



**Amir Tsarfati**

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpYTx0y6GW4>

## **The Elijah Mandate**



**AMIR:** Shalom everyone and welcome to *Authors' Corner*. I'm Amir Tsarfati from Galilee, from CONNECT here in the Jezreel Valley. And with me as always, Steve Yohn and we are going to talk today about our upcoming book, *The Elijah*

*Mandate* that will come out next week and it's an amazing book. And I guess, Steve, I'll let you start with a prayer and then we can talk about this very interesting book that I don't think I ever got a chance to write anything like that before because we normally either write books that are about Bible prophecy in general, about Israel in general, about fiction of Nir Tavor, or we are actually teaching an entire book of the Bible, just as we did with Revelation, Daniel, and Ezekiel. This one is very different. We're actually talking about a *person* in the Bible. So, Steve, if you can, do us the honor and let's start with a prayer and then the floor is yours.

**STEVE:** Great. Well, Lord, we are so excited about Your leading, Your guidance. I remember back to the initial phone call from Amir, when he has this idea of this book and now to see it come to fruition where it's ready to be released, I just thank You, Lord, for Your ideas, for Your creativity, for Your perfect plan. I thank You for Tolik Piflaks and the input that he had in this book, and the wisdom, the creativity that You've given to him to make this a unique book within the Behold Israel library. So, Lord, we give this time into Your hands, and we just ask that You bless our time together. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

And Amir, this is a book that talks not just about a person, but it also talks about a specific time. And that's what makes this book so special because we have Elijah who was a unique person within Scripture because there is no book named after him. He's a prophet that never talks about end times. He just prophesies about the world around him and we see more of his heart than we see of any other prophet. But he's also set in a time that is so much like ours, that it's just crazy. And I know that for writing this book, you connected with Tolik Piflaks, and that's a name that you have been familiar with for a while. And I met Tolik through this book, and what a fantastic guy, what a creative guy. Can you tell us a little bit about him, just to set the groundwork so people know who is this other name that's on the cover with you?

**AMIR:** Yeah, so Tolik is a son of new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. He's an Israeli believer, Jewish believer in the Messiah, messianic Jew, we call it here in Israel. He lives in central Israel, he's married, he's got kids. And Tolik is one of the most talented scriptwriters and also skit writers. And actually, Tolik worked for the top television shows in Israel as a writer. I'm not even talking about Christian shows. I'm talking about secular, almost, if I must say the Israeli version for Saturday Night Live. That's the peak of his career in the world.

But Tolik, as of late, got more and more involved with ministries and Christian content, mostly around current events, news; and he works actually currently with quite a few people that are reporting from Israel. He helps writing, because Tolik brings his background also as an Israeli, as a believer, and so his understanding of things is obviously much better than someone from abroad that is reporting about what's going on here.

Now, Tolik and I, believe it or not, we've known each other for quite a long time, but we haven't met [in person] until before this book. We've met once here at CONNECT in my office. And we talked forever before on the phone, but then as we met here, it was phenomenal. And he's

one of the very few people that I see things, that we see the same things the same way. Look, I am a very strange person in the eyes of many people.

**STEVE:** You said it, not me, but you said...

**AMIR:** I know, yes, I say it. People here in Israel may be also abroad, but here in Israel among the believers and non-believers, they don't really know how to deal with me. On one hand, there's hundreds of thousands that are watching and following, and they're non-believers, tens of thousands are actually Israelis. Some of them are the top Israeli political commentators and TV guys and stuff like that. They just follow the content. But they don't know how to understand who is this guy. I mean, one hand, he is advocating for Israel. He's a Zionist, he loves Israel. He loves the Bible. He's a Jewish person. He's not ashamed of his background. But on the other hand, there's something different about him when it comes to his belief, because he is more "catering" to the non-Jewish audience and he shares more faith with them than with an Orthodox, an average Orthodox Jew here. So if you really think about it, in the eyes of the non-believers, I'm a little strange. But in the eyes of the believers in the land, I'm also strange. And the reason is because I'm a pre-tribulation Rapture believer. I believe with all of my heart that Israel will go through the Ezekiel War, that Israel will be here for the tribulation that will lead them to their salvation. But also tragically, two-thirds of Israel will perish during that time. And a lot of Messianic Jews, they don't agree with that. Most don't agree with that. Think about that. Most congregations in Israel don't teach Bible prophecy, don't teach about a rapture, don't teach about the Ezekiel War, don't teach about the tribulation and all of that. So, to find someone that is a fellow-believer in the land of Israel who is like-minded, it's not an easy task. And Tolik is one of those and we are both conservatives also when it comes to the political aspect of what's going on in Israel. We can clearly see how the liberal left is using the deep state apparatus to push its agenda. I can see it, Tolik can

see it. And in fact, that's what we talked about. Believe it or not, I don't know if you know that, Steve, but originally we thought to name this book *The Deep State*—or we talked about the two words “deep state” as part of the title of the book. So we shared that, we talked about that, and Tolik and I both believe that there is no better person that we can write about that can actually expose to the believers today the satanic plot that has already been in motion then, including the deep state. So I mean, who would imagine that almost everything we go through today, the people in the time of Elijah went through it. And who would imagine that there's so much we today can learn how to handle ourselves from a 2,800-year-old prophet.

**STEVE:** As Solomon said, there's nothing new under the sun. What we are experiencing today has been done in the past. And I think the reason why, one of the reasons your collaboration works so well is that for so long you have focused on the world, and the news, and what's taking place, and you've run it through the lens of Scripture. So you've had that secular mindset, but then you take it and bring it back to Scripture. Where Tolik has lived in that world, writing the scripts, working on those programs. So you both understand the culture extremely well. And you also see, as you said, that deep state. I remember us talking about that, that whole deep state context and said, those two words may have a little bit too much baggage with them. But essentially, that's what we're talking about. We're talking about the power behind what's taking place in our culture. And can you tell us a little bit about that. What is, as you look at our world today, and you look at the world of Ahab and Jezebel, and the surroundings of Israel at that time when Elijah lived, do you see, what comparisons do you see between today and then as far as culture is concerned?

**AMIR:** Well, I mean, obviously today holding on to the Word of God and the principles of God, and living a godly life is an odd thing. Because the world is teaching you that compromising and allowing other things and branding them as compassion, branding them as progression, branding

them as a liberal mindset; and then by doing so, taking you as the one that is merciless, the one that is dark-spirited, you're from the Dark Ages, and you have not progressed, you don't understand how the world today is and all of that. They try to tell us that things are actually different and that things are actually better, and if we only move along, and stay quiet, and not say a word, everything will be good. If there is one thing the enemy hates, is that the people of God open their mouth and say, "No, enough is enough."

And I think that what used to be odd, strange, and not acceptable 20, 30, 40 years ago is now the norm. And what used to be acceptable, reputable, honorable 30, 40 years ago, today is considered backwards, dark, and stupid by this way of thinking. And those type of people with a globalist mindset, they try to appear very much detached from spiritual affiliation. But actually, it is very spiritual, it's just the wrong spirit. And they are affiliated with satanic and diabolic agenda. And they have installed their people in key positions to make sure that it will retain power and always stop any effort to bring things back to where they should be.

**STEVE:** And you look at New York City, it's like a miniature Israel of that time. You look who's in power; you have that secular mindset; you have that... I was going to say counter-cultural, but it's really the predominant cultural mindset from the top down. So those who stand for truth, they're put out, they're out of place, they're called evil. And that's what that liberal mindset does, it calls that, which is good, they call bad, and that which is bad, they call it good, because it's all about feelings. It's "how I feel" and they base policy on feelings, and that's why New York City is collapsing. And that's the same thing we saw in Israel. That's why Israel collapsed because Ahab and Jezebel said what was bad is good, and what is good is bad.

**AMIR:** And if they cannot attack your message, they'll attack the messenger.

**STEVE:** Exactly.

**AMIR:** And that's what happened to Elijah, and that's what happens nowadays also, and we can clearly see that. And to call him when the nation is collapsing, when there's no rain, when there's famine, when there is so much brokenness in the nation, and to call Elijah the "troubler of Israel." Think about that. And that tells you a lot and that's exactly how Christians are being labeled nowadays around the world. They are the "troublemaking people". And so nothing is new under the sun, as you alluded to with what Solomon said. But again, I think that one of the reasons we wanted to write the book is to give hope to people that it's the same God who saw the same things, and provided the same solution, and gave the same hope. And He will never, ever leave you alone. There will always be thousands of others that did not bow down to the Baal. So you don't need to feel alone, you don't need to fight alone, and you always need to remember that there is a... I call it... it's an honor and a duty to stand up and do the right thing. Say the right thing and do the right thing. As the Bible tells us that we should never grow weary in doing good. And even if we don't see immediately any reward at the immediate time but we must remember: This is the good fight, but it's a fight, it's a race, it's a run, and it is a faith that we have to keep. So it's important that we encourage one another in these days. And we learn from the way God handled Himself in the same situation 2,800 years ago.

**STEVE:** Yeah. One of the things I appreciate that you brought out was, who I consider one of the hidden heroes in this story, and that's Obadiah. Because Obadiah was in a really, a terrible situation. He was an advisor to the king and to the queen. He was up there in the house of royalty, but God put him in that place so that he could help others, so he could hide the prophets. Now, if he was there and bucking the system and saying, "Ahab, you're a sinner. Jezebel, you are whatever you are," then he would have been out of there and he would have been no good to anyone. So he, because of God putting him in that position, he shut his mouth and did the Lord's work, working

to influence in different ways. And I think so often people in the church feel that... when they are in places where they feel like, “I should be saying something, but if I do, I lose my influence.” I’ve told you before about my daughter who teaches fifth grade. She is in a situation, she’s in a secular school, she could very easily move to a Christian school where she could proclaim her faith all she wants, and teach her kids, and she would love to be able to do that, but she knows God has put her in this place with these kids where she can’t teach the Word the way she wants, she can’t even bring up her faith, but she can influence those children. She can impact them; she can show them God’s love, and use the venue that God has given her to express her gifts within that context. And what I love about this book is that throughout, you bring out the opportunities that everybody has to serve. God has a place, a position, a venue, a gifting for every person, and all He’s looking for is someone like Elijah, who even though he’s discouraged, even though he says, “I’m the only one left,” God says, “No. First of all, you’re not the only one left. Second of all, I’m with you. And third, I’ve gifted you and I’ve put you where you’re at. All I want you to do is say yes. Just say yes. Just do what I ask you to do.”

**AMIR:** Exactly, and that’s the thing. God, in His infinite wisdom, always place certain people in certain positions to fulfill His plan. And you could also... I’ve been teaching Daniel for the past few years, and you think about how Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar with such reverence, honoring him. “Oh, the King, may you live forever,” and all of those things. And you’re like, why would a believer say that to such a... But Daniel understood that this is how you do things, “I have been installed in a special position where I need to be a testimony, not only to the believers, but also to the non-believers.” And yes, his three friends stood up for their faith when it comes to not bowing down to that image. But if you remember, throughout the whole time, whether it was the king, whether it was his grandson, or whether it was the new king of a new empire, Daniel had a

reputation, and he could have been executed instantly if he only did things his way. But he listened to God, and it was amazing. And I'm thinking about how oftentimes we're being expected to do things, but God is actually saying, "No, do it this way." Think about David in the cave of Ein Gedi, and think about how his men expected him to kill Saul. I mean, hello, the guy is trying to kill you for the last few months or years. I mean, this is... that's it. "God gave him into your hands." They used their "Christian-ese". I mean, there you go. And David knew it may not be popular; it may not be something you would understand or appreciate, but I have a reverence to the king, and I have honor. I honor, respect him. He is still "God's anointed one," he said, which means God chose him, God placed him. And so I'm thinking about Obadiah, and Obadiah probably understands I'm here for a reason. Obviously, God is the one who allowed Ahab to be here. How can I be used in this position? And he did, look at the things that he did. I mean, he did a lot of things, and you can read about them.

**STEVE:** And we never see him compromise his beliefs, but he has to work in the parameters he has. You think examples you gave, I also think of Esther. Esther, she had to reverence the king, even Naaman. Naaman, after he had this revelation experience, he still said, "If I'm going to stay in my position, there're times I'm going to have to kneel with the king here. Will you forgive your servant for having to kneel when my, the king kneels to his god?" And did Elisha say, "No, you cannot do that. No, God will..."? Probably you know. He just said, "Okay." Because he knew that God was now placing Naaman in a position where he could have influence in that empire. So, it's Obadiah, again, Elijah, fantastic, Elisha, wonderful. Good old Obadiah. I mean, that had to be a difficult life living in that palace with Ahab and, oh my goodness, Jezebel, of all people.

**AMIR:** Yeah, unbelievable. I think.... Go ahead.

**STEVE:** Well, I was just going to say, one of the reasons why we talk so much about pre-orders, the book is releasing a week from today. And I'm so excited that finally it's going to be out. And one of the reasons we emphasize pre-order so much is because we wanted to get on the shelves of these stores. So that people, as they're walking through, will see those, not just the believers, because there are many believers who will see this on ChristianBook or who will be looking for a Christian book. But to have this on the shelves of Walmart and Hobby Lobby, that's where unbelievers can see a book like this. And I know you feel this is a *very* important book for unbelievers to get in their hands also. Why is that? What would this book say to unbelievers?

**AMIR:** Well, and again, I believe that unbelievers are blinded by the spirit of this world. And I believe that they may see the things, but they cannot connect the dots. And I think that this book will help people connect the dots. This book will help people connect the dots, not only between the spiritual realm and the physical that they see, but also between what happened 2,800 years ago and what happens today. And just to show, it's the same thing. And God has a strong opinion about that. And God had... let's look at how God handled it then.

And I honestly... there's a lot of people who don't understand why is it that you guys promote your books so much? First of all, what do you want me to promote? Diapers? What do you want me to promote? Chocolates? [STEVE: Laughter] With all the respect, the teaching ministry is a ministry that wants people to study the Word of God. And the bottom line is we want people to get saved. The bottom line is we want to snatch people from hell. We want to populate heaven with as many people as possible. And that's what we do. That's who we are. And we will do it by bringing people to Israel, by traveling all the way to the ends of the earth to teach people there, even after a 20-hours flight to have protesters outside demonstrating and cussing me and all of that. I don't care. We do that by having a studio where we can broadcast to the whole world.

And we also do that by writing books. People still read books. People are heavily influenced by books. People find refuge in reading books. This is their time of getting away from social media, getting away from television. We try to find creative ways to reach people. And that's how we came up with the fiction series of Nir Tavor. Because we thought: what about those that don't like to go to a Christian bookstore, and yet they are interested in current events, they would love to connect the dots with the Bible? And so we created that.

So we are exploring every possible way to reach the lost and I am guilty of that. I am guilty of promoting that. And I will forever promote it. That's what God, I believe God gave us these platforms to reach out to people. And if you don't mind watching commercials and television for Corn Flakes and chocolate, and for so many other stupid things, and you have a problem with a book that is supposed to teach people the Bible and lead them to the Lord, then something is wrong with you. I think we ask people to join us in that battle. And instead of criticizing, help us! If you don't want to purchase it, fine, but let someone else do it and help and promote it and forward it to someone.

We live in the last days. These are the last seconds of the last hour of the last day. And I believe with all of my heart that more than ever before, we need to stay together and do as much as we can to promote God's Word. So that's why that's what this book is all about. And I'm sure people can see down below now in the lower third how they can now in the last week before the launch, they can still order it, order as many as you can, give it as a gift to people for, I don't know, for Easter, Christmas, New Year, maybe... Thanksgiving. Help us because the higher the number of pre-sale is, the greater is the chance for those books to be in the big, secular stores in their brick-and-mortar stores on their shelves and be exposed to the people of this world. That's it.

**STEVE:** Really, ultimately, this is a book of hope. It's hope for, as you see God in the life of Elijah, as you see Him lifting up Elijah at his lowest point, as you see Him strengthening him, as you see Him using him, and again, it's just a reminder: God wants to use you. He just is waiting for you to say yes. And this book will reinforce this in a great way. And I'm so glad that you've written this book and that you're getting into the hands of people. It's special. The way it's even the way it's written with a story, you'll know more about Elijah than you know about any other prophet. It's a fun read. So I think our time is about up, Amir. Again, I'm excited about what God has planned with this. And I appreciate you taking time with me. And I appreciate you allowing me to spend this time with you. And we'll just see what God does with *The Elijah Mandate* in the weeks ahead as He puts them in the hands of people and hopefully changes lives.

**AMIR:** Yes, amen. And that's our prayer. So I want to thank everyone who was watching. If you don't want to buy it, at least pray for this book to be a very successful one because the success of a book like that is the success of the Word of God going out as well. And that's ultimately all that we want. So pre-order it if you can, tell others about it if you can, and pray that God will use it to draw as many to Himself as a result of this one. Thank you, Steve. Thank you, everyone, for watching. God bless you and Shalom from Galilee.

\* Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

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