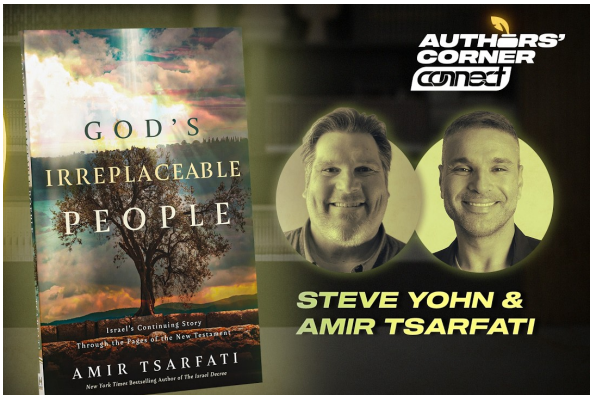
Amir Tsarfati
Authors' Corner

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AEIfM8Mt4E

God's Irreplaceable People



AMIR: Hey, Shalom everyone, I'm Amir Tsarfati and welcome back to *Authors' Corner*. And today we're about to talk on my upcoming book, what will come out in one week, exactly one week. And that's *God's Irreplaceable People*. In fact, the artwork behind me is the theme of the cover of that book. And this one is the sequel to *The Israel Decree*, my first ever New York Times bestseller. And together with me today is Pastor Steve Yohn, my good friend who has been a tremendous help in having this book coming out. Pastor Steve, Shalom, how are you, my friend?

STEVE: I am doing fantastic and I am so excited that in only one week's time, this book will finally be out. Amir, I can remember when you called me up and you said, "I have an idea for a new book." And that always excites me because you're one of those guys that middle of the night, God wakes you up, drops this idea in your head, and then you can't sleep for the rest of the night, not that you usually sleep at night anyway. But then you called me up and you told me about this incredible idea, the sequel to *The Israel Decree*. Do you remember what it is that you told me, what this book is about, and why it was such a burden on your heart?

AMIR: Yeah, I do remember that. In fact, when God woke me up in the middle of the night, not only that He gave me the theme, but also the entire outline, if you remember. And I typed it on

my iPhone and I said, okay, I have to send it to Steve as soon as I can. Yeah, the thing is this; when *The Israel Degree* was released, it was the fruit of the war. It was right when the war started, I realized people don't even know what Israel is all about. They don't even understand that this is a God thing, not a man thing. And I thought, yeah, let's go all the way back to Abraham Genesis 12 and talk about the Israel decree, talk about what is it that God promised to Abraham, and how obviously unconditional it is and all of that. But then people started writing back, pushback, because I wrote about how we can prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that why Israel of today exists, you know. And we talked about history, about legal, the legal part of it, about the Bible. But then people again started pushing back and said, "Yes, Amir, but you're proving it all from the Old Testament. This is the church age; we are the Christians; we believe in the New Testament; this is not for us. That Israel thing is for the Old Testament times." And I'm like, "What? Since when did God change in the 400 years between Malachi and Matthew?" And I realized that the Old Testament is ignored by many people and even disrespected by many people. But I also realized that they need to see that our God is unchanging and that the need for Israel today comes not just from the Old Testament, it comes from the very pages of the New Testament as well. And I assume that many of them don't even know the New Testament. They know a verse here and a verse there, and they are in the art of taking verses out of context and missing out on the picture and missing out on the character of God and it troubled me. It troubled me, Steve, because there are consequences for such a thing, you know? And I realized that that ignorance that leads to a lot of, many times, to hatred and anti-Semitism eventually can distort completely your image of who God is and His character. So yeah, that's how I felt, and I felt offended, basically.

STEVE: You end up with a changeable God who had one plan, and then He changed to a different plan. And it's like people were saying, "I mean, Amir, we understand you're Jewish, and you gave us all sorts of "Jew-y" evidences, but we want the Gentile stuff. We want the New Testament, and you just don't find Israel in the New Testament." And I remember you saying, "Wait a second! Has God changed?" Did something happen in those 400 years between the end of Malachi and the beginning of Matthew? Did something happen there where God said, "You know, I'm just fed up with all that Jewish stuff. I'm done with it. Let's move on to something better." And you always say, "No!"

AMIR: "I'm fed up so much that I'm going to send the Messiah out of Germany." I mean, hello? [Laughter] You know what I mean? It's crazy. Steve, I think that honestly, I mean, to be more on the serious side, I really think that the church has a problem and the problem is illiteracy, biblical illiteracy. I think that people are watching YouTubes and they are going on social media, and that's how they're being fed. They don't even read the Bible anymore. And I think that one of the things that I want to do in this book is to take them back to the Bible. That's it, nothing else, not the church fathers, not opinions, not commentaries, the Bible. What is it that the Bible says? Let's start with Jesus. Let's first of all with the full picture of God, who God is. Then move on to the words of Jesus, and move on to the words of the apostles, and move on to the prophetic part and see that Israel is just everywhere. And unfortunately, there's also a misunderstanding when it comes to the parts in the New Testament where either Jesus or the apostles or the disciples, for that matter, rebuked the leadership of Israel at the time. I think that people take that out of context as if it's the entire nation, and as if God is done with them. And

that's a very slippery slope because you can't do that and then run to allegorize everything else because otherwise, whatever you said here doesn't hold water.

STEVE: Yeah, well, Amir, you in Israel have recently had elections. We in America have recently had elections. And you look at the leadership now, and if some were to say, "Oh, those Americans, they are all leftists now. Look at this. I mean, they all believe this thing that their leadership is." And the same thing with Israel, "Oh, they're all on the left now." And that's what people do with Israel. They say because the leadership, the religious leadership rejected the Messiah, then that's *all* of Israel. And God held *all* of Israel responsible for that. And that's just not what the New Testament says. That's not what Paul says. That's not what John in Revelation lays out. You see that there is a difference between the leadership and the people. You don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.

AMIR: Absolutely, and we can definitely see that, for example, the difference between the way people accepted Paul in Thessaloniki and the way people accepted Paul in Berea. The Bereans were different. They were fair-minded, they were looking in Scriptures, they saw what he was talking about, and they accepted it. Whereas other places, where they relied more on rabbinical teachings and they did not look into Scriptures, that's when they rejected Him. You can clearly see, it's not about the Jews, it's about any person who takes the time to go to the Bible and find out for himself if what Jesus said is what the Bible says He is. And that's the thing also, look, I saw 200,000 Dutch people that went to the streets, they took to the streets of Amsterdam with a very anti-Semitic spirit. But I know there is a beautiful, wonderful Dutch remnant of born-again, Spirit-filled, Israel-loving people. And I will never say all the Dutch people are anti-Semites because it's wrong. And the same goes with what's going on in America, and the same goes with

what's going on in the UK, and what's going on in Western Europe, and Australia, and New Zealand and other places. I cannot do that, the God has always, always left the remnant, always left the remnant, even in the time of Elijah the prophet. I mean, here we are, remember, we talked about *The Elijah Mandate* a few months ago. And we talked about that very thing, about the remnant and about how Elijah thought that he was left all alone, and God said, no, there are thousands that did not bow down to the Baal. You're not… yes, they're not millions. Yes, there is a need for a national salvation, but it's not over yet. And if their fall is such a blessing, how much more their acceptance is going to be.

STEVE: Yeah, yeah, and that shows so much of who God is. We can say within the people of Israel, there are two minds, or multiple minds. Within the people of America, there are multiple ways of thinking, but within God, there is one way of thinking, there is one plan, and that plan doesn't change. The intro to your book or the dedication, so often people just skip over it, but I just want to read this because it says so much about both your heart and what the contents of this book are. It says, "I dedicate this book to the one true immutable God. Your irrevocable promises are what have kept my people alive through the millennia, and they are what assure us a blessed future in Your kingdom." Talk about that.

AMIR: Well as I said, the story of Israel is the story of the God of Israel. Israel is not... The way He handles Israel shows more about Himself, and He never really was looking for a performance-based nation. He knew exactly who He's dealing with. From the very beginning, He knew exactly who He's dealing with, and yet He chose to get them out of Egypt. And yet He chose to lead them through the desert. I always come to the point where we have Balaam that is standing there, and he understands, "I cannot curse the people." And that's the nation of Israel

after the golden calf. It's a nation of Israel that was so disobedient so many times, rebellious and disobedient and unthankful, so many bad things. And that is the nation that Balaam said, "How can I curse that which God did not curse, and how can I rebuke them?" And then it is in the next chapter that he said, for blessed is he who blesses them, and cursed is he who curses. That's it, it settles the deal. It's exactly the same words he promised to Abraham before Israel was born. And it's now after the nation is already traveling through the desert, and it's the same God, and He never changes. Malachi says, I am God I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. When you suggest that the God of the New Testament is different, nicer… I saw a "female pastor" that says that the God of the Old Testament is very, very cruel. I'm like, "Wait a minute, there is a different God in the New Testament? Why would you say the God of the Old Testament? Isn't it the same God?" But that's the thing, in the minds of people, the New Testament requires a new God. Or else, we have to admit that He is the same. And if He's unchanging, then His promises are always true. And that is where irrevocability comes in, basically.

STEVE: Yeah, the God who was there with Balaam is the same God who was with Paul when he wrote Romans. And when he wrote that in Romans 11, that the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable, they will not change. "I gave it to Abraham, I emphasized it with Balaam, I emphasized it with the patriarchs, and it's been the same over and over, it was through the kingdom, it was through the fact that I brought the people back from their deserved exile and re-established them."

AMIR: And it's not only that, remember the same verse he said, concerning the gospel, they're your enemies, but concerning the election, they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. In other

words, he's not even hiding the fact that 2,000 years ago, the Jewish people rejected the gospel. And yet he said, the gifts and the callings of God are irrevocable, they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. "I'm not changing My mind, I'm going to work through them, I'm even going to use some of them to spread the gospel." They are the first church, basically. And so again, as I said, you first have to understand who God is. You first have to understand that His ways are not our ways, His ways are higher than our ways. And by the way, if you want to understand the way God looks at things, read the very latter part of Romans 11. How he basically says, everyone has, in his time... The fact that he was disobedient... You know, some were disobedient and accepted Christ, some were obedient and then became disobedient and rejected Christ. But all were disobedient at some point, so He can get all the glory when He is changing people's hearts. And that is why we have to stop looking at the gospel through the human eyes and looking at through the lens of who God is. And if you think that God is done with Israel, you actually think that God is changing, the things, the promises are revocable. And if they are revocable, it affects you as well, because they cannot be just revocable for one. If they're revocable, they're revocable. And that's the thing that we have to understand. If you set up a rule, it applies to you as well.

STEVE: Right. And that's something you I mean, you emphasize that very much in the book. But what I appreciate, and I know there's some people who say, "Well, Amir, he is a Jew who lives in Israel. So, of course, he's an apologist for the Jews. He's always going to take the Jewish side." But that's not true. If anybody just listened to what you've said in this show thus far, you look at people as they are, and you look at them the way that they're described in Scripture. I mean, this is your source right here. This is your source, and you look at this, and you say, "What does this Book say? It doesn't matter what I may come up with in my mind, when you open the

Book, you look at the words of this Book." And you aren't looking like you're trying to look between the lines and see the secret messages. You aren't saying, "Are there mysteries anywhere else in here?" You are looking for what do the words say, and what those words say is what you are going to base your whole belief system off of. You don't need to change meaning of words. It's literally, What does the Bible say? And what it says, because it came from God, and that is what I believe. And you really emphasize in this book [Gesture: Holding up a copy of *God's Irreplaceable People*] the need for a literal interpretation of Scripture. Why is that so very important when we look at the Bible and we look for what God is saying to us through His Word?

AMIR: Because only through the lens of literal interpretation, you can actually understand the plan of God and the Word of God. And when you do, you understand that not only that God is in charge of Israel's past, but also of Israel's present, and Israel's future. If you don't look at the Bible from a literal perspective, then you're going to have to throw to the garbage parts of the Bible because they don't make sense. Because they're actually contradicting things. But if you look at it from a literal perspective, that's when Bible prophecy comes to place. Because that's when you can see that the prophets didn't only talk about their time, but they also talked about our days and even the near future. And they're describing things that we see today that they could not see then. I do believe that literal interpretation demands Israel of today. I believe that the full Bible demands Israel of today. I believe that the words of Jesus demand the Israel of today. The New Testament Epistles demand Israel of today. And God's future, His prophetic part, demands, also, Israel of today. And that's why I totally believe that the only way you can go with is the literal interpretation.

And Steve, up until 1948, those that allegorized Israel, allegorized everything, they could get away with it because Israel was dispersed; Israel was kind of defeated; the land was dead. And they could say, "You see, everything that was written about Israel, it's just either has been fulfilled or it's just allegorical and symbolic." And then, boom! Out of the blue, can a nation be born at once? Isaiah 66; and then He brought us back, and Ezekiel spoke about the coming back to life of the land and the return of the people and all of that. And you can clearly see that Jesus Himself knew that there will be… God will restore the kingdom to Israel. He didn't rebuke His disciples who asked if it's going to happen and when it's going to happen. He just said, ":That's not for you to know, and that right now, please focus on spreading the gospel." All I'm saying is Jesus knew and talked about the restoration of Israel. He talked about salvation coming from the Jewish people. He talked about the fact that there will come a day when the Jews, some of them, the remnant will have to flee and have to find refuge somewhere because the Antichrist is going to show his ugly face and demand to be worshipped. He talked about all of these things. If Israel is no longer people that God requires, so what about those 144,000? Why do we have exactly 12 tribes described? Why couldn't it be the people of Bavaria, the people of Liechtenstein or some parts of Alsace-Lorraine in France and all that? You see, you can clearly see that. And if that's not enough, why would the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem be still named after the 12 tribes of Israel if Israel means nothing and they're no longer people of God? So I'm just saying that God is not just an immutable God, of course, but He's also a God with a sense of humor because He's saying to all of those anti-Semites, even when Israel will no longer have to be a nation, and there will be no more sun, moon, or stars, and when I'm creating all things new, I will still remind you

of Israel in the names of the gates of the New Jerusalem, because that's how they are dear to Me. And that's it.

And so, I'm very sad when I see what I see, when the ignorance and the shallowness and... And by the way, oftentimes you see that those that are holding those replacement theology and Reformed theologies, you see that there is animosity and hidden anti-Semitism there. You can clearly see they have a problem with the Jewish people, and they just need a few Scriptures to justify it, and that's it.

STEVE: Well, whenever you separate from the words of Scripture, that is an open door for all sorts of deception and other beliefs to come in. I'm going to go a little bit astray here, and I've told you before about our little mini schnauzer, Sadie, she's gone to doggy heaven now, but Sadie was just this wonderful little boisterous dog, and she had a crate, and she loved her little crate. And when we would go somewhere, we would put her in the crate, and she was very comfortable there, because it was like a den for her. And within that crate, she was safe. She knew that she didn't get into any trouble, but if we left that crate open, then she got in all sorts of trouble, because she couldn't control herself. She'd go off and chew a slipper, get in the trash, or do something like that, so the crate was her safe place. And a literal interpretation of Scripture is the believer's safe place, because we know that as long as we go with what does the Word say, we're not going to fall into deception. We're not going to impose our own predispositions into Scripture. So, that's why I love so much that you emphasize the need for that literal interpretation, and that's why you can talk about the new heavens and the new earth with the gates and the names of the tribes, because you know the Bible says that's going to be, so it is going to be. That's not just some pipe dream, that isn't something that means something else;

that is what God says is going to happen, and that's what we someday are going to experience with these eyes, maybe a little different, but with these eyes, we will see the beauty of that new heaven and that new earth. So I feel so comfortable within the restrictions of a literal interpretation because then I know I'm safe in the Word of God.

AMIR: And in the book, we actually even educate people on the roots of the reformed theology and of how people began to run away from literal interpretation. And I think another problem is people in their mind, the love of God for one group comes on the expense of the other. It's either/or; they don't understand that this is a God of both/and. They don't understand that God is much bigger, greater than us, than who we are. And if He chooses to deal with His nation differently and all the way to the end, and then save them, then it's none of your business. In fact, you should celebrate it. In fact, you should say, "Hallelujah! Wow! God! Amazing! Thank you! You are a God of restoration. You are a God that keeps His covenant. You are a God that is not using and then dropping. You are a God that understands that we're not perfect, yet You are perfect. And indeed, when we are faithless, You are faithful because You cannot deny Yourself."

All of these things, everything that God, we hear in the New Testament about the nature of God, comes to materialization in the way He's dealing with Israel, not just in the past, but mostly in the present and in the future. I mean, we know exactly what's going to happen. We know exactly that the coming years will not be easy. We know exactly that there will be a big war and we know exactly that there will be messianic aspirations. And yet, a false messiah is going to enter into the scene, and many are going to fall into that trap. But still, God said, "I will keep [one] third of Israel and I will bring them through the fire, and I'm going to refine them, they will be My people." And that's the very group of people that Paul said, "Then all Israel will

be saved." I mean, it's all there, it's all written. It's all in the Bible, it's all black on white. It's all clearly stated there. And yet, people say that it doesn't mean what He says, or it doesn't say what He means. I mean, since when [is it that] God doesn't mean what He says? I mean, that's the beauty of His Word, the Word is what He wants you to know. So, yeah.

STEVE: Yeah, there's no sleight of hand, no changing of definitions, what God says stands and always will. And that's something, again, you bring out very strongly in this book, and one week from today, or... [AMIR: Yeah.] I think one week from today, it's going to be coming out, and we encourage all of you… here in America, Christmas time is coming up, and it's a great, inexpensive gift that will not only bless people, but will educate people in God's Word, and really in who God is, and even the whole purpose for His creation is all talked about in this one short, easy-to-read book.

AMIR: Exactly, and I want to encourage people not just to get a copy for themselves, get a copy for your pastor, for your elders, for your church leaders, for your Sunday school teachers, for your youth leaders, for your family, for your friends. This is a small but powerful—this is the flagship message basically of our ministry, if you really think about that. And the trilogy that we're going to create eventually will be something that I wish every believer will own and study and understand. That's who God is. And so yeah, I want to encourage people, look, there's only a few days left before the launch week. Help us to get this message to as many people and pre-order it now because those numbers are very important to the big retailers when they decide whether to get them to their big stores, their brick-and-mortar stores on their shelves.

And bottom line, we want this message to come not just to Christians, but for anyone who struggles with who God is and what's the whole point of Israel. And I think that once you

understand *God's Irreplaceable People*, you actually gain much more security and confidence in your own salvation. You understand that's the nature of God.

So yeah, thank you, Steve, for coming alongside me with this and also talk about this book together. And I pray with you that this book will make much fruit for the kingdom and that this book will reach the right people and change many, many hearts.

We live in times that are almost equal to the 1930s in Western Europe and Germany. Jewish people are hunted, Jewish people are persecuted, Jewish people are hated in ways that we've never seen since those days. Nowadays, it's easier for the Israelis to understand how the Holocaust actually was possible. The Israeli ambassador to Washington said that the New York Times blood libels on genocide is actually the way to prepare the genocide of the Jewish people when it will come, because it prepares the hearts of the people. So, we want to get people out of this abyss, out of [these] horrible doctrines of demons and get them on their feet, biblically, spiritually, theologically. And I trust that God will do His work. So thank you, Steve, and thank you, everyone, for watching. Get *God's Irreplaceable People*. Look down below in the lower third, there's a link, there is a QR code. We need your help. One week to go. Thank you, everyone, for watching, and God bless.

For all ways to connect with Behold Israel, including media, updates, videos, and teachings: https://linktr.ee/beholdisrael or the QR code: