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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh4bhgNOI3M>

What Mike Huckabee Told Trump Before Operation Midnight

[Video: Short preview plays]

“HUCKABEE: President Trump doesn’t ask, he tells, and he told me I’m going to be the ambassador to Israel.

AMIR: But why would he say that? Why would he suggest Israel?

HUCKABEE: I know it sounds a little funny for an ambassador to be talking like this. I see this as spiritual darkness, spiritual blindness.

AMIR: For such a time as this, I believe you became the ambassador.”



[The Anchor Podcast begins]

AMIR: Hey, Shalom everyone, and welcome to yet one more episode of the *Anchor Podcast*. Today, it’s a very special day; we’re actually recording this one from Jerusalem, as you can see behind me. President Donald Trump, in mid-2025, shared an important text message and as he shared it, he actually said, “This is from Mike Huckabee, a pastor, a politician, an ambassador, and a *great* man.” Well, we have today the honor of having that great man with us. So, welcome to Ambassador Mike Huckabee. Ambassador Huckabee, Shalom, and good to have you here.

HUCKABEE: Shalom, what a pleasure to be with you. We've known each other for many, many years. *I'm so proud of you* and the extraordinary impact you're having. So, thank you for letting me just come and visit with you and to say hello to a very old, not a very old, [AMIR: Laughter] a very long time and a very dear friend.

AMIR: Thank you for gracious words. But you're the one that landed just a couple hours ago, and I can't believe you still made it. So, thank you for being here with us. You know, President Trump shared a text message with the world that you sent him on June 17, 2025. And when he shared it, he said, "This is from Mike Huckabee, a pastor, politician, ambassador, and great person." And I want to tell you something. I know all of those sides of you, a great person is the guy who is sitting in front of me. We'll talk about the text message later, but I think that the fact that he mentioned "pastor" first means that whatever you wrote him touched or struck a chord that is far more than just politics and war. It was biblical and so—because you are a pastor. Can you share with me maybe in three minutes, four minutes, your story of how you got saved?

HUCKABEE: I was sitting at my house. I was celebrating my 10th birthday. My sister said, "You ought to go to vacation Bible school at the church," and I thought, "I don't want to do that. That sounds like something for sissies. I don't want to." And she says, "Yeah, but if you go, they give you all the Kool-Aid you can drink, and all the cookies you can eat, and they play baseball." And I thought, "Well, cookies, Kool-Aid, baseball; okay, I'll go." So I went. And it was on my 10th birthday, August the 24th, 1965, and they decided that I couldn't eat more than two cookies or drink more than one cup of Kool-Aid for one thing. But the pastor came in and talked to us about what it meant to know Christ. And I didn't understand a lot; I'm 10 years old, but I knew that whatever it was he was talking about had not happened to me. And so he said, "I'll lead us in a prayer. If you want to pray this prayer, join me." And I didn't want to lift my hand or call attention

to myself because I was a very shy person, believe it or not. But I prayed that prayer, and I knew something was so overwhelming. In fact, when it came time to go play baseball, I was sitting on the steps of the church, and the guy said, “Come on, let’s go play baseball.” And I never will forget it. I said, “I can’t.” They said, “How come?” I said, “Because I don’t want to get dirty.” And it was like I couldn’t even separate physical dirt from spiritual dirt, but I knew something had happened, and there was a cleansing, and I didn’t want to get dirty. I didn’t play baseball that day, which was one of the reasons I even went! So, no, I have a vivid, vivid memory. Some people say, “I don’t really know what, when, how.” Well, I have a very specific memory of exactly when, the day, the hour, the moment.

AMIR: So you know your second birthday?

HUCKABEE: I know my second birthday. Real easy to remember, because it’s the same as my first one.

AMIR: Wow, nice! That was on your birthday?

HUCKABEE: Yeah, August 24th.

AMIR: Perfect.

HUCKABEE: First birthday, second birthday.

AMIR: Amazing.

HUCKABEE: Yeah.

AMIR: And when did you meet Janet?

HUCKABEE: We knew each other, even as we were kids. We both grew up in the same hometown of Hope, Arkansas, and we were classmates in the same class from the seventh grade on. We had gone to different elementary schools, but small town, you know everybody, so we knew each other. And then we started dating our senior year of high school, and got married...

AMIR: So, you were high school sweethearts?

HUCKABEE: Yeah. And then got married after our first year of college.

AMIR: Amazing.

HUCKABEE: Been married 52 and-a-half years.

AMIR: Well, 31 here, but I still have a long way to go. Wow. So now you're born again, you are a married man. When was it that Israel got into your heart and mind? Because obviously it's not the part of mind and hearts of many.

HUCKABEE: Well, for me, it was 1973. I just finished high school. A friend of mine wanted to take a senior trip. He was from a very wealthy family. I came from a very poor family. I'd never traveled anywhere, never thought I could or would. And his dad said to him, "Son, I'm not going to let you take a big trip like this," and he wanted to go to the Middle East, "but if Mike Huckabee will go with you, I'll pay his way." [AMIR: Wow.] So, his father paid not only for his son, but he paid for me. And I think back, I think his dad thought I was more trustworthy than his own son, which may not be far off the mark. We came over here. We were both... I was not quite 18. He was 18.

AMIR: That was before the war.

HUCKABEE: Before the war, yeah, this was July of 1973, just before the Yom Kippur War in October. We went to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece. [AMIR: Wow. Big one.] All over the region and came to Israel. I enjoyed everything that I saw, but when we came to Israel, something happened. I mean, it was spiritual, and there was a connection. There was a magnetism. And I couldn't really explain it, but I felt at home in a place I'd never been. Now, how does that happen? Because of all the biblical things that had happened here, and it was like I was suddenly in this land that I knew God's hand was upon. And Amir, one of the things a lot of people may not

understand, especially if they're a lot younger, in 1973, Israel was not a startup nation. [AMIR: Not at all.] It wasn't a rapidly growing regional power. It was a country hanging on by a thread economically and even militarily. They were winning battles they shouldn't win. They would soon win the Yom Kippur War which almost cost them the country. But you go to the Old City on a Friday, and there were Bedouins running their sheep and goats right through the Old City. There was no traffic to worry about, because nobody had cars. The economy was struggling, and it was pretty much a socialist economy.

AMIR: Correct. The Labor Party was ruling for the longest time.

HUCKABEE: Exactly, and it was a very different country, but there was still something about it that was overwhelming, and I couldn't wait to get back. So in 1981, I started bringing groups of people.

AMIR: Wow. As a pastor?

HUCKABEE: Yeah, by then I was a pastor. I did not intend to be a pastor, by the way. I was expecting to go into Christian communications, radio, and television, which I eventually did. But I was a pastor of a church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and I thought, I bet there are people that would like to go to Israel. So we put a trip together, and that was the beginning of what became scores of trips over the years. I brought tens of thousands of people here. That's where you and I met was during some of those tours. I never got tired of it. And people would say, "You've been over there so many times. I know you see the same things. Why do you keep going?" I said, because I learn something new every time. I never get enough of it. I'm getting on the plane to go back to the States, and I'm thinking, when can I come back? I never thought I would live here. So it's been a pretty amazing journey.

AMIR: And what do you say about churches that are actually distancing themselves from Israel, thinking that the church has replaced Israel, and Israel is no longer God's people?

HUCKABEE: I would say they're getting really close to heresy. First of all, if you're getting away from a connection to Israel, you're really getting away from the Scripture. Because whether you're looking at Genesis 12, and God's promise that those who bless Israel will be blessed, those who curse Israel will be cursed. Or if you look at what He said to Abraham, that through Abraham and his seed, the world will know. The foundation of my faith as a Christian— and I say this to my Jewish friends all the time, because sometimes they ask me, even with this sort of, "OK, what's the real deal? Tell me..."

AMIR: Because you don't fit. You see, when they hear Christian, they immediately think about Catholic Church. And Catholic Church holds the replacement theology. And suddenly someone comes; he loves them; he agrees with them; he accepts them; and yet he is a Christian. He's not trying to become a Jew. So you don't fit.

HUCKABEE: Well, but for evangelicals, those of us who are people of the Book, we understand that a person can be Jewish, they don't need to be any connecting factor to a Christian. But if you're a Christian, you cannot be a Christian without connecting your faith to the foundation upon which it is entirely built, which is the Jewish foundation. I don't know of any Christian that doesn't believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jesus was Jewish. All the early church, *all* the early church were Jewish until it finally, through Paul, began to spread out to the Gentiles. But even in that, we have to keep in mind that the Gospels and all of the Epistles were very explicitly clear that that doesn't mean that God has given up on the Jews. The idea that replacement theology...

AMIR: I think it's an offense to God.

HUCKABEE: It is an offense because it's saying, "God, You're a promise breaker. You made a covenant with these people, and then You broke it." No, I may break my covenant with God, but God cannot. It's not just that He will not. He *cannot* because He's an immutable God. He's holy. He's omniscient. He's perfect. A perfect God wouldn't say, "You know, I made that promise, but yeah, I'm not going to keep it."

AMIR: In Malachi, He said, "I am God. I do not change. Therefore, you're not consumed, O sons of Jacob." I mean, the survival of Israel is a testimony to the fact that God is a non-changing God.

HUCKABEE: In my life, even in my trips here over the past 53 and-a-half years, here's what I have seen: miracle after miracle after miracle and fulfillment of prophecy after prophecy. When the prophet Ezekiel said that the dry bones will live again and God will put flesh on the bones, I have literally seen that in this country that the dry bones have come to life. And when the Scripture speaks and the prophets talk about the desert will bloom, well, Amir, the desert has bloomed. There are places that are now mature forest, lush farmland that are producing amazing fruits and vegetables that if you went back 50 years, it was barren, dry, desert. Nothing was growing there, nothing.

AMIR: And that's an act of God. In Ezekiel 36 it says, "I speak to you mountains of Israel, shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit for My people Israel, for they are about to come." In preparation for the return of the Jews, He spoke fertility. And it's amazing because we see it.

HUCKABEE: And only with the hand of God is this possible. Now people can say, well, but drip irrigation made it; I understand all of that but God used the technology. But without the people who had the faith to plant seed in a desert, there is no modern...

AMIR: Exactly. That's why I have a problem with secular Zionism that claims that we did it and we came... there is no such thing. Without God, we would have never been here.

HUCKABEE: I say every day to people that it would take more faith to not believe in miracles in this country than it does just to look around and say, “Yep, I see miracles everywhere I turn.”

AMIR: Exactly. And so what year were you elected governor?

HUCKABEE: I was first elected lieutenant governor in 1993, reelected in '94 because I had first won in a special election. And then during my tenure as lieutenant governor in 1996, the governor had to resign, he was convicted of crimes. And so...

AMIR: Automatically you became...

HUCKABEE: Yeah, so I was thrust into the office unexpectedly. Then I was reelected again in 1998 and 2002. So I served as governor almost 11 years, three years as lieutenant governor. It was an incredible experience.

AMIR: And now your daughter is the governor...

HUCKABEE: She is the governor now.

AMIR: And she's running for a reelection.

HUCKABEE: She is. She tells everybody, I just want to be a better governor than my dad. [AMIR: Laughter] And I say, “Hey kiddo, I think you've crossed that line already.” [AMIR: There you go.]

AMIR: Wow, and I can't see Arkansas governed by someone else at this time. This is a crucial time for America.

HUCKABEE: It is.

AMIR: Crucial time. You see how the country is changing.

HUCKABEE: You know, she is one strong Zionist as well, because she came here first when she was 11. I took her to Yad Vashem, took her all over the country, for that matter. Yad Vashem really impacted her. It really sunk into her what happened, and how evil it was, and how it

happened because so many decent people just looked the other way and they did not want to get involved. And I think what she is seeing now and why she is such a strong voice, because she sees those same elements that led to the Holocaust happening right now in our culture, and I never thought I would see that again. I don't think any of us did. And this idea that either let's blame the Jews, let's hate the Jews, let's dismiss them, it's a dangerous place for anyone to be, but especially for people who claim to be Christians. I'm really proud of her, not just for being governor, but for sticking to biblical convictions.

AMIR: So it's about pro-life and so many other things. Israel is part of the package of being biblical.

HUCKABEE: It is, very much it is. I don't think you can say, "Well, I'm a biblical Christian, but I don't believe God has any special role for Israel." I'm sorry, but that kind of takes you out of both the Old and the New Testament at that point.

AMIR: But you do see that America is taking a different direction? Not maybe by the administration right now, but we see, for example, the Democratic Party right now is being literally taken over by something that it has never been. Look, there was always wall to wall in Congress support in Israel, maybe not supporting Netanyahu or his government, but in Israel as a state and its right to exist. *That* is even eroding right now.

HUCKABEE: There was a time when I think it's fair to say, Democrats were more reliably pro-Israel than Republicans were. Now that is not the case and there are really signs of younger Republicans sort of questioning the value of the relationship between the US and Israel. I think it's an important relationship. I would speak of it biblically and spiritually—that maybe is the most important for me. But take that away for a minute and as ambassador, I would speak to it from a geopolitical, economic, military, and intelligence standpoint and tell you...

AMIR: ... And as ambassador, you know.

HUCKABEE: ... That's what I... I mean, this is the world I live in, it's water I swim in every day. And I'm telling you, I feel that it's important for Americans to understand the value of the relationship between the US and Israel to every single American whether they know it or not.

AMIR: So when it comes to Islam or Islamists in America, how do you live with that? I mean, because obviously America is a pluralist society, and you are a country of immigrants, but there's something different with what we see right now.

HUCKABEE: Well, the big difference is historically, we've always been a nation of immigrants, the melting pot where people came from all over the world; from the Orient, from Europe, from Africa, from everywhere, but here was the difference. They came in order to be Americans. [AMIR: Exactly.] They wanted to learn the language. They wanted their kids to go to the American schools and speak English and start businesses, and make something...

AMIR: They didn't want America to be what they ran away from.

HUCKABEE: That's exactly right. They came to America as an escape *to* freedom. They didn't come to try to make it a totalitarian world. What we see now, people are coming to America not to say, "I want to be what America is," but rather, "I want America to be what I am."

AMIR: "I want to take down America," they say that.

HUCKABEE: They do, and it's disturbing, it's frightening, and it's incredibly dangerous. And it's absolutely unacceptable that America would think, "Okay, yeah, why don't we have all these people come in and want to change the country into something that has miserably failed everywhere else in the world?"

AMIR: So, now we're done with you being governor or pastor, and we're moving to your ambassadorship. When was it that you heard about it? I mean...

HUCKABEE: Just a couple of days after the election, my phone rings. I have President Trump's number, so I know normally when he calls, but he was on a different phone, and this number popped up that I didn't recognize. Normally, I wouldn't take it, because it might be some reporter that I don't want to talk to. But something said, "Answer the phone." I did. On the other line, the voice says, [HUCKABEE: Speaking / Impersonating President Trumps voice:] "Mike, Mike, it's Donald Trump. You're going to be my ambassador to Israel. You're going to go to Israel. You're going to be great. You'll be great. Now, you're not going to be as great as your daughter. She's better than you." He always would say that to me. [AMIR: Of course.] But he didn't ask. I mean, President Trump doesn't ask. He tells, and he told me I'm going to be the ambassador to Israel. This was only a couple of days after the election.

AMIR: But why would he say that? Why would he suggest Israel, because he knows your...

HUCKABEE: He has known. In fact, when he ran back in 2016, I sat down with him and was explaining to him the evangelicals; the fact that you cannot win without evangelical support within the Republican Party, and certainly even on a national level, a Republican cannot win without the full-throated and enthusiastic support of evangelicals. So he was saying, "Okay, explain to me. Tell me what's important." I said, "Well, there are two issues that are non-negotiable for the evangelicals." "Okay. What are they?" I said, "Sanctity of life." He nodded; he figured that one out. And I said, "Israel." [AMIR: Wow.] And he did this like... [Gesture: Shaking of head to infer that Trump was surprised]

AMIR: And that was 2016.

HUCKABEE: Yeah, this is 20... It was actually the summer of 2015, yeah. And he looked at me, he said, “Israel?” And I said, “Yes, sir.” He said, “I’m not sure I understand that one.” And I explained it to him. I said, “Because to us, Israel is not a political issue. It is a biblical issue. It’s a moral issue. And the connection that the United States has with Israel is not just a convenience.” And it really made sense to him, obviously. President Trump, as you know, in his first term, became the most outspoken friend of Israel in the history of the United States.

AMIR: Absolutely. He moved the embassy...

HUCKABEE: He moved the embassy, recognized Jerusalem as the capital, recognized the Golan Heights...

AMIR: ... Even made sure that Judea and Samaria’s settlement are not illegal, all of that, in one term.

HUCKABEE: In one term. And then in his second term, he has now twice recognized that the threat from Iran is not a threat to just Israel. It’s always been a threat to the United States. And by the way, President Trump, as a private citizen and businessman...

AMIR: He said that all along.

HUCKABEE: ... All along. He was saying it in the early ’80s! [AMIR: Correct] People don’t realize he had it figured out long before most American politicians understood.

AMIR: I think the President listens to you, in ways that I’m not sure he listens to others. Because it’s one thing in February where he already wanted to lead the charge and all of that, but in June, it wasn’t the case. In June, Israel was the first, and Israel was already a few days into it, and then something happened... And now I’m coming back to this text message. But I’m not even sure you know how we saw your text message. Because I grew up knowing that the mother of President Nixon was maybe the reason why he decided to help Israel win the Yom Kippur War, because he

remembered when Golda called him what his mom told him. So obviously it was a spiritual connection here, and that convicted him, and then he did something that I guess was translated into support on the ground. But you wrote him something, and I want to read it to people. I don't think people paid attention to what you wrote, and I think that they don't even understand how much of a weight it was on his decision to approve Midnight Hammer, and to wipe out almost completely the nuclear side. So you wrote this: "Mr. President, God spared you in Butler, PA to be the most consequential President in a century—maybe ever. The decisions on your shoulders I would not want to be made by anyone else. You have many voices speaking to you, Sir, but there is only ONE voice that matters. HIS voice. [AMIR: God's voice obviously.] I am your appointed servant in this land and am available for you but I do not try to get in your presence often because I trust your instincts. No President in my lifetime has been in a position like yours. Not since Truman in 1945. I don't reach out to persuade you. Only to encourage you. I believe you will hear from heaven and that voice is far more important than mine or ANYONE else's. You sent me to Israel to be your eyes, ears, and voice, and to make sure our flag flies above our embassy. My job is to be the last one to leave. I will not abandon this post. Our flag will NOT come down. You did not seek this moment. This moment sought YOU. It is my honor to serve you. —Mike Huckabee." When I saw it, I immediately thought about Nixon and about Truman. And they may have been presidents, but someone else was there to remind them why it was... I don't know if you understand that what you did... You see, we have the nuclear threat for the longest time, like a sword hanging above our [Gesture: hand above his head] ... With one message, you managed to package the whole thing without even mentioning neither Iran nor nuclear. You just told him, "This is your time. Listen to God." And how many hours after was it that he already...?

HUCKABEE: Oh, it was minutes.

AMIR: Minutes!

HUCKABEE: I sent it to him wondering, well, I wonder when he'll see it, because as I recall, it would have been in the middle of the night in the US, probably two in the morning. So I wasn't expecting an answer till later. Within 10 minutes, I get a response.

AMIR: What was the response?

HUCKABEE: He said, "I have read your message over and over... [AMIR: There you go.] ... and it really has had an impact. I appreciate what you have said." And I thought, wow, well, that's nice to hear. All right, so then within half an hour, my phone starts just blowing up. And everyone...

AMIR: And you had no clue that he shared it.

HUCKABEE: Yeah. And they said, "I saw what you sent to the president." I'm thinking...

AMIR: He shared a screenshot of, I mean, it was...

HUCKABEE: I know, but I didn't know. I didn't realize it was just a private communication that I had sent only to him. I didn't copy anyone. I didn't even say it to my wife.

AMIR: Wow.

HUCKABEE: I didn't even tell her.

AMIR: Really?

HUCKABEE: No, I just sent it as a personal message to him, directly to his phone on a text message. He was the one who then took it and put it out on his social media account, and it went all over the world. But it was the biggest surprise to me.

AMIR: Wow. Do you understand now after... I mean, it's been a year now. Do you understand now the effect of that text message?

HUCKABEE: Only in that God used it. It was not anything that I wasn't saying, "Oh, I'm gonna..."

AMIR: How long were you thinking about it before you texted it?

HUCKABEE: Not very. It was really one of those moments of just inspiration I thought, “I need to let the president know.” Because here’s what I was hearing. I was watching every one in the world, members of Congress, people in his administration, people were weighing in on what he should do and when he should do it, if he should do it. And I’m thinking, “You know, everybody needs to back off.” It’s his decision. What we need to do is pray for him to make the decision. I’m not going to try to tell him what he ought to do. He got elected president. I did not. I tried.

AMIR: And you didn’t tell him anything.

HUCKABEE: No. I just said, “Listen to the voice.”

AMIR: There you go.

HUCKABEE: “God will speak to you.” And I believed it then, I believe it now, that we sometimes want to push something on a person, what we need to do is to say, “Father, speak to this individual.” Because the Proverbs say that the heart of the ruler is in the hand of God and He moves it whichever way He wishes. I think sometimes we forget the power of our prayers, the power of God to move the kings. And so it’s not about, “Can I present a message that will influence him?” It’s I can just say, “I trust your instincts.” I trust your instincts, and I do. Even to this day, people have said to me, “What do you think the president is going to do?” I said, “I don’t really know, because he’ll do what he believes he should do.”

AMIR: You know, when I read it, I said to myself, and I said to everyone around me, “For such a time as this, I believe you became the ambassador.” Because honestly, and Ambassador Friedman was a great ambassador, and others before were okay. Yeah, they’re wonderful people. I don’t think the president of the United States would have taken a message like that from anyone

else so seriously, and not only read it, but share it with the whole world. And once you share it, that's it. It's like you need to do something now.

HUCKABEE: [Laughter] Well, it was...

AMIR: ... And look what happened.

HUCKABEE: It was a great affirmation, though, that I had acted by a prompting of the Holy Spirit. [AMIR: Yes.] You know, sometimes you have the, "I wonder if should I do this?" Everything that happened afterwards just affirmed that it was a moment of inspiration.

AMIR: But that's why he introduced you when he shared it, Mike Huckabee, a pastor, he started with that. I think he took it as a spiritual advice first, and then he translated it to something on the ground, well, not on the ground, in the air which affected the ground.

So, where are we with Iran? I mean, Midnight Hammer was smashing success, but it seems like we had to go to round two and maybe even round three.

HUCKABEE: I think people may not fully appreciate that Iran is in the weakest position they've been in since 1979.

AMIR: And they admit it, by the way, finally.

HUCKABEE: Finally. But they're weaker economically. They're in the point of collapsing economically. They're weaker militarily. Now, they're trying to escalate everything they can to rebuild their missile supply, to restart their nuclear program. It's not that they're not scrambling, but they are weaker. They are in a very difficult, very tough position. And the only reason that they're still hanging on is because... In most countries, there would be an uproar, a revolt, and the people would take down the regime.

AMIR: Over there, they don't have that problem.

HUCKABEE: They don't have that problem because the only people who have guns are the people loyal to the regime. [AMIR: Exactly.] So if you stick your head up and say, "I'm going to protest," they shoot you. They kill you. We don't know for sure how many of their own people were murdered by the Iranian regime, but we're probably looking at north of 60,000 people. And there are regular hangings of people who are dissidents. That's why it's very difficult to see the people rise up to the level, which I pray someday they will. But, the only ones with guns are the government.

AMIR: I know. And do you think we're going to see an end to this soon?

HUCKABEE: I don't want to predict soon. I think that there...

AMIR: When I say soon, I'm not talking about tomorrow, but in his presidency.

HUCKABEE: Because the pressure that the president has put on the Iranians economically and that Israel and the U.S. have put on them militarily—And I want to tell you something, and I hope the people of Israel recognize it, because I don't think the people of America do either—the partnership in the military operation is unlike anything that the US has ever experienced before. Our planes were flying wingtip to wingtip. We were refueling Israeli jets, and Israelis were refueling American jets. There were moments in the operations center you could walk in and look around, and the room was full of people, all at their screens, literally executing, running the war in real time. And the only way you know who is the Israeli and who is the American by whatever flag, flag on their sleeve, that said the Israeli flag or the American flag.

AMIR: So you believe Iran is a threat to America as much as it is a threat to Israel?

HUCKABEE: It always has been. It's always been really a bigger threat, because the origin of the ayatollahs in 1979 was death to America. They burned our flag, they took our embassy over, they kidnapped and held hostage 51 embassy employees for 444 days. I was married with children

by then. I remember all that. So many younger Americans have no frame of reference. They don't understand that for 47 years, the Iranian regime has targeted the US, and they would say death to Israel and then death to America. But Israel has always been just the appetizer. America is the ultimate target, it's the entree. And we *have* to remember that because if we're so naive... You know, if you're Iran, you're the regime and you believe that your purpose on Earth is to destroy the infidels or convert them to a radical form of Shiite Islam, then who do you want to really bring down? Well, the United States, they're the superpower. You take them down and now the biggest domino has fallen, and you can sort of rack the rest of them up. So that's always been the goal. I mean, you take down the big dog.

AMIR: And it's sad that you have to explain that over and over again and again and so many Americans...

HUCKABEE: It shouldn't be complicated. But a lot of Americans live in a world of naïveté and in a world that is so many thousands of miles removed and thinking they're no threat to me. Here's what I remember...

AMIR: ... That's how 9/11 happened, you thought...

HUCKABEE: ... We lulled ourselves to sleep and we got caught. In one year from the summer of '25 until the spring of '26, the Iranians increased their capacity to deliver a ballistic missile from 2,000 kilometers to 4,100 kilometers. That means they could launch ballistic missiles out of Tehran and hit pretty much all of Europe, London, Berlin, Brussels...

AMIR: Is that the one that they hit or tried to hit Diego Garcia?

HUCKABEE: Yes. And that was a shocker. Everybody looked at that and said, "That's 4,100 kilometers away from Tehran." We didn't think they had that range. *That* was when we knew that they did.

AMIR: And you had to do something about it. And the Europeans, those unthankful governments, they still don't understand. You guys are saving them as much as you're saving yourselves.

HUCKABEE: It should have happened that when they saw what happened at Diego Garcia, that there was suddenly a wake-up and...

AMIR: But there isn't.

HUCKABEE: There wasn't. And they're still thinking, "Oh, America shouldn't have gone in to deal with Iran." I'm thinking, "Okay."

AMIR: Is that a mental...what is it?

HUCKABEE: I think it's a spiritual issue. I know it sounds a little funny for an ambassador to be talking like this, but look, I see this as spiritual darkness, spiritual blindness. How else can you explain it?

AMIR: Strong delusion. Yeah.

HUCKABEE: Very delusion because Satan has blinded the minds of those and has captured their thinking. I really do believe that there is something deeper than just the obvious geopolitical issues at bay.

AMIR: You know, you may be the ambassador of America in Israel, but many Israelis feel like you're the best ambassador of Israel in the world. Because you know us very well. By the way, I don't know if there's any non-Jewish ambassador that is so connected with the Jewish communities in Israel. And I'm not talking about just a diplomatic corp. I'm talking about Judea, Samaria... the heartland of Israel. They *love you* there.

HUCKABEE: Well, you know, it's mutual...

AMIR: ... and you don't call it the West Bank. You call it Judea and Samaria.

HUCKABEE: You know, and I get asked by reporters, “Why do you call it Judea and Samaria? Why don’t you call it West Bank?” I said, “Because West Bank is a nebulous term. It doesn’t mean anything.” West Bank of what? The Jordan River and how far? Are we talking about 10 kilometers or all the way to the sea? Because we’ve got a lot of people screaming from the river to the sea, West Bank might be that. I’m not going to call it that.” Eighty percent of the Bible happened in Judea and Samaria. So if we’re going to talk about this land historically, let’s use a term that represents something from over 3,000 years. That makes more sense than something that is representing since 1967. That’s, you know, that’s 60 years.

AMIR: Plus, us being Jews is because it’s Judea.

HUCKABEE: That’s where the whole name of Jews came from.

AMIR: If you call yourself an Arab, look at Arabia I guess. I know you as an ambassador, there’s a lot of things you cannot say that you could say earlier. And it’s okay. [HUCKABEE: Yeah.] But if there is something, as we land this whole plane now, if there is something you think Israelis should know about America and Americans should know about Israel, what is it?

HUCKABEE: What I wish that Americans knew about Israel was that—and this was a controversial statement—that the birthplace of America was Jerusalem. And people thought I was crazy when I said that, but I said, “Look, if there had never been a Jewish people, there never would have been a Law, there never would have been the understanding that there is one God, a God who has given us individual accountability and responsibility. That is something that is a Jewish tradition, a Jewish foundation upon which Christianity was built. The Judeo-Christian foundation is what Western civilization was built upon in America. Without apology, if you look at the founding fathers, they quoted the Bible more than any other book, by more than all the other books combined, all the other thinkers combined, it was the Bible that was the foundation. So, I

say it and people thought it was crazy, but somebody asked AI, “Is Huckabee nuts for saying this?” [AMIR: Really?] and four pages later, he [AI] had documented... AI—it, she, what he—had documented all of these ways in which it was exactly correct.

AMIR: AI actually confirmed it.

HUCKABEE: It really did and I was thinking, “Maybe I like AI actually.” [AMIR: Laughter] So, I wish that Americans understood the spiritual connection heritage and now the value systems that we share that really are modern and contemporary and very necessary. What I wish Israelis knew about Americans was that there’s still a strong, strong support for Israel within America. There are loud voices and there are some crazy voices that are...

AMIR: By the way, many of those loud voices are loud because of bots and farms and propaganda machines, but not... yeah.

HUCKABEE: We do have to get a message out there. We have to recognize that many of the Gulf State countries, Arab countries, have spent *billions*, billions of dollars trying to influence young Americans through university programs, and through social media platforms, and through propaganda. I think we have to recognize the Chinese and the Russians have also sought to influence. It’s not that they care that much about Israel. It’s not about Israel.

AMIR: It’s about America first and Israel is ...

HUCKABEE: ... fighting America and destroying America economically and morally. If they can do that, they don’t have to fight us. They just have to come and clean up the mess we make ourselves.

AMIR: Well, with all the things that we see coming out of America, whenever we see you speaking, we smile and we know that not everything is bad. I mean, you are a fresh, fresh, ... everything about the way you stand defending your country but also standing for the truth when it

comes to Israel because there're so much lies and deception. And you're here in one of the most difficult times and yet one of the most challenging and inspiring times in the history of this country. And we could have not asked for a better ambassador of the United States than you.

So I want to thank you. I feel, look, I read, as I said, I read that text message and I said to everyone, "For such a time as this." The president of the United States of America ordered the destruction of the nuclear sites in Iran, something we've been trying to tell the whole world and nobody wanted to listen. Finally, someone is doing that and I believe you have a huge part in it and I want to thank you for it. And I want Israelis to know—because I don't know how many Israelis understand that. I don't even know how many Americans understand that. And if there is a reason for this podcast... this is what I wanted the whole podcast to be around because this is, for me, it happens once in 50 years.

HUCKABEE: Well, I want to give credit though to President Trump for hearing the voice of God. Not ... he didn't hear me. He heard from heaven. And I believe Butler, Pennsylvania, that attempted assassination, he recognized, he was spared for a reason. I really believe... not only do I believe that, he believes that.

AMIR: And you just reminded him that. Ambassador Huckabee, thank you for being here. And I'm looking forward to seeing you again. We have so much to talk about in the future. And thank God that He sent you to be the ambassador here at such a time as this.

HUCKABEE: Thank you. And thank you for your teaching, for your incredible insight into the Scripture. I'm glad people are growing and they're following of what you're doing with the podcast and your books. It's just an exciting thing. As I said at the beginning, I'm very proud to call you my friend.

AMIR: Thank you. And please send my love to your wife, your children. And we pray that Sarah will win once again.

HUCKABEE: Thank you.

AMIR: Thank you very much. God bless you. [Gesture: Amir and Mike shake hands.]

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