



Amir Tsarfati

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Bible Prophecy: Israel, the Rapture, & Ezekiel 38



AMIR: Shalom and good evening from CONNECT in the Jezreel Valley here in Galilee, Israel. I'm Amir Tsarfati and welcome to one more *Q&A* with Pastor Barry Stagner, Mike Golay and myself. Gentlemen, Shalom and good evening from Israel, good morning to you in California and

Minnesota. Shalom.

MIKE: Shalom.

BARRY: Shalom. Good to see you, Amir.

AMIR: Good to see you guys. Barry, I haven't seen you for about a week, about so. exactly. And Pastor Mike, thank you and good to see you also. Pastor Barry, just by way of clarification, we promised the people of the city of Perth in Australia that we will have a special *Q&A* broadcast answering their questions and you and I will do that next week. Next Monday will be the *Q&A* that we will not open it to people, live, but we will rather answer the questions that were submitted to us by the people who attended the conference in Perth, Australia. But nevertheless, this time it's open, it's live, go ahead and send us your questions. Pastor Mike, take the lead from here. But can you do that first by opening with the prayer?

MIKE: Yeah, absolutely. Lord, we thank You for all the viewers, whether live or after the fact. And we pray that You will equip us, inspire us, and allow us to have clarity as we move forward in these last days. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Amen, folks. Here's how it works. If you're brand new to this, there's chat room open and put your first name—and we don't need your last name or your full name—but your first name, and the question about Bible, Bible prophecy, and current events, both in the United States and especially in the Middle East. We already have several questions. First one is for you, Pastor Barry. Laura is asking—we'll put her actual question up there and we'll do that with all of them. So, it's:

“Will only one-third of the Jewish population turn to Christ at the end of the Tribulation? Is that all that’s left of the Jews come the end of the Tribulation, and all of them will believe?” What’s the breakdown of percentages? It seems like a third is not very much.

BARRY: Well, of the 15.8 million in the world, that is true. That’s not much and we need to be doing all that we can in order to make sure that as many Jews as possible actually go into the rapture of the church rather than into the Tribulation. But, yeah, she’s exactly right, Mike. One-third of the Jews, according to Zechariah, are going to look upon the One whom they pierced and mourn for Him as one mourns for an only Son. And whether or not this number includes 144,000 is, I don’t know, kind of up in the air, I guess. But, yeah, that’s the sad reality that two-thirds are going to most likely fall for the lie of the Antichrist and follow him. And yet two-thirds will be “cut off,” as Zachariah says, in Hebrew-ism for “killed,” and one-third will come into the millennial reign of Christ as believers. So, yeah, that’s exactly an accurate statement.

MIKE: Yeah, Pastor Barry, what about the Gentiles? Or Amir, yeah, go ahead and then...

AMIR: A lot of people are alarmed when they hear us talk about that and they think, “Whoa, why are you saying that? This is so wrong. This is so...” So instead of us saying that, why don’t we just read the Scriptures? And it says, **(Zechariah 13:8-9)** **“⁸ And it shall come to pass in all the land, ’ says the LORD, ‘That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: ⁹ I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, “This is My people”; and each one will say, “The LORD is my God.””**” And that, of course, this whole description from chapters 12, 13, and 14 speak of the end of the Tribulation, of course, and right there as Jesus physically returns and His feet are standing on Mount Olives. Again, this is not New Testament, this is Old Testament. This is what the Jewish people themselves are reading in synagogues. That’s what they believe in. That’s the part of the Bible that they accept. That’s the part of the Bible that is theirs. And yet right there, Mike, it talks about that. And now it says, “in the land”, in the land... So either all the Jews by then will live in the land, okay? Or all the Jews in the land are the ones that we’re talking about. I mean, two-thirds in the land and one-third in the land. You understand what I’m saying?

MIKE: Yeah, so how about the Gentiles? I mean, we have a massive catastrophic... This is what when people say, natural disasters on a biblical proportion, this is that. So...

AMIR: ...Yeah, well, again, the Tribulation gives us two phases of horrific disasters that will kill at one point [one-] third. and another one, [one-] half of the population of planet Earth. Think about that. So there's a very good chance...

MIKE: ... Well, I guess they will get their population reduction they've been concerned about for a while, don't they? It's ironic.

AMIR: But all I'm saying is that that could very much so reflect on the Jewish people as well. And it's not like God is there to kill the Jews. No, it's part of the wrath that we're going to see falling on the non-believers. I believe that...

MIKE: ... The non-believers...

AMIR: ... it will touch the nation of Israel as well. And again, we're not trying to make up stories, we're not trying to scare people, we're not trying to put... What we're trying to do is to teach what the Bible says. And if the Bible has been accurate of all the things that took place and are taking place right now, why shouldn't we trust that the Bible will be 100% accurate obviously, with the future events. So Pastor Barry and I, whenever we teach that, some eyebrows are raised and people are like, "That's too cruel. That's too gruesome. That's too this. That's too that." But guys, well, if you think that's too cruel, then don't read the Revelation because Zechariah is just a diluted version of what's going to happen for the whole world. [BARRY: That's right. That's right.] Exactly, exactly.

MIKE: Pastor Barry, talk about the cruelty. Amir just mapped out there's a lot of people that think God is cruel. What would you say to that proposition, given the facts of the book of Revelation, taken at face value? It looks horrible. It's the wrath of God. I mean, how do you...

BARRY: ... Yeah, again, looking at the nation of Israel, it is because of God's mercy that Jacob is not consumed. God is a merciful God. He's very clearly displayed kindness throughout the course of human history. I mean, I think if you look back all the way to the creation narrative, you've got this man created from dust who defies a pure and holy and righteous and all-powerful God. And the first thing that God does in response to sin is to cover it. And there's an animal

sacrifice that is offered. God has shown just incredible patience with mankind. And, as many turn from Him, despise Him, mock Him, belittle Him, it's more amazing to me of His kindness than I think of His wrath. He has just been so *overly* patient with it; I believe even this generation that just has turned their back on Him and mocks and disparages His great name. And God in His kindness has allowed people to do their own thing. And this has been true all the way back, as I said, at creation. What Adam did... I've always found that interesting, Mike, that the first thing that happens after the fall is, God tells Satan that He's going to send One to crush his head. I mean, this is just the mercy of God and the kindness and the goodness of God. And, He knew all these things before He created the world and through Jesus all things were created and without Him, there was nothing that was made. And the knowledge of the fallen man and the foreknowledge of the mercy and goodness of God was part of the plan all along. I think you can have a tough sale saying that God is unfair with all the patience He has displayed.

MIKE: Yeah, yeah, well-framed, gentlemen, well-framed. Amir, Valerie is asking this related to this previous question—thanks, Valerie: “Following the Tribulation, will any Gentiles who enter the kingdom be required to be part of the annual visits for the Jewish holidays to Jerusalem, for the offering of sacrifices, etc.?” Why do... What's that all about?

AMIR: Okay, so she's definitely referring to the same book, Zechariah and this time is the 14th chapter, the Bible says in verse 16, **“¹⁶ And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem...”** which is the last battle of the end of the Tribulation, **“¹⁶ ...shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”** But then it goes beyond that and it says, **“¹⁷ And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.” (Zechariah 14:16-17)** So, there you go. I mean, Valerie, that's your answer. The answer is this: at the very end, obviously, those who were faithful among the nations, from all the nations, will survive, and will also show their worship of the King of kings and Lord of lords by coming to Jerusalem, not to visit there on all the Jewish festivals. Only one is actually required. And if you ask me why, and it's because I believe that's the actual fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles. We always talk about the feasts in terms of shadow and substance, in terms of having the feasts that they were prescribed and how they were fulfilled in

the Messiah. Well, the first four were fulfilled in the first century when Yeshua was here and that was His sinless life, His atoning death, His resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. All four of them were fulfilled. We're now in that gap. And in that gap, we are waiting for our rapture, which is not, I believe, is not part of the fulfillment of the festivals of Israel because the festivals of Israel are fulfilled in the way that God is taking care of Israel, and God is referring to Israel. And I do believe that when Yeshua will return, that's the Feast of Trumpets, and then Israel will repent on the Day of Atonement. And I believe that then the millennial kingdom will start and it will last for a thousand years because the Feast of Tabernacles is the longest and the happiest of all the festivals of Israel. And my point is that we are now in the gap. The church will not even be here to see, we'll be out of here to feel or go through the Tribulation. But we will be part of the fulfillment of the latter two because we're coming back with Him, and Israel will look at Him whom they pierced, and then we will watch them repent. And we will enter, obviously, to reign in the rule with Him. We will reign and rule with Him; remember that. So this is very, very beautiful, very interesting.

I was just talking today with someone about the future of Israel. And if you remember in Acts 1, Jesus stayed after His resurrection, we talk about 40 days before His ascension. He [Jesus] talked about the fact that once He goes, the Holy Spirit will come. And then they asked Him, "Will the kingdom be restored to Israel at that time?" And He didn't say no. He didn't say, "No, Israel is gone. Israel is replaced. Israel is cursed. Israel is no longer." He actually said, "It is not for you to know the times and the seasons." In other words, Jesus is not talking about whether it will happen; He just says, "It's not what you are now here for, and it's not for you to know." And the fulfillment of God's promise for Israel, as prescribed even in the festivals, it's a for sure thing. And the Feast of Tabernacles will be fulfilled in its *full* sense in the millennial kingdom. And that is why I believe that's the only festival that all the nations will be required to come to Jerusalem and celebrate, even after Yeshua is here to reign and rule. So it's very beautiful. It's very beautiful. Go ahead, Pastor Barry.

MIKE: Yeah, well, Pastor Barry, unless you wanted to add to that, I've got one coming at you from Kay. You ready?

BARRY: Well, no, the only thing I would say is that in answer to the question, Egypt is used as the example. And clearly, Egypt is not the Jews. So, yeah, definitely. Everybody is going to be required.

MIKE: Yeah, Kay—By the way, I think all of us are going to be celebrating a visual, habitual reminder of the Feast of Tabernacles, which is the direct fulfillment of the era that we're living in, which I think is genius and exciting, and it's even unfathomable. I can't wait for that.

So here's a total change of topic, ladies and gentlemen. Kay is asking, and I'm going to throw this one at you, Pastor Barry, "Why is President Trump telling Israel to stop pursuing Hamas in Gaza?" And maybe I'll rephrase this because I think it's broader than that: "Why does President Trump advise Israel on anything? What is our business as the United States telling them what to do, what not to do, how to do it, how not to do it?" What's your opinion on that as an American?

BARRY: Yeah, Mike, I think that's a great question because that's something that causes me to scratch my head, as well, frequently. Like, what business is it of ours? Of course, we're to support of Israel, but where did we all of a sudden get this idea that we can tell other sovereign nations how to handle their business when they're attacked? But again, we live in the age where money talks, and support financially is used as a tool, it's weaponized against many of the countries that the US has a relationship with. But, I think Trump, he's kind of a dichotomy of thinking in that, he recognizes that Israel is pivotal in the Middle East. But I don't think that he sees, and the Bible says quite clearly, the natural man cannot understand the things of God because they're spiritual. And so he does not have the discernment factor in these things.

But I would also say, in light of much of what we have watched down through these past couple of years, Trump, he knows how to close the deal, so to speak. He knows how to negotiate. He doesn't always tell the truth. He kind of gives some misdirects at times. So, I think we have to be careful about taking what the media says as accurate and recognize that, he and Netanyahu obviously have some conversations behind closed doors, even if it's over the phone. It's private conversations, and I think both have worked together on giving misdirects to the media. Because one, we live in an age where, we've had "medianites," as Amir calls them, give away US servicemen's position in previous battles because they want to report the story. So I think he

recognizes that this fake-news era that we live in, you have to be careful with them; you have to kind of feed the masses what you want them to hear. And the masses want to hear the president say, “Well, we need to pull back,” or “You need to pull back in Gaza.” But I think the behind-the-scenes conversation very, very possibly can be quite different than what is being reported by the news.

MIKE: Yeah, Amir, how do you see it?

AMIR: Well, President Trump is like the man in the town square that is throwing breadcrumbs to all the pigeons. [Laughter] And if you really think about it, he’s always throwing some breadcrumbs to everyone, to Erdogan, and to Hamas and as of a few hours ago, to North Korea. And he always gives them something to hold on to just because he knows how to play them. And I think that...

MIKE: ... He knows how to play them.

AMIR: Yeah, I think that he knows that he can get much more... Somebody once told me that honey attracts much more than anything else, I mean, if you want to get a fly or something. And I think that when he needs... he’s dropping some bombs on you. By the way, he just said that if Oman,—Oman is an ally of America—will stand in his way to deal with Iran, he will bomb Oman. [Laughter] He just basically threatened to *bomb* an ally. And then he was rebuking South Korea for not helping him with Iran, so he’s now cutting down on all the exercises with the South Koreans. He actually even gave some compliments to North Korea in this whole thing. And now he’s telling Netanyahu, “Stop attacking Hamas. They already agreed to disarm.” Really? [All: Laughter] They agreed to disarm? “Yeah, yeah, we believe them. Yeah, we so believe them.” And by the way, ask any Hamas leader he’ll tell you that they will never disarm. It’s just so easy to dispute that. But again, he has to say these things. He has to pay that lip service in order to get them to get to the point where he hit them on their head.

MIKE: So you’re saying it’s a game of manipulation and control.

AMIR: That’s the only way. I think it’s the only way we can see it because it doesn’t make sense. It goes against his own interest if it’s not so. So after all the things that he did, it’s obvious that he knows who the villain is in this whole story of Gaza and Israel, and Hamas and Israel. And the last thing I would say, he has to show some success somewhere. I mean, it’s not going that well with

Iran at the moment. And if he wants to proceed and move forward with Gaza, especially if he wants to add more countries to the Abraham Accords that are trying to pay their lip service to their people as if they're taking care of the interests of the Palestinian people, all he needs to do is to somehow say something like that and everybody's happy. And if Hamas is praising Trump for what he just wrote, you know exactly that the trick works!

MIKE: Yeah.

BARRY: Absolutely.

MIKE: It does, yeah.

AMIR: Yeah, and so I mean, that's the only way I can see those things.

BARRY: The saying is "You can attract more flies with honey than vinegar."

AMIR: There you go. That's what I meant. Yeah. The only thing is, for us Israelis, when we read that, that honey smells like vinegar to us. But I will tell you, and that's the only thing that scares me, when you use that type of mode of operation too often, most people don't believe you anymore. No one takes you seriously. So...

MIKE: ... Yeah, that's the blowback.

AMIR: Yeah, if you use it too many times and at the end of the day, no one cares what you say. I mean, that's it. So I mean, I hope it's not the case, but I may be wrong.

MIKE: Yeah, wow. It's definitely entertaining. I will give you that. And that moves us to the next question. I'm going to throw this one at you again, Barry. This is from Unknown. Feel free to put your name, but this is a good question, so I want to throw it up there anyway. "Do natural disasters in America have any connection to government-made decisions that are detrimental to Israel?" The reason I chose this question is because there have been people that have written books about the United States' administration, the ones that support Israel, and he tried to document this, one particular book in mind, that the country is blessed, the ones that don't support Israel tend to have to play whack-a-mole with natural disasters. Very controversial subject. Is there a connection or is this just fanciful thinking and conspiracy theories? What are your thoughts?

BARRY: Yeah, Mike, I think this is a great question, and it's a good opportunity to maybe clear up some of the misperceptions about some of the things that have been claimed in the past, as you mentioned by those who have written books and others. And the reality is, one of the things I've

always found to be curious about those who try and tie some decision made by a government official, a president, or someone else with a natural disaster, is God has better aim than what they claim He has done. For me, I think when we look at what happens at the end of the Tribulation, what happens in Zechariah 12 to 14, God is dealing with the nations according to what they have done. He's going to fight as He fights in the day of battle against all those who came up against Jerusalem. It's like Sodom and Gomorrah, He didn't attack Egypt to punish Sodom and Gomorrah. He hit the city that was specific to the things that made their way up to heaven, that He was hearing of the cry of their abominations and their sinful behavior. So, for me, it doesn't make any sense. It's inconsistent with Scripture for one area or one person to do something, or for Washington to make a decision, and for California to bear their consequences and that doesn't float. God doesn't operate like that. If somebody in Washington makes a decision, then God is going to—if this is how He is operating right now, and by the way, we are not in a season of God's wrath—then God is going to respond to that individual and to that location. He's not going to punish us. There's only one nation that stands collectively, ethnically, before God, and that's the nation of Israel. It doesn't make any sense for us to say, He's watched somebody do or say something that impacted Israel on one end of the country, and then God strikes the other end of the country, people who had nothing to do with that decision, it's inconsistent with the nature of God. It just doesn't float.

MIKE: Yeah, Amir, any thoughts on that?

AMIR: Yeah, I have two things that I want to add to it. One, it's funny that those natural disasters always happen in their season. In other words, the location and the season of hurricanes is where hurricanes hit. And so it's one thing if it was somewhere else out of season to maybe think that God could have done that. So that's one thing. But the second thing is this, and it's very important that everybody pays attention. This is very dangerous to tell people that unless you do everything that is for the benefit of Israel, you're going to have an earthquake that will kill so many innocent people. Think about that. Think about that. Is that why people should admire and love and, not admire, but love and support Israel because they are afraid that God is going to strike them? No, that's not why. Yeah, this is so not God. I mean, so it's always been my fear that when people make that connection, Israel now is becoming a thing that they associate with disasters and calamities rather than blessing. And so all I'm saying is that the time will come when God will judge nations

that did do something to Israel. But that is going to happen upon the return of the Messiah when all the nations will come to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And that is described in Joel chapter 3, and that is described in Matthew 25. So we know that it's going to happen. So, it's not like God is just like giving us some reminders now. It's going to happen. And by the way, why is it that everybody is always talking about America? How many horrific decisions were made by the EU? How many terrible decisions were made by other nations?

MIKE: You've got to apply that rhetoric to other everywhere else if that's the case.

AMIR: Exactly. So according to that, if the Syrian government is hosting Iranians or Hezbollah or ISIS that want to destroy Israel, there should be a horrific earthquake right now in Syria to destroy everything. So, I'm saying it can't be that everything that happened to America will always be associated to Israel. It's very dangerous and may even lead to the wrong perception of what Israel is all about. And so that's why I would be very careful with that.

MIKE: Yeah, thanks guys for addressing that.

BARRY: Mike, Mike, let me throw something else in here real quick. I think what we're seeing and the reason we've had ten 7.0 or greater earthquakes already this year that's unprecedented, that's amazing to consider, but this is more in line with Matthew 24:3–8 than any governmental decision made here in the States about the nation of Israel. These quakes have happened all over the world. And the reality is, Jesus said these things would increase in frequency and intensity the closer we get to His coming. This is the question that the four disciples asked Him: "What will be the signs of Your coming in the end of the age?" And He said there'll be a commencement of birth pangs where naturally recurring events are going to increase all over the world. And that's why we're seeing what we're seeing because it's late in church history, and there's about to be a transition that takes place where things shift back to the nation of Israel and God fulfills the 70th week of Daniel. So, that's why we're seeing the things we're seeing, not because of political decisions regarding Israel made by Washington.

MIKE: Yeah. All right. Thanks, guys. Kristy, this one's for you, Amir. "Does prophecy in any way allude to the Strait of Hormuz?" A lot of talk about that. Can you set the record straight on where the Strait of Hormuz is in Bible prophecy, if at all?

AMIR: No, I don't think that the current conflict is necessarily conflict mentioned in Scriptures. In general, we have to remember that Bible prophecy has nothing to say about nations and their conflicts within each other, as much as it has to say about nations and their relations to Israel. And that's an important thing. Now, the Lord, and especially in the book of Daniel, is talking about conflicts between kings and things like that. But you have to remember even that affected the nation of Israel and even that was within the framework of how the times of the Gentiles will take place and continue. I believe with all of my heart that the current situation is somehow a preparation for the one conflict that is written in Scriptures. I believe that we're watching now the preparation of the world for the Ezekiel War, which is scriptural, which is being talked about in the Bible. And you know, World War I is not mentioned, but a portion of the consequences of World War II are mentioned. I mean, the fact that God is taking the Jewish people from the graveyard of Europe and brings them back to their land obviously is something that has to do with what happened to them in Europe during that time. So, and again, He's not talking about the war. He's not talking about Nazi Germany and the ally forces and all of that. He's not talking about Pearl Harbor and Japan. He's talking about how He's using that conflict to bring His people back to their land. And I do believe that what we're seeing now is twofold: One, Israel has gained or regained its deterrence. Pay attention. Who is the only one that Iran is not attacking right now? That's Israel, of course. Israel is also gaining a short period of safety and security and prosperity following what we see now. And by the way, the Israeli economy is blooming; unemployment is on the floor; our export is through the roof; our stock market is gaining. People don't understand this is something that a lot of it has to do with the war. But the important thing that I also think we see is the fact that Iran will understand that it cannot fight Israel by itself, and it will have to join a broader coalition that will then come against Israel. And in light of what we see, right now in the last three years, we see how Turkey has become an enemy of Israel, how Iran is no longer causing existential threats to Israel, and we clearly see how Russia is not defeated and eventually is just waiting around the corner for something to happen to America, whether outside attack or whether implosion from inside, or whether a new form of government of isolationist that will not want to deal with any international conflict, and that's when they will make their move. But until then, Israel is becoming a force that the nations around us are envious of. And we see that. We see that.

Erdogan cannot stop talking about Israel. If you really think about it, every day, every day, we don't even share a border with him and he's obsessed with us.

MIKE: He's obsessed.

AMIR: Yeah, but it's all because they reckon Israel is now a superpower they cannot ignore. If they thought October 7th was our lowest spot, and we've been the weakest, and where this is it, they understand now that that thing woke up that big giant. And we are now controlling 70% of Gaza. We are controlling a big portion of southern Lebanon, Mount Hermon in its entirety and portion of Syria. And we are feared by Iran, the Houthis, Hamas is hardly doing anything, and Hezbollah hardly exists. And all of these things are something that the Israelis could only dream about three, four, five years ago and we're now there. And so the Strait of Hormuz by itself is not something that I can find in the Bible. But I see the broader conflict over the last three years, definitely something that is leading towards what the Bible is describing in Ezekiel 38 and 39.

MIKE: Yeah, people get so excited to make connections, to have that kind of peripheral, secret knowledge of connecting the dots, and going to Bible studies and making people believe the Strait of Hormuz and then they have some Hebrew code for it or—There's so many examples of that. And it's kind of sad because... now, of course, the question was asked from a pure heart. I'm just talking about the general populace of how we love to sensationalize and connect the Antichrist with specific individuals and so on. And so I'm glad that you clarified that.

I got one for you, Pastor Barry. This is from Truth Seeker. That's the name. I'm glad that you seek truth, Mr. Truth Seeker. You didn't have to include your last name, but that's cool. "What are the..." this is a change of subject back to the original conversation about the Tribulation. "What are the primary differences between the pre-wrath and pre-tribulational rapture views?" I mean, what if God just kind of goes light for the first three-and-a-half years and then really unleashes His wrath? Where did this view come from, this pre-wrath view? What is it? How do you parse this whole puzzle for those people that are watching?

AMIR: Barry is an expert in this. [Laughter]

BARRY: Well, I think it's interesting that the pre-wrath position is basically trying to give room to 1 Thessalonians 5:9 that God did not appoint us to wrath. What they do is they look for a way to begin God's wrath at some—the midpoint, somewhere near the midpoint of the Tribulation

period. It's kind of... it's not exactly mid-trib belief, but it's similar to it in that they believe that only the back half, the time of Jacob's trouble, is God's manifested wrath. One of the things I think for us to understand is that God's wrath actually comes in two forms. It comes in the form of His cataclysmic wrath that we see throughout the Tribulation and also the consequential wrath of God where He said to the nation of Israel, "I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest." He didn't do the earthquake and the hailstones and fire mingled with blood and all these other things. It was a consequential wrath. It was the universal law of sowing and reaping. So I think the difference, the main difference is that I believe the Bible is quite clear, I believe that Hebrew also substantiates the fact that this time that is coming is a time of wrath. The whole 70th week of Daniel is a time of wrath. And people, they want a world leader who will solve the Middle East crisis and they're going to get one. And they are going to experience the consequences of having done so. I think God allowing the Antichrist to rise to power is an act of His wrath. I think God removing the world's only purifying and preserving influence in the form of the church is an act of God's wrath. And this all has to happen *prior* to the Tribulation even beginning. We have to be taken out of the way and only then, 2 Thessalonians 2 says, can the lawless one be revealed. So he's revealed in Revelation 6:2, which is the beginning of the Tribulation when he makes a seven-year covenant with the nation of Israel. So, pre-wrath is that the church has to be removed before God's wrath. Pre-trib is the whole Tribulation is God's wrath and therefore we won't see even one millisecond of it. And I think that's the more biblically substantial or substantiable, if that's a word, of position.

MIKE: It's a very popular position and we get asked that a lot. Amir, do you want to add anything on that one?

AMIR: No. I do believe with all of my heart that the church is not destined to the wrath of God. But also a lot of people don't understand that as far as the prophets, there is the former and the latter part of the indignation. The former and the latter part of the wrath. And so the entire Tribulation is the wrath as far as I'm concerned. And so pre-Tribulation is pre-wrath as far as I am concerned. When Daniel in chapter 8 spoke about the things that will happen in the latter part of the indignation, obviously he talked about the latter part of the Tribulation. But as far as he's concerned, he called that period "indignation" which is wrath in Hebrew *zaam*. So as far as I'm concerned, I believe that the whole thing is the wrath of God. The first part is involving deception,

and the latter part is involving with a lot of cataclysmic events. But none of that is good. None of that is great. And none of that is godly. None of this is pleasant and in all that time, believers will be persecuted, Israel will be tricked, and it's not going to look good. So as far as I'm concerned, I mean, show me one good thing that will happen to Israel in the first three-and-a-half years even though they will have a temple, it will be a horrible place. It will be a place of blindness and false and empty worship. Remember, the two witnesses are there and they're being ignored and ridiculed, and later on executed while the temple is standing and Jerusalem is there. So that tells you how much all of that is just empty religious rituals that have nothing to do with anything godly. And so even that, as far as I'm concerned is... and understand, and Pastor Barry said that so eloquently when we were in Perth, he said the removal of the church by itself—because the church is the preserving power, the church is the salt of the earth—our removal is already part of the wrath, if you really think about that. So when we're being removed and the Tribulation starts, I just... again, in my mind, according to my understanding of Scriptures, according to my understanding of the Hebrew text, pre-wrath and pre-Tribulation should be the same thing.

MIKE: Yeah, well, thanks for that. Rhonda has a personal question for the Israeli people, including you, Amir. Let's throw her question: "How are the spirits of the people of Israel right now?" I mean, there's still a war going on, there's still worry, but what's it like now? Can you explain to the viewers what's a day like in the eyes of an Israeli in the emotional world going on there? What has this war done to Israelis? And how's that working itself out today? Can you touch base on that, Amir?

AMIR: Yeah, well, first of all, the Israelis are far more resilient today than they were before. I mean, when you go through these type of 2.5–3 years, your skin is getting tougher. And you've seen, in a way, you've kind of seen it all. But I also think that we are very pleased with where we are now, compared to where we were 2.5 years ago. We can feel the resilience of the nation, and we can feel that things are not the same. But I will also say that we know that any given moment things can change. We know that any given moment the sirens will go off, we will be sent to the bomb shelter, and maybe another round in Iran will be underway. We understand that things are volatile, that things are fragile. We understand that as long as the IRGC is there, that Hezbollah is not completely wiped out, that Hamas is still kind of a little bit active. We know. And the other

thing is, the Israelis don't believe anymore, any person that promises us empty promises about peace with our neighbors. And so, we already see with open eyes that maybe dismantling of the Shia axis, but the rise of the Sunni axis as well. So we look at things with open eyes. We do not trust easily anyone. But we try to move on. The level of anxiety is not as high as it used to be. People move on, they go on vacations, they travel. Northern Israel is flourishing right now. I have people from my team that over the weekend spent time in the north. They say every site is packed with people. They hear the booms in Lebanon. They can hear that. But the Northern Israel is totally safe. So, and again, why is Northern Israel safe? Because we control Southern Lebanon, because we pushed Hezbollah further north. That's why. So the understanding of the Israelis is unless we are at our enemy's camp, there will be no peace in our territory. We have to be there because we cannot trust any agreement with them. The moment you shake hands with the devil, he starts entrenching himself and waiting for the right time to make another move. So this is where we are.

MIKE: Yeah, Amir, so it seems like Israel has this, kind of an iron heart. I mean, are there soldiers that struggle with PTSD like our soldiers do here in the United States? Do the people have to go to counseling? I mean, how does this shake down? I mean, over here in the States we have soldiers, airmen coming back from war and they go through mental health counseling, and they get their life back together. Do you have any of that there or do people just kind of take it and move on with life? How does that look? Just for curiosity's sake.

AMIR: We have all of that, Mike. And not only that the soldiers, but also civilians. I mean, October 7 exposed civilians. We are human beings. Yes. Yeah, we are. News flash, we are humans. Yeah. So, yeah, I mean, I believe that almost every other Israeli is suffering from some sort of trauma, anxiety, and stuff that are related to the war. It hit my close vicinity as well. And in fact, I believe that one of the reasons I had to step down from reporting news 24/7 is because I believe the things that I was exposed to, and bear in mind, I only reported maybe 5%, maybe less than the things I was exposed to. I just didn't want people to be exposed to what I see. I mean, but even the little that I exposed people to not only poisoned me, but as a certain point, I felt that it's poisoning the people that I'm reporting the news to. And this is where I decided to draw the line and say, "You know what? No more." I will do it lightly but this 24/7 of boom, boom, boom, news, news, news, and all these horrible videos and all of that...

MIKE: ... Takes a toll on you, didn't it?

AMIR: Big time. Big time. And I also believe that, when we talk about PTSD, “P”, the “P” refers to “post.” I don’t think we are there yet, Mike. We’re still going through it. Oh yeah, we’re still going through this. And so in the coming years, we’ll see much more of that. I think that I had to admit, in my case at least, that I can see the beginning of something that could be like that. I had to take care of myself. I had to take care of my family. I had to take care of my mental health. And I had to do what I had to do. And a lot of people were angry with me that, “Look, you hooked us up with the news and now you go away” and all of that. But those things hit you. And they don’t prepare you for that. It comes and knocks on your door. It knocks on the door and says, “I’m here.” It doesn’t send you a letter saying, “I’ll be visiting you in two months.” It just shows up. And when it shows up, it’s there. And you better take care of things and not let it drag you down. And so this is my story, I believe this is also the story of many people and this is why we need to continue to pray, both for the soldiers, both for the families, and of course, for a lot of people that were exposed to a lot of trauma here in this country. And we always ask for prayers and the need is there, definitely.

MIKE: Yeah. In fact, I’m going to say just a few-sentence prayer. Just if everybody will join me. “Lord, we pray for all the Israelis that are going through this trauma. Give them direction. Give them wisdom. Give them guidance. Give them healing and strength in Jesus ’name. Amen.” This may be our last question. It is five minutes to [the end of the program]. So we’re going to have to be really quick. Are you guys ready for this last question?

AMIR: Barry is ready. [Laughter]

MIKE: Pastor Barry, “Unknown” is asking again, and I don’t know if it’s the same person, but it’s a good question. “How should we respond to those who say all of God’s promises to Abraham were fulfilled already in Joshua 21:45, which says, ‘Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled.’” There’s a bunch of people out there. You know how it is, Barry; they’re trying to use the Bible to discredit the future plans that still stand with Israel. This verse is used by a community, online, it’s being disseminated everywhere. How do we respond to that?

BARRY: Well, the claim is basically that there are no unfulfilled promises or prophecies made to the nation of Israel. At this point in time in Joshua's day, they hadn't been scattered throughout the world and brought back into the land. That promise wasn't fulfilled. Life hasn't been breathed back into them as a national people group at that point in time. I mean, this is almost a self-refuting argument that this was applied to everything that was ever going to happen to the nation of Israel. Israel had a massive future in front of them at that point in time in Joshua's day. To be quite honest, I think this is just a foolish argument to say that everything was fulfilled because everything is not yet fulfilled today! God still has promises that He's going to fulfill to the nation of Israel. One of the things I think that is important, Mike, I hear the same kind of thing regarding Genesis 12:3. That was made to Abraham and in Abraham, all the nations of the earth will be blessed. Well, this is talking about the One who would come through his descendants, through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You have to keep reading the Genesis narrative to see exactly what was being spoken of there. Because the truth is, yet to this day, people all over the world are still being blessed through the One who came from Abraham, so to speak, through Isaac and Jacob, and then eventually through the line of David. And that's speaking of the Messiah. So, you know, that was an Abrahamic promise. It's still being fulfilled today. People are still coming to faith in Christ, and people are still being blessed all over the world by coming to know this One who was foretold of in Genesis 12:3. Again, I think for those who just want to label Israel as a political entity and nothing more, having nothing to do with Old Testament Scripture, that just doesn't fly. That's just silliness.

AMIR: Yeah, and it's so silly, by the way, it's so silly because it's almost self-explanatory. Joshua refers to the promises given thus far, and he gives God the credit that they were all fulfilled. I mean, I think it's a beautiful, it's a bit of a compliment to the unchanging nature of God, and the fact that He's a covenant-keeping God, and that is credit to God. But if God was done, then why would He send all the prophets? Why would He even let them rise and tell them what He's going to do with the nation of Israel? Why would Isaiah write the first chapters of his book of all things? If you really think about that, and the fact is that the Bible is clearly indicating, even in the New Testament, that in ancient times or in former times, God was speaking to the people through His prophets, and now in these last days, He's speaking to us through His Son. In other words, the

prophets were a way God communicated to the fathers in those days. And so anyone who stops in Joshua is actually stopping *before* the prophets. And so how did God continue to speak?

All I'm saying... it reminds me of those "flagship verses" about those who say they are Jews, but they're not, but they're a synagogue of Satan. Well, the Bible says they say that they're Jews, but they're not, they're not Jews. It's very simple. They're non-Jews. It's non-Jews who claim to be Jews. Exactly! And so all I'm saying is that the Bible is so clear, but people take that, and you know they have an agenda when they take it out of context, because it doesn't hold water when you read it in the context in which it was written. And so I'm saying it's foolishness to go that direction. There are so many more promises God has given, but in the time of Joshua, Joshua could bear witness to the fact that God is a wonderful covenant-keeping God. By the way, I quoted this verse in my message in Australia about the unchanging God. I quoted this verse just to give God the credit. He's unchanging. With Him, yes is yes, and with Him all His promises are yes and amen. Why take this and saying, "Oh, that's it, it's over, it's over"? It's like, it's almost like you are so limiting God, and I think it's discrediting Him rather than crediting Him. So that's how I look at things.

Well, Pastor Mike, I just want to remind people, guys, this is it, the crunch time for *The Elijah Mandate*. If you can go online and pre-order it, unbelievable book that will bless you and connect the dots to so many people in regards to this unbelievable man of God and how it relates to us today as believers in this world. I also want to mention Pastor Barry's book, *The Time of the Signs*, in which he is basically outlining everything that is going on and how it perfectly fits the things that we see today. And you can see that QR code as well. I want to remind you that you can actually find all the information about our ministry by clicking or by scanning the QR code on the screen if we can put the QR code of the ministry. And you can follow us on beholdisrael.org if you want to also support the ministry and help us in our cause.

Thank you for watching. Thank you, Pastor Mike, thank you, Pastor Barry, for being here and answering all these questions. Thank you and God bless you. And to all of you watching, please subscribe, please like, please comment and please share. God bless you and Shalom.

BARRY: Shalom.

MIKE: Shalom.

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

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