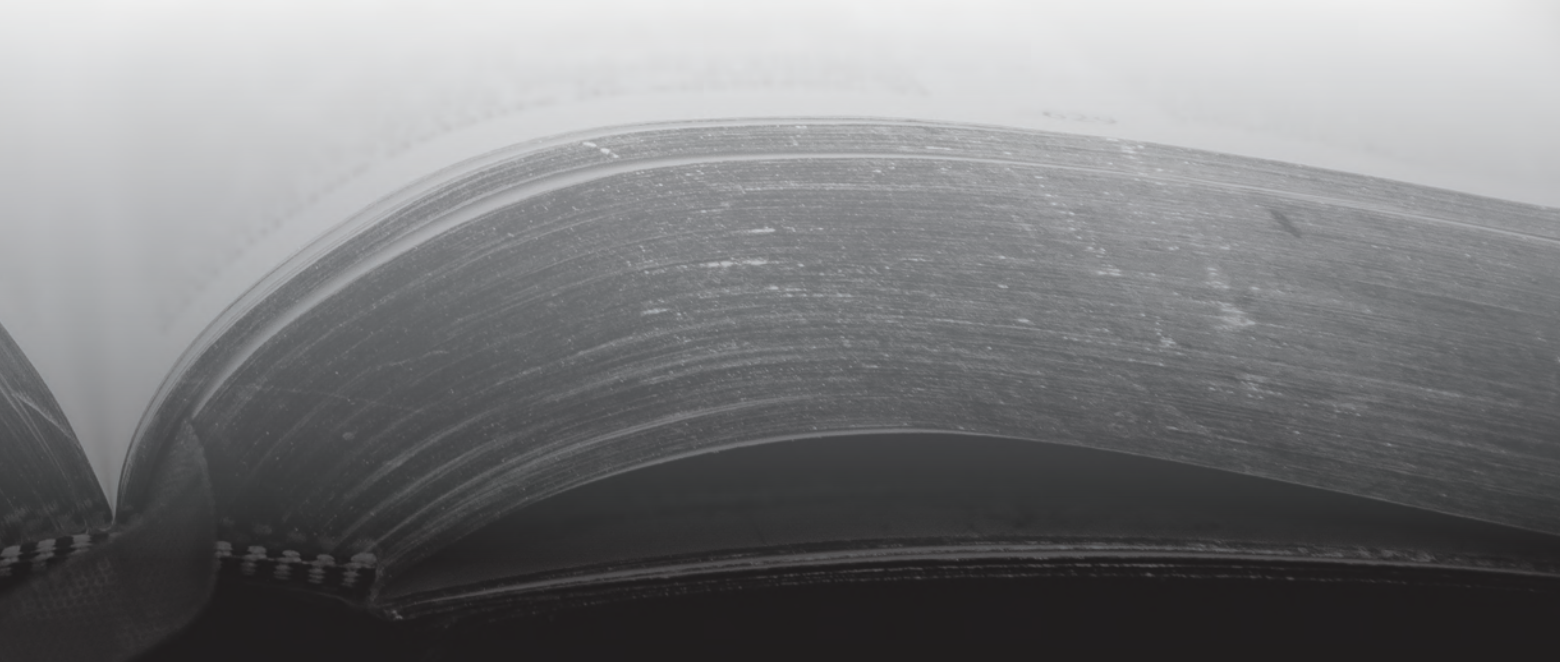
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GOD'S WORD WHEN WE HAVE NO WORDS

REV. KEN OVERBY

If you find yourself at a loss for words at the vile hatred of Israel seen across America, you are not alone. Everywhere I go Christian people are saying, "I never thought I would see this in America." Imagine how the Jewish people feel at the open calls for their deaths on American university campuses and the calls for the punishment of Israel by Democrat members of the US Congress. Jews are rightfully infuriated at university students' support for the Hamas terrorists who massacred over 1200 Israelis. My heart has been pricked by the interviews of many Jewish American senior citizens who thought "Never Again" was their safe status quo not just an empty slogan. The generation that witnessed the Nazi slaughter of six million Jews has almost vanished. Three generations later the sadistic irony is that the protesters who deny the Holocaust are now calling for a Holocaust! Then to add insult to injury, we sat with gaping mouths when Ivy League University presidents summoned before Congress, refused to condemn this evil. Not a few leading Jewish spokespersons have noted the striking similarities of increasing antisemitism in America to that of pre-WWII Germany.

What does God's Word say about all of this? Are we to remain silent in the face of this godless rage? Our silence against antisemitism will close Jewish ears even more to the message of a loving Jesus. Two young Jewish adults recently stopped by our office to inquire. They were very hesitant at first when they learned that we see Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Jewish prophets. "So are you Jews for Jesus?" she asked. I responded, "No, we are actually Jesus for Jews." We shared that we are gentile followers of Jesus who love Israel and the Jewish people. Our appreciation and acceptance of the Jewish people is because everything that we believe and hold dear came through the Jewish people. As I shared about our ministry with young Israelis, the young lady looked at the guy and said "This is a breath of fresh air." When the love is genuine they can feel it. Sadly, few Jewish individuals have ever personally experienced love from a Christian

acquaintance. Our silence at this critical time in history only serves to assure them of Christian complicity with the protesters, because of the long history of "Christians" persecuting Jews.

In this article, we will address the misunderstanding of some key scriptures and offer a defense against the false arguments of theological antisemitism. Clarification from scripture is needed to correct our blind spot toward the Jewish people and Israel. We will examine the prophetic significance of the current escalation of international hatred against Israel as foreseen in Psalm chapter 2. When we find ourselves without words, we can rest assured that God will have the last Word. When things look like they are falling apart, they are actually falling right into place.

Just because the persecution of Jewish people was foretold in scripture does not mean it is a license to participate. In fact, there is a strict prohibition against it. Here are some of the scriptures that are misused to bolster indifference toward or to justify the mistreatment of the Jewish people. If we have blind spots regarding our treatment of the Jewish people and Israel, how can we expect them to see their own blind spots regarding Jesus? Jesus, referring to the Pharisees, asked "*Can the blind lead the blind*" (Luke 6:39). We as believers in Jesus need a biblical perspective of Jewish Awareness to better understand some of our own scriptures.

- When God promised to "*curse him*" who curses Israel (Genesis 12:3) it indicates a divine foreknowledge of the perpetual animosity that would accompany the existence of Jews, especially in the diaspora - Jews who are globally dispersed since 70 AD. God promised Moses that if the Israelites disobeyed His word and rebelled against Him, they would face persistent persecution by gentiles (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). The following phrases vividly foretold of persecution against the Jewish people over the last 2000 years. But as we will see God has vowed to curse every individual who attacks

them or even raises a voice against them. Historic Christian theology has used these phrases in the Law of Moses to justify untold atrocities against the Jewish people; *“all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee”*; *“The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke”* (28:20); *“thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee”* (28:37); *“all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee”* (28:45); *“the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other”* (28:64); *“among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest”* (28:65). This has been the history of the Jewish people especially for the last 2000 years. No loving follower of Jesus can just shrug and say “Tough cookies,” but rather we should be *“moved with compassion”* like Jesus for His Jewish brethren.

- Jesus prophesied to the Jewish leadership who rejected Him, that they would experience divine judgment in their lifetime and see the Temple and Jerusalem destroyed (Matthew 23:37-24:2). This has been misinterpreted by false Christianity as a dog whistle to commit genocide on Jews as retribution for “deicide,” ie: killing God. No one can kill God. Jesus said, *“No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself”* (John 10:18).
- Several of God’s prophets sounded the alarm to Israel of the end time’s persecution and a final attempt at genocide of all Jews. Zechariah foretold that a double Holocaust is coming to those in Israel (Zechariah 13:8,9).

Antisemitism has its roots in the satanic revolt against the people who were destined to bring forth the inspired scripture and to give birth to Jesus the messianic “seed” who would crush Satan’s head (Genesis 3:15). When the Devil and his “Gates of Hell” could not prevail against the Church that Jesus was building, Satan joined the “church” and corrupted it to make it the greatest destroyer of Jewish people in all of history. The Catholic Church was renowned for its brutality against Jews, ie: the Spanish Inquisition. The Protestants were just as bad. Martin Luther, the Father of the Reformation, was the vilest of all in his booklet, *The Jews and Their Lies*.¹ His eight-point

strategy called for their persecution, expulsion, and death.

God foreknew the coming satanic corruption of the church and the sinful nature of man to victimize the Jews and then blame the victims. He promised to *“curse him”* that is any individual, who curses Abraham’s descendants but also gave a severe warning to any local church that participates in it. Paul spends three chapters correcting the vision of the first-century Roman church which was already beginning to assume that God was through with the Jew.

“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew... “Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid,” “Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee... otherwise thou also shalt be cut off” (Romans 11:1,2,11,18-22).

Individual Jewish branches were *“broken off”* by choosing not to believe. Gentile branches are under the threat of being *“cut off,”* by God for their arrogance against the Jews. This is not speaking of the possibility of losing one’s salvation. It is much like the warning to the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 & 3 in which Christ removed their candlestick and abandoned them. How many churches or denominations have been severed due to their abandonment, or persecution of the Jew? The sin is the arrogant ignorance of gentile churches who have assumed that they now replace Israel. Church leaders best beware that, if He didn’t spare His own Temple, theirs is not exempt from being *“cut off.”* Many formerly thriving churches are now C.I.N.O., Churches In Name Only. Jesus quit knocking and walked away a long time ago (Revelation 3:20). Some have even been *“cut off.”*

One senior Pastor of a large Baptist church ignorantly said to me *“But aren’t they all hardened?”* Paul clearly explained that the ones in that generation who did not believe were blinded and that a partial temporary national blindness would pervade while the gospel of Jesus the Messiah spread across the world to the Gentiles. It was the Jewish apostles

who spread the Gospel to us and has gone around the world. The fullness of the Gentiles is coming to a close. Meanwhile, the eyes of Jewish people are opening around the world in numbers not seen since Pentecost. What does it mean that *“blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in”* (Romans 11:25)? Not complete nor permanent.

Who was blinded? The ones who did not believe during Jesus' generation. Anyone who closes their ears to hear the truth or closes their eyes to see the evidence for Jesus is choosing to walk in darkness. The Jewish prophets predicted the fate of those whose mind is made up and who don't want to be bothered with the truth in that generation.

“the rest were blinded (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling block, and a recompense unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.”
(Romans 11:7-10)

In His grace, God incentivized *“them”* ie: Gentiles who bless Abraham's descendants. *“Them”* clearly indicates plurality or a non-Jewish group blessing Abraham's descendants, and can only be fulfilled through gentile assemblies ie: local New Testament churches. There are no other gentile groups dedicated to blessing Israel. Very few New Testament churches tangibly bless Israel and bless Jewish individuals. It is bad enough that churches neglect to partake of this guaranteed blessing, but it is unconscionable for churches to speak or act against the Jewish people or the nation of Israel. We gentiles who believe, were *“grafted in among them, and with them”* (Romans 11:17). We were never *“grafted”* into replace them.

There is no waiver in the New Testament that justifies antisemitism based on the *“Jews killed Christ,”* deicide trope. Not one text gives evidence that any Jewish hand used a hammer and nails to crucify Jesus. The Romans who performed the crucifixion capitulated to the demands of the politically corrupt Jewish High Priest, and the Jewish rulers of the Sanhedrin. But this does not rightfully impugn all Jewish people! There is both biblical and extra-biblical evidence that there existed as many as 40-50,000 Jewish believers by 70 AD.² Another common misconception is that the Palm Sunday crowd was the same one who changed

their tune a few days later, and cried *“Crucify him.”* Ridiculous. Very few of Jesus' followers, outside the inner circle, would have even heard about His overnight arrest and trials much less show up to protest at the Roman Governor's headquarters. The High Priest had assembled a select mob overnight. The Jewish Temple leadership knew who owed them, those who had sinned and/or who had offended them. It is highly probable that the mob yelling *“Crucify him,”* were leaned on to show up or else. It is guilt by association to broad brush all Jews because of the actions of the corrupt upper echelon of Jewish leadership who were bent on maintaining their lucrative position with their Roman overlords. It is unconscionable to justify theological antisemitism by blaming, punishing, or neglecting any of our Lord's brethren according to the flesh. It is liable negligence to have a blind eye toward any Church theology that replaces Israel, claims her covenant blessings, and casts her aside as abandoned by God.

But many don't even realize that they have a historical blind spot. The most commonly voiced and unanswered question that seems to puzzle people about the Holocaust is; How could civilized Germans go along with the wholesale slaughter of their fellow citizens? This question reveals ignorance of facts due to a *“Christian”* revisionist account of history, in which all culpability of guilt has been scrubbed from church records. There has been an unwillingness to connect the dots to the pervasive belief system of both Lutheran and Catholic German citizens of that era.³ From the seminaries to the pulpits, a replacement theology paradigm is what green-lighted the German Lutheran populace to go along with the Nazi's final solution against the Jews.⁴ Since they regularly heard from the pulpits that the Jews were cursed and rejected by God then Hitler seemed to be in perfect agreement with their pastors. See the endnote sources to verify that this was the norm. While we grew up learning that *“In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue,”* the reality known by Jews is that, *“In 1492 King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella expelled all the Jews.”* It is no wonder that the Caribbean isles are dotted with Jewish communities going back five centuries. There is some evidence that Columbus received funding from the Jewish community of Spain as an escape strategy. Though debatable, some purport there are clues to Columbus having a Jewish heritage.

Today we see a modern example of theological antisemitism, graphically illustrated in the Gazan

Palestinians who massacred over 1200 citizens of Israel. From birth they were taught to hate and despise Jews, only from a different religious perspective than Medieval Catholicism or 16th-century Protestantism.⁵ Any religious leadership whether Christian or Muslim, that teaches its followers to demonize and or eradicate another people group, especially the Jews is playing for the wrong team.

But what about Jesus' pronouncement of judgment on Jerusalem's leadership? He promised that they would personally suffer the results in their generation, culminating with the destruction of the Temple. When He said that the kingdom would be taken away from them and given to another nation that would produce spiritual fruit, He was talking about a new, future nation of Israel, in a later generation (Matthew 21:43). No scripture supports the claim that the kingdom was permanently taken away from national Israel and given to Gentile nations. That is simply a poor biblical interpretation. The literal, Messianic kingdom for Israel was postponed until Jesus restores it to Israel after the Tribulation. Four renowned Bible scholars refute the replacement theological position. Dwight J. Pentecost wrote, "The correct interpretation of 'given to another nation' means that the kingdom offer is being withdrawn from that generation of Israel in Jesus' day and will be reoffered to another generation in the future which will accept it."⁶ Alva J. McClain stressed that "These are not two separate and different nations, but the same nation of Israel...That other nation is also Israel, but an Israel repentant and regenerated."⁷ Dr. Louis Sperry Chaeffer clarified "There are two possible illuminations; first, in relationship to Israel present, for the individual Jew who believes to the saving of his soul, which illumination dispels all previous darkness"; and second in relation to Israel future, there is an illumination "for the whole nation."⁸ Dr. Charles C. Ryrie argued "By 'another nation' Jesus did not mean the Church, for that is not a nation; rather it will be a future generation of Israel that 'shall turn to the Lord and be saved before entering the millennial kingdom.'"⁹

The Church was initially Jewish, but eventually, at His command, they began to include Gentiles despite some initial hesitancy. Together with the early Jewish believers they were included into "one new man" in Messiah/Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:15). Jesus taught His disciples about the restoration of the Kingdom to Israel for 40 days following His resurrection as evidenced by them asking "wilt thou at this time

restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). It is clear that Jesus underscored their correct understanding that "kingdom to Israel" meant the literal physical kingdom promised by the prophets to a literal nation of Abraham's descendants in the land of Israel yet future. The Church is not a new people of God owning the covenants of Israel replacing the only nation God ever chose.

With this brief explanation of the misuse of a few scriptures and a partial defense against the false arguments of theological antisemitism addressed, we must understand the prophetic significance of the current escalation of international hatred against Israel. The prophet Daniel found himself speechless upon hearing a new prophecy about Israel's future, revealing terrible times yet to come for Israel. The proof that he feared destruction was the next event in his lifetime is his prostrate prayer of repentance in Daniel chapter 9. By researching Jeremiah's prophecy, Daniel understood that Israel was nearing the end of their captivity and would soon be leaving Babylon for the promised land (9:2). Why then did God give him a new prophecy of more bad times ahead?

This is the scripture that sent the seer of the Sovereign, into a state of shock.

"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. And I Daniel fainted" (Daniel 8:23-27).

Finally three weeks later, in Chapter 10, Daniel gets a breakthrough, in answer to his prayer.

"Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days." Daniel 10:1,2,14

It is crucial that we understand the interpretation that Daniel received and which was later confirmed

by Jesus. Daniel is given more details about the latter times in verses 9:24-27. It was a vision not to be fulfilled in Daniel's time, nor completely fulfilled when Jerusalem was destroyed. It remains to be fulfilled by a prince from the fourth Gentile revived Roman empire (Daniel 7:7-28). Jesus pointed to this passage as the basis for His prophecy of the "prince" who shall desecrate a future Temple in Jerusalem (Matthew 24:15). That prince will seek to utterly destroy the "mighty and holy" Jewish people in the Tribulation period known as "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7).

Daniel set a great pattern for us to follow when we find our emotional strings stricken with foreboding apocalyptic revelations. God's grisly warnings about the end times were never given to panic His people. Neither should it be the end result of biblical prophecy teaching. Instead, we should be cautious of prophecy teachers who use fear to fleece the flock for financial gain. God's goal is that we adopt Daniel's inspired perspective. The God who foresaw and planned it will provide for our passage through it. He included us in the loop so we would not lose hope. We are assured of His love and grace to prepare us for a better life in latter times. Therefore we must be confident in our witness of the good news of Messiah Jesus, to the Jewish people. The majority of them will not survive the coming double Holocaust according to Zechariah 13:9.

The question that interests so many is, How close are we to that time period? The key phrases in Daniel's text that determine the timing of these horrific events are "latter times," after "many days," "time appointed was long," "the latter days," and "the vision is for many days." When God concluded His oracle to Daniel He said, "shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end" (Daniel 12:4). When Israel returned to national status 76 years ago the sealed scroll of Daniel slowly began to be unfurl. No new truths will be revealed than what Daniel was given and was expounded by John's Revelation, but some things will begin to make more sense as we get closer to that end. There is much speculation in the news regarding the prophetic fulfillment of Daniel's prophecies in light of alleged preparations to rebuild the Temple. The prophecy says that the "prince that shall come" shall desecrate it with "abomination" (Daniel 9:27). He learned that this will happen at the mid-point of the 7-year peace covenant that Jesus called the Tribulation (Matthew 24:15).

It seems we are entering a time of human rage preceding the end times of God's rage in the Tribulation. Buckle up because the noise level is going to increase. This is just the beginning of the coming rage against Israel and the Jewish people that David foresaw. The fulfillment of Psalm 2 is beginning to be seen in the hateful protests and online mob campaigns against Israel and Jews. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" (Psalm 2:1) The "heathen" are those without God. "The people" refers to national Israel. The heathen are raging against God. We are watching "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD." The one thing that both the "heathen" and "the people" have in common is protestation "against His Anointed" - Jesus who was prophesied as God's Son in the Jewish scriptures (Psalm 2:12; Proverbs 30:4; Daniel 7:13,14). The heathen United Nations continually condemns Israel and has yet to denounce Hamas for slaughtering 1200 and taking 240 hostages, 116 of whom are still in captivity if they are even alive. The "kings" of the earth voted overwhelmingly in the UN to begin the process of declaring Palestine a nation. The countries of Ireland, Norway, Spain, and Slovakia recently committed to recognizing a Palestinian state. This would result in forcing Israel to surrender Judea and Samaria, comprising 1/3 of its sovereign territory, thereby creating a terrorist state, as if the Middle East needed another one. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) recently criminalized Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu and other governmental ministers with war crimes against humanity, while Israel is in a multi-front war for its existence.


Everywhere we turn we see the cultural war to rid society of all biblical moral restraints. "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." I believe that we are in the days when "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision," (לֵאגֹּיִם la`ag is the Hebrew word for unintelligible or stammering speech). Who hasn't noticed how the elitist left media is uttering completely unintelligible nonsense? Not only is there an absence of common sense, but supposedly educated people are speaking clear nonsense in politics, education, economics, immigration and science as to whether one's gender is fluid. Believers in this age of rage are exhorted not to tremble in fear of the heathen but rather to "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling." The heathen are told to "kiss the Son (Jesus)." Repentance and reverence to Jesus the Son of God is the only way to escape His divine

justice; *“lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him”* (Psalm 2:1-4,11,12). The repentance and trust is to be placed in the One who became the sin-bearer and will be the final judge. It is clear that the Son is to be the object of repentance and faith. It is the Son that is to be worshiped. When God’s laughter stops, every evil perpetrator whether heathen or religious will perish like dry tinder at one tiny spark of His wrath. *“Blessed are all they that put their trust in him”* (Psalm 2:12). *“behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Corinthians 6:2).

WHEN WE HAVE NO WORDS, REMEMBER GOD WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD.

The Christians are with Jews on the Muslim hate list. Iranian Islamics couldn’t withhold their hatred even at the funeral processions of their late President Raaisi, who died in a helicopter crash. Rather than mourn, they chanted “Death to the little Satan – Israel. Death to the great Satan – America.” If Satan, and wicked rulers, and campus mobs already group Christians and Jews together, and the Bible groups us together in a common heritage of faith and in a common future, then why on earth are we unwilling to stand with Israel and the Jewish people at this time? We can start by standing with local Jewish acquaintances, assuring them of our prayers and support. Pastors can be proactive and assure local Rabbis that their churches and true Christians stand against antisemitism and with Israel. Invite them to Stand with Israel Sunday.

The Judgment of the Nations/Gentiles is described in Matthew 25:24-46. It is to happen just before the Millennial Kingdom. Jesus said that only those sheep *“on his right hand”* would be granted entrance. The sheep are those who evidence their genuine faith by taking care of the least of His (Jewish) brethren during the genocide of the Tribulation. True faith will be measured at that judgment by the loving assistance of Tribulation saints to the Jewish people. The logic is inescapable. Jesus was a Jew. We love Jesus. We love His Jewish brethren. Without the Jewish people, there would be no Patriarchs, no Prophets, no Apostles, no Bible, no Savior, and no Church. In the early predominately Jewish Church, standing with the persecuted was evidence of true faith, *“Partly, whilst ye were made a gazing stock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used”* (Hebrews 10:33). Jesus the Jewish Messiah stood with Israel and died for His Jewish brethren and for us. When we find ourselves

without words at the evil and hostility around us, we can rest securely on His promise. Jesus said, *“Fear not, I am with thee; Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). Have our Jewish acquaintances ever heard such words of hope from us? If not, then we have failed to keep our Lord’s last command. Then neither will we hear *“well done”* when we stand before Him at the Judgment seat of Christ. Will there be silence from our Lord, *“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father’s, and of the holy angels”* (Luke 9:26). The time for silence is over, it’s time to stand up with the People of the Book and show up and speak up with the good news about their Messiah our Lord and Savior Jesus. Let’s stand with Israel. 

END NOTES

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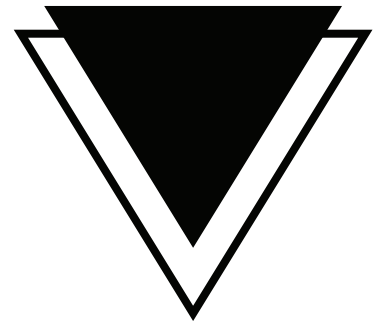
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