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# America's Promise Ministries Newsletter

May/June 2024

Previous Pastor: Dave Barley

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



### The Church, Israel, and non-Israelites in the Kingdom of God

The word *Church* is one of the English translations of the New Testament Greek word *ekklesia*, which means "**the called-out ones.**" The word has a general usage, sometimes unrelated to the *church* as we know it. For instance, in **Acts 19:32, 39, and 41** *ekklesia* is translated *assembly* in reference to the idolatrous silversmiths that Demetrius had called together to organize a mob against Paul. They were anything but Christian.

So *ekklesia* carries with it the connotation of PURPOSE. In other words, we should keep in mind the purpose of the calling and that there are different callings, with different races, nations, and individuals.

The *ekklesia* (*Church*) was in existence long before the Day of Pentecost. **Acts 7:38** says that there was an *ekklesia* in the wilderness, referring to Israel that had been *called out of Egypt*.

Jesus used the term three times in **Matthew 16:18** and twice in **Matthew 18:17**. This, too, was before the Day of Pentecost, and the *Church* to which Jesus referred was the congregation of Israel, or their representatives (the jury that was called out to judge the dispute).

**Hebrews 2:12** is a New Testament quotation of **Psalms 22:22**. Hebrews uses the Greek word *ekklesia* (*Church*), while the Old Testament equivalent is *qahal* (usually translated

**Congregation**). So we can conclude that the nation of Israel is a body of called-out ones, or *ekklesia*.

Although Israel is a church, so also are the believers within Israel. Both have a calling, and both are distinct and important. Israel has a national calling, while the true Christian believers in Israel have a special calling to lead Israel to God. We should not limit the word *ekklesia* to one body of people, because the Scriptures apply it in different ways.

To limit the word to mean ONLY BELIEVERS diminishes the calling of racial Israel. To limit the word to mean ONLY ISRAEL AS A RACE OR NATION destroys the calling of the believers of both Israel and non-Israel. There have always been non-Israelites who had faith in Christ. This was true in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Here are some examples.

### **Jonah 3:5-10**

***5 So the people of Nineveh (capital of Assyria) believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.***

***6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.***

***7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:***

***8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.***

***9 Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?***

***10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.***

It is the same in the New Testament.

### **Matthew 15:21-28**

***21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of***

**Tyre and Sidon.**

***<sup>22</sup> And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.***

***<sup>23</sup> But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.***

***<sup>24</sup> But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.***

***<sup>25</sup> Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.***

***<sup>26</sup> But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.***

***<sup>27</sup> And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.***

***<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.***

**Mark 7:26-7**

***<sup>26</sup> The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.***

***<sup>27</sup> But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.***

On the other hand, there have always been unbelievers in Israel for the prophets to denounce. Will God bless unbelieving Israelites along with the believers? Will God curse all non-Israelites, automatically, because they are not of the Israel Church? Absolutely not!

Perhaps the best Bible statements concerning the relationship of Israel with the rest of the world come from Jesus, Himself:

**Matthew 13:44**

***Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure (Israel — Exodus 19:5) hid in a field (the world — Matthew 13:38); that which when a man (Christ — Matthew 13:37) hath found, he hideth (Psalm 83:3), and for joy thereof goeth***

*and selleth all that he hath (John 3:16), and buyeth that field* (the world).

So Jesus says that in order to obtain the treasure, He buys the whole field in which the treasure is hidden. And that field is the whole world! Israel is the special object of attention, but the whole world benefits from that transaction.

**Matthew 15:21-28** quoted on page 4.

In this passage, a woman of Canaan sought help from Jesus. In **verse 24**, Jesus answered her: *I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

This shows clearly that she was not an Israelite woman. She still persisted, though, and Jesus said again, *It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.*

This verse is clarified in Mark's version. **Mark 7:27** says, *Let the children FIRST be filled; for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.*

So the reason Jesus was putting off this woman, was because He was called to preach to Israel FIRST. Note that Jesus did not utterly cast her out. It was a matter of PRIORITY, not total exclusion. At the woman's continued persistence and humility, Jesus granted her request on the basis of her faith. NOTICE: HE DID NOT PROCLAIM HER AN ISRAELITE AND GIVE HER THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF HIS BRIDE! Nor did He negate the Laws of God that commands the races to be separate and not intermarry.

This present age is one in which God is dealing MAINLY with Israel. He is giving *bread* to the children first and the *crumbs* convert a few of the non-Israelites in the world. After Israel has repented, and after Jesus has remarried her, then we will see a much greater fulfillment of **Isaiah 2** and **Micah 4**, during which time the Law will go forth from Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Where will it go? To the rest of the world (*the field*).

**Isaiah 2:2-4**, an end time prophecy not yet fulfilled.

***<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.***

***<sup>2</sup> And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.***

***<sup>3</sup> And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.***

***<sup>4</sup> And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.***

#### **Micah 4:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.***

***<sup>2</sup> And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.***

***<sup>3</sup> And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.***

**What a glorious day that will be!**



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## **Gog and Magog . . . A Closer Look**

By Sigmund Czerniawski

Consider the current world environment, wars in Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, and now Ukraine – and the continuing conflict in Palestine and Israel, there is a great and urgent need to look again at the traditional teachings and interpretations concerning our approaches to the understanding of **Ezekiel 38**.

For many decades the church and various ministries have taught that Gog and Magog, the princes of Rosh, Meschech, and Tubal, represent the Russian states of today. Presently they are all awaiting a Russian attack on the Middle East and the so-called state of Israel. This is then supposed to usher in Armageddon and the end-time teaching of Revelation and the Second Coming of our Savior.

*Is this really correct Bible and Historical teaching?*

***Just who really is Gog and Magog?***

***Who is Russia?***

***Who is Biblical Israel??***

For many years, I have looked at and studied all the various prophecies related to this subject and never could quite agree and accept these premises as then taught. I studied Russian History, received an MS in this field, and could never associate Gog and Magog with Russia.

Briefly, early Russia was developed by Vikings (Danites) and was a Christian nation. A brief review of Russian History along with a better knowledge and understanding of Russian, Khazar, and Eastern European Jewish history will give us a better and deeper understanding of **Ezekiel 38** and the people identified in this chapter.

**Who today is Gog, Magog, and Israel?**

Let us begin with **Ezekiel 38:2**.

***Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog,***



***the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,***

This verse cannot refer to Russia or the Russian people. Russia has never, anywhere, been referred to as God or Magog. Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal were cities in the south and Central Russia in an area we know today as Crimea and the Ukraine.

Who then was Gog and Magog, and who occupied these lands and cities in early Russia; and where are they today?

The key to understanding Gog and Magog is found in **Ezekiel 38:17**.

***Thus saith the Lord God; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?***

This verse cannot refer to Russia, or the Russian people since Russia does not appear in history until 500 AD and recorded history from 700 AD. The prophets of Israel did most of their writing prior to 200 BC, and prophesied to Israel, Judah, and related people and enemies.

Much is written about Canaanites, especially Edom, who originates from Esau. Remember, Edom is and always was a mortal enemy to true Israel. After Judah's return from Babylonian captivity (circa 540 BC) there was a gradual merging of the remnant of Judah with the local Edomites. In fact, by the time of our Savior's ministry, the Edomites had taken full control of the then Kingdom of Judah. Herod the Idumean (Edomite) was king, and most of the priesthood and ruling class was Edomite. This is why our Savior was so hated and rejected, and then crucified by the Jews.

The Russian people, prior to the Mongol, Tartar, and Muslim invasions (from 1230 AD) was chiefly a Slavic nation with a strong Varangian (Viking) element, especially in the north. Historians agree that these Slavic people may have existed as early as 300 BC. Pliny the Elder makes reference to them in 77 AD, followed by Tacitus and Ptolemy.

Slavic civilizations developed in Poland, the Ukraine, Russia, and White Russia (Byelorussia). The early Slavic tribes were descendants of Scythian and Sarmatian tribes which had moved north and west out of the Caucasian Mountain areas and settled across East and central Europe beginning prior to 100 BC. Of course, we also now know that Israel in dispersion (ten tribes and elements of Judah and Benjamin) had been exiled to these same areas of the Caucasian Mountains (now northern Iraq) and had also migrated north and west by at least 200 BC. The various Scythian tribes were, of course, Israel in dispersion. The name Israel in captivity dispersion) had undergone various changes so dictated by their captors. Israel from its home in Canaan became the Sons of Isaac, Isaacsons, to Khuri, to Cimmerians, to Scythians, and then to Goths, Vandals, Saxons, etc. The Sarmatians were kin to the Scythians occupying areas to the east of them.

Russian civilization developed along the great rivers: the Volga, Dnieper, Dniester, Dvina, and the Don. Cities such as Kiev, Smolensk, and Novgorod were developed along these rivers. In the north, the Vikings and Israelite people established control of the trade routes from the Baltic Sea down the great rivers to the Black Sea. Trade and commerce contributed to the building of towns and cities along these routes. This also brought these people into contact with neighboring civilizations: the Romans, the Turks (Byzantium), the Greeks, and various other Middle East people.

The growing and expanding Russian Kingdom eventually came into contact with a people identified as 'Khazars' living in South-central Russia (the Crimean area), and centered around the Volga River. At their greatest expansion, these people controlled an area extending west to the Dnieper River, east to the Ural Mountains, south to the Caucasian Mountains, and in the north to the middle Volga region.

The Khazars were a people of Turkish stock and were more related to the Turks and Mongols than to their Slavic neighbors. In their time, they effectively blocked Arab-Muslim

expansion into Northern and Eastern Europe. In about 740 AD, the Khazar King, his court, and the military ruling class adopted the Jewish religion. Judaism became the state religion of the Khazar Empire. This was only done after carefully considering both Christian and Muslim religions. The Khazars felt that by adopting Judaism, they could remain religiously neutral in view of the expanding and growing Christian and Muslim forces. Judaism was taught them by Sephardic Jews from Spain with whom they had been in contact.

Over the twelfth and thirteen centuries, as the Russians expanded to the south and east, and Poland to the southeast, the Khazars were gradually defeated and dissolved as a viable state. As the nation disintegrated, the people migrated from the Crimea region to areas we know today as the Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Lithuania. They eventually formed into Jewish settlements that came to be known as Jewish Ghettos. These Khazars passionately kept their Jewish faith and teachings wherever they went. They do so to this day! They came to be simply known as Jews.

Most interestingly, these so-called Jews were not of Semitic stock and origin but were of Turkish and Mongol stock. In his book, ***The Thirteenth Tribe***, Arthur Koestler states:

*The large majority of Jews in the world is of Eastern European, and then mostly of Khazar origin. If so, this would mean that their ancestors came not from the Jordan, but from the Volga; not from Canaan, but from the Caucasus. Genetically they are more closely related to the Hun, Ugar, Magyar tribes than to the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. [page 17]*

Also, prior to accepting Judaism enmasse, there is documented correspondence between King Joseph of the Khazars and Sephardic Rabbis from Spain. Here King Joseph informs the Rabbis in Spain of his people's genealogy. Showing that he is not of Semitic stock, he traces their ancestry not back to Shem, but to Noah's third son, Japheth;

and then to Japheth's grandson Togarmah. [page 72]. Furthermore, Koestler further breaks down this genealogy on page 181. He shows that Ashkenaz, from whom the Khazars claimed descent, is mentioned in the Bible in **Genesis 10:3**, and **1 Chronicles 1:6**, is one of the sons of Gomer. Gomer was a son of Japheth. Ashkenaz is also a brother of Togarmah, and a nephew of Magog; whom the Khazars, according to King Joseph, claimed as their ancestor. In a footnote, Mr. Koestler points out the "frequent" descriptions of the Khazars as the "people of Magog." Magog was the uncle of Togarmah (**Genesis 10:23**).

In continuing with the present study, we need to briefly touch on the migrations of Israel and Judah. It is historically correct that after Solomon's death, Israel and Judah became separate Kingdoms and never reunited. Israel went into Assyrian Captivity in 720 BC, and Judah went into seventy years of Babylonian Captivity in 590 BC. A small remnant of Judah returned to Jerusalem after seventy years and rebuilt the Temple. Now, Israel was carried captive into Assyria and placed in Northern Assyria below the Caucasian Mountains. We must remember that with Israel (ten tribes) the Assyrians also carried off and placed with Israel all of the unwallled villages of Judah. So we have here a forced resettlement of several million people from Israel and Judah. In no time, these tribes began their vast migrations north and west and through the Caucasian Mountains eventually following the great rivers into the Caucasus and Europe.

Now by 500 AD Israel (Scythians, Cimmerians, Danoi, Saxons, Celts) tribes had made their way through all of Europe to Denmark and Britain. As shown above, the Khazar Kingdom adopted Judaism as their state religion in 740 AD. The Khazars were Turkish-Mongol stock and could never be ethnic Israel. There is historical evidence showing that living among the Khazar people were also people called Jews. These people were merchants, traders, shopkeepers, and moneylenders. They were descendants of the various Edomite Tribes that had lived among and with Israel and

Judah.

As was shown above, when Khazaria was scattered and defeated, they migrated and settled into the Russian, Polish, Hungarian, and neighboring people's cities.

The Khazars never assimilated with the local people, but they remained separate, kept their religion (Judaism), and formed what was called 'Ghettos.' They became part of Russia but were never Russian. Always they were known as 'Yehuddi' or Jews. Now when Ezekiel in chapter 38 discusses Gog and Magog, he is not identifying Russians, but the Magog and Gog living within Russia, and who have kept their culture and traditions. So therefore, the majority of the Jews in the world today, about 90% are of Ashkenazi origin.

When Ezekiel discusses the events of chapter 38, Gog and Magog coming in the latter years against the mountains (nations) of Israel he is saying Gog and Magog but is really identifying the Khazars. Remember **Ezekiel 38:17**.

*Thus saith the Lord God; Art thou he [Edom] of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?*

This is addressing Edom with whom the Khazars mingled and cohabited.

Khazaria and the Edomites amongst them are Gog and Magog and the people we call Jews today!

Continuing . . . **Ezekiel 38:8-12**

*<sup>8</sup>After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains [nations] of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.*

*<sup>9</sup>Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.*

*10 Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:*

*11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unvalled villages; [this is not the Middle East!] I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,*

*12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. [meaning the middle of the earth]*

This clearly and distinctly describes the US and northern Europe as God's Israel, and the subtle, devious, and silent conquest of its lands, nations, government, economies, and other vital operations such as education, media, and entertainment by a disguised and concealed enemy known in Ezekiel's day as Edom and today falsely representing itself as Israel when it is truly only Edom . . . mingled Jews and Khazars.

Ezekiel describes Gog and Magog in verse 9 ***ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land.*** Are we not today completely enveloped and meshed into a governmental system that controls our economics, food supply, energy needs, currency, medical care, and all other vital daily components locally and worldwide? This includes our judicial system, military, and all police agencies, now unbeknownst and oblivious to most Americans and Europeans. They have all been silently conquered by an invisible enemy and they are subject to his control and reign.

**Yes, just as Ezekiel prophesied,  
Gog and Magog have arrived!**

This silent war has gone on amidst great shooting wars such as WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, the Palestinian Conflict, Syria, and now Ukraine. This silent subtle war has also been characterized by such actions as the Federal Reserve Act, the Income Tax, Civil Rights, the Feminist Movement, abortion,

gay rights, gun control, open border, and amnesty; all are really attacks on our traditional Christian-oriented Western civilization.

These are silent war-like actions designed to destroy the society set up by our founders (Pilgrims, religious Separatists, and seekers of God's perfect liberty) and to establish what Revelation calls ***Mystery Babylon the Harlot***. This is a one world system controlled by a ruling 'Cabal' manipulating and directing people through governmental controls: Banking, money, commerce, agriculture, oil, natural resources, and medical care.

Yes, the Gog and Magog invasion upon the mountains (nations) of Israel is almost complete. Now, to our great joy, there remains some prophecy to fulfill!!

God Almighty declares in **Ezekiel 38:18-19, 23:**

***18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face.***

***19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;***

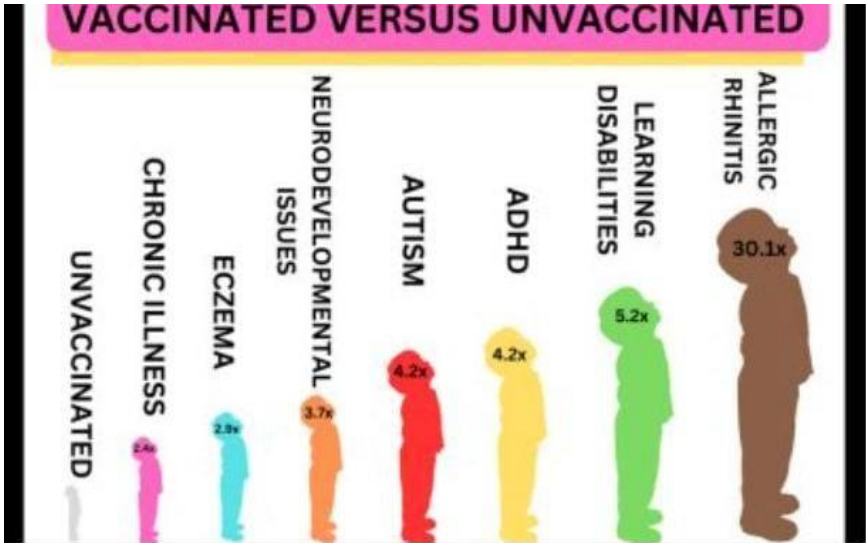
***23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord.***

Behold all Israel so shall your deliverance come. God Almighty will deliver His people, the seed of Abraham, the people He chose to be His ***peculiar treasure***. **Exodus 19:5; Psalm 134:5**

**Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh!!**

## Three Studies Examine Health of Vaccinated Vs. Unvaccinated

<https://needtoknow.news/2024/04/three-studies-examine-health-of-vaccinated-vs-unvaccinated/>



An estimated 99.97% of Americans are vaccinated – only one quarter of 1%, less than one million people, have never been vaccinated in the US. Three studies considered the difference between vaccinated and unvaccinated populations. The CDC vaccine schedule for children showed that that in 2019 there were a whopping 54 shots, 70 antigens and 16 diseases.

The first study showed that children who were not vaccinated in the first year of life were far healthier than those who were vaccinated; for example, early vaccinated children showed 273% more incidents of asthma by age 5. The second study that followed one doctor's practice showed a profound rise in behavioral issues, ADHD, and other problems in vaccinated children. There were more infections in children who should have been protected by the vaccines. The third study surveyed 1,482 never-vaccinated children and adults who were far healthier regarding many illnesses including chronic ailments, developmental problems, autism and ADHD,



cancer, arthritis, and more.

[Editor's note: I highly recommend that you watch the video linked below. It is mind blowing.]

Link for video: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/9JiEIXBt9klG/>

Links for Studies:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7268563/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33266457/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32537156/>

CDC Vaccine Schedule:

[https://archive.cdc.gov/www\\_cdc\\_gov/vaccines/schedules/hc/p/imz/prior-years/2021/child-adolescent-compliant.html](https://archive.cdc.gov/www_cdc_gov/vaccines/schedules/hc/p/imz/prior-years/2021/child-adolescent-compliant.html)

\* The producer of the video is not identified in the video, however, FactCheck.org says that Steven Baker, a chiropractor in Idaho published it and it went 'viral.'

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## **Who Was the Testator that Died?**

Another proof that Jesus is God

### **Hebrews 6:13**

*For When God made a promise to Abraham, since he could swear by no one greater, he swear by himself.*

### **Hebrews 9:15-17**

*<sup>15</sup> For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, SINCE A DEATH HAS OCCURRED for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first (old) covenant, that those who have been called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance (testament).*

*<sup>16</sup> For where a LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT IS, there must of necessity be the DEATH OF HIM WHO MADE IT.*

*<sup>17</sup> For a will is in force where there has been death, for it is never in force while he who made it lives.* World English Bible.

The New Covenant could not go in effect until the Maker of the Old Covenant died.

April 17, 2024

## **OMG: Special Advisor to Biden Cabinet Reveals Who Is Really Running the White House**

**BREAKING:** O'Keefe Media Uncovers who is really running the White House. Undercover cameras catch Special Advisor Tyler Robinson call former Facebook Board Member and Current White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients "the second most powerful person in Washington" where "whatever this guy says, it's what the President says." Asked by OMG's American Swiper Citizen Journalist "is Jeff [Zeints] more powerful than Kamala [Harris]," Robinson confirms "Yeah." Robinson also states that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are still involved behind the scenes at the White House.

Tyler Robinson, Special Advisor to the Chief of Staff of Administrator Isabel Guzman, details how the White House directs Isabel Guzman to campaign for President Biden so constantly that "[Guzman] is the most traveled member of the cabinet. Like pretty much every week." Under the guise of talking to small business owners, Guzman travels across the country to help elect Democrats – especially swing state Democrats like Senator Tester: "The White House was like, yes, go. Invite Senator Tester. Don't invite the other Senator because he's a Republican. And don't invite the two members of Congress because they're Republicans." Such actions may be considered potential violations of the Hatch Act, which restricts federal employees from taking an active part in partisan political management and forbids them from campaigning for or against candidates.

Robinson says Guzman acts "as a spokesperson for Biden" as "...we try to visit with a member of Congress if they're a Democrat...Just because then we can help them get re-elected as well."



## Stalwart

by Margaret Reid

**Stalwart** (n.) Marked by outstanding strength and vigor of body, mind, or spirit.

Synonyms: Dedicated, reliable, dependable, steady, devoted, constant, stable, firm, steadfast, resolute, unwavering.

This is not a common quality to come by, yet in incredibly high demand these days. More and more we find ourselves in need of a little bit of steadiness, especially in such unsteady times. The Bible mentions steadfastness a time or two:

### **James 1:12**

*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial.*

### **1 Corinthians 12:58**

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain, in the Lord.*

### **2 Peter 3:17-18**

*You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from our own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.*

### **Hebrews 12:1**

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witness, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance the race set before us.*

### **Matthew 24:45-46**

*Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you, he will make him ruler over all his goods.*

In just these few verses, we can see the great reward for being stalwart, steadfast, steady, and faithful. Being steady is the thing that keeps people going. As Christians, being a light in a dark place helps others to see when there is nothing else. It

is not easy to remain steady, day after day, trial after trial, but knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord, motivates us to not give up. There are studies done on people who are steadfast, or loyal in relationships. There is a great amount of benefit received from it. Articles discuss loyalty in terms of consistency, honesty, transparency, steadfastness, and support. When people are in relationships like this, they can trust the other person not to abandon them when things become difficult, or be dismissive of difficult emotions. People can be their authentic selves, which helps people to grow. I can see this easily translated in the Christian walk by calling attention to our areas of sin and being supportive of each other to turn both away from sin.

There is sermon upon sermon and Bible studies abounding which talk about steadfastness in the Bible. The most significant would be staying steadfast in the Lord. Abiding in the vine.

Being steadfast is crucial when the cares of this world begin to pile up. Weekly grocery shopping trips come to mind. The sheer expense is enough to make the heart waver. Maintaining our spiritual lives is a little more than a daily reading or weekly meeting. Attributing every moment of your life to God certainly helps. Waking up in the morning and before you open your eyes, just saying "Thank you Lord" is a good way to start the day. It is easy to be sidetracked, however, by the noise and chaos of life. Some of us find ourselves to be incredibly busy in this season, and struggle to make daily quiet time to restore the spirit. A moment of silence to be in the presence of God, whatever that looks like, can certainly help bridge the gap. There is no real substitute for daily convening with the Lord.

If God is the author and finisher of our faith, then our faithfulness is a reflection of how well we read the book. Some seasons are more difficult than others. This season, find yourself being stalwart. Trust in the Lord and remain steadfast. The race is not over yet. Though we are tired and weary worn, we have not crossed the finish line.

## Faithful but Unfortunate.

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Jonathan of the United Kingdom of Israel is one of the most interesting, sympathetic, and yet unfortunate characters in the Bible. It is hard for us to imagine a more righteous and pious individual, and yet, very little seems to go his way. This is often times typical of the journey of an Overcomer, something all Christians should aspire to be. Jonathan was born into the Royal House of Israel, and destined for great things. He embraced his position with maturity and dedication (unlike many royal heirs to various thrones throughout history, who spend their time in riotous living and unrighteousness). Therefore, whenever I think of Jonathan, I am reminded of the family motto of the Duke of Marlborough, *“fiel pero Deschiado – Faithful but Unfortunate.”*

The Duke was the famous forebear that Winston Churchill aspired to equal in his life of governmental service and political leadership. During the English Civil War, he stayed faithful to an ousted king and paid a personal price for it in position and wealth.

Jonathan’s father, King Saul, was one of the few leaders of Israel that was not trained as a shepherd first. His profession was driving cattle for his father. There is a completely different mindset in caring for sheep, than in driving cattle. Both animals are relatively stupid, but one gets better results with sheep by speaking to them in a voice they recognize. Cattle on the other hand respond well to the crack of a whip which drives them forward. King Saul was also crowned on the Feast of Pentecost, and is thus referred to as a Pentecostal, as a type and shadow of the New Testament Church.

In **1 Samuel 13** we see the Israelite nation under attack by a sea people known as the Philistines. Any student of the Bible is familiar with the Philistines as ancient Israel’s traditional enemy. Historically, little is known of them other than they came across the Mediterranean Sea and settled on the western sea coast of Israel.

The Israelites were already settled in the land for centuries, but that did not matter to the Philistines. From their point of view, their desires and destiny lay inland from the coast. Israel had been set up originally as a theocracy, a government ruled by YHWH God, through His Prophets and Judges. As such, there was no Biblical contingency, or planning for a strong central government. The tribes existed much like the loose confederation of Scottish Clans, or our own *'united States of America.'* Soldiers, or a standing army, was not something that was maintained on a continuous basis, but raised only when an enemy threatened their peace or freedom.

Such was the case in Chapter 13 of **1 Samuel**. We see the Philistines have gathered a force of 30,000 chariots and six thousand horsemen. This is quite an army. A chariot in those days generally had a team of two horses and depending upon the size was manned by either two or three soldiers. One acted as the driver while the other(s) could wield either a bow and arrows or spears at the enemy. The chariot was definitely the tank or armored personnel carrier of its day. It had maneuverability and speed, both good attributes in battle. This foreign force is a very large well-armed *'arm of the flesh.'*

Saul had only been king in Israel for about a year and had never had to contend with such a large enemy force. He called out to the various tribes of Israel and sets about organizing his army for the defense of the realm. It also appears from the text that only the Philistines had access to war materials like bronze, copper and iron.

### **1 Samuel 13:19-20**

***<sup>19</sup> Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears:***

***<sup>20</sup> But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.***

The Israelites must have been used to the LORD giving them the victory because maintaining weaponry appears to have

not been a primary concern. The only Hebrews with weapons seems to have been members of the royal house and their entourage.

As a new king, Saul was probably not enjoying this OJT (on-the-job training). Saul gathers a couple thousand men around himself and stays at his home town of Gibeah in the territory allotted to Benjamin. It is there while waiting for the promised coming of the prophet Samuel that Saul disqualifies himself and his dynasty from future leadership in Israel.

### **1 Samuel 13:7**

***7 And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.***

***8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.***

***9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.***

***10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. And Samuel said, What hast thou done?***

### **1 Samuel 13:13-14**

***13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.***

***14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.”***

Prince Jonathan on the other hand acts like a true soldier and leader and engages the enemy as soon as possible. There is a saying among many armies in the western world, that ***“Fortune Favors the Bold!”*** In **1 Samuel 14**, Jonathan acts like a man possessed, with a passion to expel the uncircumcised invaders knowing that YHWH is omnipotent

and will give the victory to Israel. He is fearless in battle, and while the rest of Israel is hiding either in the high places or caves underground from the enemy, Jonathan and his small force attack.

### **1 Samuel 14:6-7; 13**

***6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.***

***7 And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.***

***13 And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.***

Soon the enemy was in total confusion due to what would appear to be an earthquake, and as so often happens in the Old Testament, the enemy begins to slay each other. All those Israelites that were either allied with the invaders, or hiding in fear in their holes, attacked the Philistines when they saw the victory that Jonathan, through YHWH's power, was achieving. With the victory achieved, a somewhat chastened Saul decided that he needed to be in charge again, even after hearing such devastating news earlier from Samuel. He shifts gears from being *unlawful* or *lawless* to being *legalistic*.

This is a trend that Saul sets not only for his reign as King of Israel, but as a type and shadow of the future *Pentecostal* church. Once it is clear the enemy is on the run, Saul does not want anybody to slowdown the pursuit and slaughter of their foes. Preparing a meal might take too long and the enemy could escape or reform their battle lines and morale.

### **1 Samuel 14:23-24**

***23 So the LORD saved Israel that day: and the battle passed over unto Bethaven.***

***24 And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that***



***eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food.***

I believe YHWH had already taken care of that contingency by causing the bountiful harvest of honey just waiting for the soldiers of Israel to eat. Honey would have been the perfect food for a situation such as this. Modern nutritionists will always recommend honey over almost any other type of food to replenish depleted energy in an exhausted person. No wasted time, pick it up and eat it. Jonathan does this (ignorant of his father's command) and is immediately ***enlightened***. He encourages the others to eat who have now joined him in pursuit of their enemies. It is then he learns of his father's unnecessary command.

### **1 Samuel 14:26-33**

***26 And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath.***

***27 But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.***

***28 Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day. And the people were faint.***

***29 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.***

***30 How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?***

***31 And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon: and the people were very faint.***

***32 And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew them on the ground: and the people did eat them with the blood.***

***33 Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the LORD, in that they eat with the blood.***

In his desire to be relevant, Saul had created a terrible situation. In his legalism he kept the people from a normal and natural desire, which compelled them to a situation where they truly drifted into serious sin and lawlessness. Even in the New Testament, where so many Christians today *'prove'* the food laws are done away, the apostles were clear that it is still sin to eat the blood of an animal (**Acts 15:20, 29** and **Acts 21:25**). How many times have you or I personally seen an Evangelical Christian Church do the same thing? They condemn activities that are not forbidden or considered unlawful in the Bible, yet encourage or permit lawless behavior. King Saul set the pattern that the *Pentecostal* church continues in to this day.

Even though the victory was already won through the efforts of Jonathan and by the providence of YHWH, Saul seeks God's Word in a proposed night attack on the Philistines. But the LORD will not answer him, so Saul assumes someone has sinned. By lots he narrows it down to his own son Jonathan. Saul is ready to execute his son for disobeying the King's man-made law, which Jonathan transgressed out of ignorance.

### **1 Samuel 14:45**

***And the people said unto Saul, "Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day". So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.***

Fortunately the people of Israel understood it was through the efforts of Jonathan that the battle was won, and their united front against their King kept Jonathan safe from his father's hand. Although this is the first incident the Bible gives us of Jonathan and his life as the righteous son of an unrighteous King, it will not be the last. The lesson for all of us is, no matter what Providence sends our way in the form of a Saul, we are to continue in the ways of YHWH. Even though it may make us *"faithful, but unfortunate,"* like Prince Jonathan.

## 1 in 5 2020 Mail-in Ballots Were Fraudulent, Survey Shows

About 20% of mail-in ballots in the 2020 election were fraudulent, which effectively handed the presidency to Joe Biden, Tucker Carlson reported Friday.

Carlson broke down a survey conducted by the Heartland Institute and Rasmussen which found that approximately 1 in 5 of those polled admitted they committed some form of election fraud in the 2020 election.



TUCKER  
CARLSON  
UNCENSORED

The Heartland Institute's Justin Haskins broke down the survey which asked voters in a roundabout way whether they committed some form of voter fraud.

*"We asked people a series of questions, one of the first questions was 'did you vote in the 2020, and did you vote with an absentee ballot?' And if they answered yes to both of those questions, then we asked a bunch of questions related to voter fraud. We didn't tell them that we were asking, 'did you commit voter fraud?' We just asked them about various behaviors,"* Haskins explained.

*"For example, we asked people, 'did you vote in a state where you're no longer a legal resident?' That's a pretty*

*straightforward question. If you're not a permanent resident of a state, you can't vote there. 17% of people, nearly one in five, said yes they did do that."*

*"We asked people, 'did you fill out a ballot for someone else on their behalf?' That's also illegal," he continued. "You're not allowed to fill out someone else's ballot. 21% of people said yes to that question."*

*"So all told, it's at least — and I say at least — 1 in 5 mail-in ballots involved some sort of fraudulent activity," Haskins added.*

To top it off, 10% of those surveyed said they personally know somebody who admitted they committed one of these forms of voter fraud. Over 43% of 2020 voters cast ballots by mail, the highest percentage in U.S. history, according to election data, and the majority of mail-in ballot voters supported Biden. Without mail-in ballot fraud, the Heartland Institute concluded Trump would have won 311 electoral votes to Biden's 227.

## If My People

2 Chronicles 7:14 - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and heal their land.

15 - Now mine eyes will be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this temple.

