"Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought," Isaiah 41:11-12.

Dear Covenant Warrior of the Kingdom,

It troubles me to say, but by the time you read this letter, the United States of America may be at war with Syria or China or Russia or Egypt or Lebanon or Iran or any number of the nations that are rattling their swords and sabers in the wind against Israel and the USA over the recent conflicts on the other side of the globe. If not at war with a nation(s) then, at the very least, warring with factions of hate, bias of nationality, religion, race, or political persuasion.

Since the October 7th sneak attack by Hamas upon the nation of Israel, every news outlet has been streaming videos, photographs, and voice recordings of violence, bloodshed, rocket attacks, destruction, and death of innocent men – women – young people – children and even babies. And we must not forget about the innocent hostages that were taken by Hamas on Sukkot's Sabbath Day. All of this comes after witnessing months and months of rocket attacks, destruction, fighting, and death after Russia invaded Ukraine.

WHEN WILL IT ALL END?

Yes, war is terrible, there is no disputing that. There has been more bloodshed in the name of "god" than over oil – property – power – water – or love.

The daily updates on Hamas' attack on Israel and Russia's attack on Ukraine are only briefly interrupted by news broadcasts of mass murders or deranged individuals attacking family members, government officials, or complete strangers, both here and abroad.

This month's letter should be about *Thanksgiving* and everything that The Body of Christ and Americans should be thankful for, not about the terror, fear, death, and destruction that dominates our news. We Americans, and especially Christian Americans, have so much to be grateful for, and in my humble opinion, we take most of our blessings for granted or just outright ignore them. It doesn't matter if we are talking about freedom of speech – occupation – size of family – medical care – religion – choice of serving (or not serving) in the military – education – political affiliation - or what we are

going to have for supper, we are the most blessed nation in the world!!! If it were not so, our borders would not be overrun with millions of immigrants trying to reach and possess "The American Dream!"

The Israel – Hamas war's trickle down effect has hit countries all around the globe with individual attacks on houses of worship and leaders of religion and politics with actual attacks or verbal threats of reprisal against 'this' belief or 'that' belief. Many on both sides of the conflict do not feel free or safe day or night in their homes, or dorm rooms, or walking down their own street. In recent days the mob mentality has taken hold as "distraught" extremist and radicals have stormed aircraft, schools, cities, and businesses looking for a Jew, Muslim, Arab, Christian, or an American to kill or beat to a pulp.

We have talked in the past about all of the pent-up anger and rage in the world today, and personally, I feel that these wars have made an opportunity or opened the door for people to vent out some of the built-up hostility – frustration – and fear that has been bottled up for decades against whoever is closest as they listen to the voice of lies from the devil.

One of my first questions concerning Hamas' sneak attack on Israel was "Why did Hamas attack Israel on this particular day?" What was special about October 7, 2023? Was it just a day of staging military personnel and equipment? Or was it based on favorable weather conditions? Perhaps it was based upon the phase of the moon? I'm being a little facetious here, but you get the point. There was a military advantage for Hamas to attack Israel on 10/7 which had spiritual overtones.

First, October 7th came at the end of the Jewish Festival of *Sukkot*. A celebration which is the last of three yearly celebration that was commanded by God in the Torah. The three celebrations commanded by God are the *Passover* (Pesach/Feast of Unleavened Bread) – *Shavuot* (Pentecost/Feast of Weeks/First Fruits) and *Sukkot* (Azaret/Feast of Booths). Sukkot is a seven-day

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festival, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, when the Jewish people built huts in their gardens to celebrate the goodness of the harvest season and God's provisions for the New Year. Inside the Land of Israel, the first day of *Sukkot* is celebrated as a full festival with special prayer services and holiday meals. The Torah commanded this holiday to be celebrated for seven days, beginning on the 15th day of the month of Tishrei. It is one of the Three Pilgrimage Festivals on which those Israelites who could travel were commanded to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. It is a time of gathering with family and friends to celebrate the goodness of God's Grace and Blessings with food, dancing, and singing, truly a joyful time. It is a time to rejoice for all of the year's hard work that brings the harvest and growing season to an end. It is not a time for war.

So, what better time for an enemy to attack a nation than when they have laid down their weapons of protection and picked up voices of singing and celebration. This October's attack was not the first time and prophecy states that Israel's enemies will take advantage of this time of joy and (assumed) peace to attack and kill. The question is: Will this be the last surprise attack before the peace accord of the antichrist is broken?

In an end-time Word of prophecy from God, Israel will be attacked when they are at peace and totally not expecting war and not suspecting the hearts of their enemies to be planning total annihilation of their nation, "Thou shalt say, 'I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates," Ezekiel 38:11. Truly a time of trusted peace.

In my humble opinion, one of the major problems within the borders of America is the lack of – or short fall of our education system and its lack of teaching history. Ironically, it was Karl Marx who quoted, "History repeats itself." Don't get mad at me or pick up any stones until you hear me out. We live in a short-sighted soci-

ety, "I want it my way and I want it now!" "Don't tell me about the past, just let me scroll the Internet or my favorite phone app!" "I don't like hearing about history, it is too boring and too bloody!" Many people don't believe that Hitler killed millions of Jews during WWII. Some still don't believe that Neal Armstrong landed on the moon. Watch any quiz show and notice for yourself just how 'unlearned' Americans are.

Case in point – do you know, or remember, that on October 7, 1985, (that's correct - October 7th) four Palestinian terrorists belonging to the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) - the terrorist wing of the Palestinian Liberation Organization - (PLO)) boarded and hijacked the Italian luxury cruise liner, Achille Lauro, after it departed Alexandria, Egypt, demanding that Israel release all imprisoned PLO terrorists? The hijacking didn't fare too well for the four terrorists, nor for Abu Abbas, their leader. After the hijacking went sideways, he gathered all the Americans on the cruise ship together and shot a wheelchair-bound Jewish American in the head and threw him and his wheelchair overboard to show the rest of the tourists the PLO had no pity for the sick or handicapped. With a large stash of weapons, their plan was to ambush Israeli soldiers when they attempted to board the ship. Neither happened, and after much political jockeying over authority, they were eventually sent to prison. The details of this hijacking read like a "Best Seller" spy novel and the reasonable and swift action of our government officials and military leaders deserve appreciation and praise from her citizens, if we just were taught the facts of the events.

History repeats itself, the October 7th attack on Israel came one day after the 50th year anniversary of the Yom Kippur War. Yom Kippur is the holiest day in Judaism. This surprise attack was launched by a coalition of Arab nations, including Egypt and Syria, against Israel. This two week war resulted in the death of 20,000 people. Again, this war caught Israel off guard since many soldiers were on leave due to the Day of Atonement holy day.

"I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed,"

Genesis 12:3.

Enough of that except to say, or ask, "Do you know most of the players of the Middle East conflicts?" The following is not a complete list but it is intended to show just how the tiny nation of Israel, the size of New Jersey, struggles to stay alive: Houthi Movement (Ansar Allah) armed Islamist political organization from Yemen seeking the death of Israeli and Americans; Fatah is the biggest secular Palestinian political party and the driving

force behind the PLO and the Palestinian Authority; The Palestinian Authority governs the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is the second-largest Palestinian Islamist militant group active in the Gaza Strip and receives support from Iran and Syria and actively works with Hezbollah; Hezbollah, a powerful, well equipped, Shiite Islamist militant group based in Lebanon and funded and backed by Iran. And then we have individual Palestinian activists like Ahed Tamimi who stated, "We will drink your blood. You will say that what Hitler did to you was a joke - come on, we are waiting for you." Many of these groups are driven and supported by college and university students, both here and abroad. These young students are not to be taken lightly, as they have been a driving force in world's chaos. The primary organizers of these rallies include Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN), Within Our Lifetime-United for Palestine (WOL), Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), If Not Now (INN) and the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL). Each of these groups has expressed inflammatory rhetoric about Israel and/or Zionism. Many have a history of promoting classic anti-Semitic themes on social media, at rallies, on webinars and more.

These groups, and many other groups and nations around the world, hate Israel and the USA. But, what does God say? "Thus saith the LORD against all Mine evil neighbors, that touch the inheritance which I have caused My people Israel to inherit; Behold, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them. And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land. And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of My people, to swear by My Name, The LORD liveth; as they taught My people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of My people. But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD," Jeremiah 12:14-17.

If you look at a map of Israel, you will see that it is surrounded by Islamic Muslim nations that hate them; hated because it is the land of God's people, His Land, upheld by His Covenant. And the USA is hated because it supports Israel and El Elyon (God Most High) being founded as a Christian nation. It is just that simple. Evil hates Good. Darkness hates Light. Satan hates God. It would be too easy for the United States to get dragged into this mess and swallowed up in this swamp and return the feelings of hatred – disrespect – and disregard for our enemies. But look at the verse 15 "It shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them

again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land."

God is a God of compassion, love, and forgiveness.

Other than the fact that God is God and a God of Love, why would He show favor on Israel's enemies and have compassion on them? The answer to this question is deep and wide, and I can't explain it fully here. I'm not saying that we even fully understand the mind or working of God because we can't. By Christian standards, Iran is an evil nation. By the world's standards, Iran is a terrorist nation (with Israel and the USA as their preferred targets). Iran is a part of the Old Testament Persian nation. Historically, the nation and kings of Persia are not spoken ill of in the Bible. It was the king of Persia that overthrew Babylon that led the return of the Jews to Jerusalem. It was Persian King Cyrus that decreed that all of the nations under his rule would worship the God of Daniel. It was the Parthians - Medes – and Elamites (now Iran – part of Persia) who were part of the 3,000 Jews that were Jewish disciples in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, who heard the message of Peter and then carried the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit back to the Persian nations and later into China. The Chinese first called Christianity "The Persian Religion." Persia remained a Christian nation until the religion of Islam was introduced by the Muslim prophet Muhammad in 610. Islam grew

HOW HAS GOD USED GOSPEL TRACTS IN YOUR LIFE?

- Was a Gospel Tract instrumental in your salvation?
- Do you know someone who was saved as a result of your Tract ministry?
- Do you know anyone that was healed by the Power of God after reading a Gospel Tract?
- Who do you know that was delivered from drugs by the ministry of Gospel Tracts?
- WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW People are saved, healed, and inspired by the testimonies of believers. We <u>need</u> your testimony about the power and effectiveness of God's Holy Spirit moving through your Gospel Tract ministry to share with others.
- There is a saying in the sales industry used to produce results: "Facts tells Stories SELL!"
- You and I are in the business of "Selling God!" It is true, your testimony about the moving of the LORD in your life and the lives of others as a result of an inspired Gospel Tract moves - motivates - challenges -and encourages other Christians to witness of the healing - saving - Grace of God through Jesus Christ by your testimony and by handing out Gospel Tracts.

Please - PLEASE send us your testimony to encourage others to be about our Father's business - Please!

WIDOW'S MITES

"Jesus looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. He saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And He said, 'Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had," Luke 21:1-4.



This envelope caught my eye last week while we were processing the day's mail. My first thought was that the sender didn't have a First Class Postage stamp, so they rummaged through their desk drawer to find enough stamps to mail us their Tract Order. Then I looked at the stamps a little closer. They are all vintage USPS (old) stamps. Then I thought to myself, 'No, this order was so important that it couldn't wait for a trip to the Post Office to purchase a stamp, it had to be mailed right now!'

As I looked at it a little longer, my heart was touched as I knew this envelope was not only very important to the sender, but it was also very previous to them. My thoughts were confirmed when I pulled out the contents of the envelope, and opened the folded single half sheet of paper. It contained ONE single Quarter (\$0.25) taped to the half sheet of paper, without any order or message.

This dear saint of God was so moved by the Holy Spirit that they gave all that they could afford to donate to this Gospel Tract Publishing ministry - Their Widow's Mite.

The Kingdom of God is made up of His wonderful passionate servants. Yes, our needs are met by many wonderful people that donate from their heart, but it moves the spirit to see someone give out of their lack.

We thank God and pray daily for our faithful covenant friends that support the publishing of God's Word in Tracts, letters, and books with their Love, Prayers, and donations.

> To God be all our Praise - Honorand Glory, for only He is worthy!!!

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee," Psalm 122:6.

stronger and increasingly more violent toward Judaism, regarding them as enemies, and now controls the Iranian government and murder, torture, imprison, and hold the Iranian Christians captive in their own county.

Where am I going with this? There will be a great awakening for the nations of Persia, just as there will be for the Jewish nation. There are evil (ungodly)people within our government, there evil (ungodly) people in all governing bodies. Never the less, it is our duty, responsibility, obligation, commandment, and calling to hold up every fellow believer in prayer, regardless of the evil governments that rule over them, while we pray for the leaders of every government. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior: Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth," 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

One of my morning prayers is for all of the leaders of all the nations and of all of those that are in authority over us, including their advisors – counselors – first responders – those in the military – all of the supporting personal and their families to be held accountable unto God for their every thought – word – and action, and to be called by the Holy Spirit to God unto salvation, and for the removal of evil people in position of power, authority, control, and influence – replaced by God's righteous servants. A little strong? Are we not in a battle for the souls of men?

Today – **PRAY** for every leader in every nation – for every soul in every nation – for every church leader and for every harvest worker's strength, safety, and wellbeing in every nations, that God's Word would go forth in Truth and Power to further the Kingdom of God and bring Glory to the LORD through the Name of Jesus Christ – The King of kings and Lord over all.

Thanksgiving? Yes, thankful to our Heavenly Father for His Mercy, Grace, Love, Protection, Provisions, Truth, Word, Anointing, and Salvation!

Your Covenant Brother In Iesus Christ.

Phillip Buttram

DAILY PRAYER

"Father - renew a right spirit in me."
"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me," Psalm 51:10.