My People Israel

It's 5:30 am and I am pondering why I believe the Old & New Testaments.

It's pitch black outside but soon their will be rays of light and the sun will shine and once again ONLY because of the promises of God, another day will begin.

It’s interesting how you can light one candle in the darkness and the darkness flees from the light, such is the power of light. Jesus claimed to be the truth, the light of the world. The world, has seen a great light, but it seems that since His coming 2,000 years ago His light has diminished and the darkness is growing.

The more familiar you are with the Greatest Story Ever Told, the more you understand the times we live in …that they are called the End - times by Jesus.

What has changed in our world that now it is the darkness that grows and the light recedes and the minds of men grow dim?

The Lord has asked us to witness because the fields of harvest are ripe. There is an urgency to do so because “Soon the night will come” and the light and the Truth will not be found.

This darkness that is all around is not physical but Spiritual. We are experiencing the Dawn of the darkness of Sin.

Not physical Darkness you can see, but darkness of the soul and mind causing us to see life through a mirror dimly. Just like God has said, we are seeing everything that is wrong becoming right and what is right becoming wrong.

Darkness fills our time and we wait for the day when time is no more and the Dawn of Eternity breaks…so you and I wait for the coming King.

Why do we wait….because we believe that the Bible is True.

The evidence is overwhelming regarding Jesus, His life, death and resurrection. If people took the time to explore Scripture and relate its facts to History, Archeology, Science and Prophecy; they would find themselves neck deep in proof.

But they do not want to spend the time. So maybe a Biblical History lesson that they can follow in today’s newspapers will help them to believe.

I would like to give you another perspective on why to believe… a Jewish perspective.
Keep this thought in mind…

Faith is trust based on evidence… We choose to believe!

No other nation on earth has been destroyed and scattered to the four corners of the globe, and then re-gathered as the focus of world attention.

No other nation declares by its re-emergence in time, that there is a God who deserves to be feared and loved and obeyed.

No other nation exists as a declaration to the world that in the records of her history, we find our roots and in the prediction’s of her prophets we find our future.

The following is taken from John Barnett’s Message on…

“The Miracle of Israel”.

The history of our Salvation is inextricably bound up in the history of God’s Chosen People of Destiny – The Jews. That is why many years ago, when a great Bible conference speaker was asked to prove the inspiration of Scripture in one sentence, he replied: I’ll do it in one word – THE JEWS.

One nation on Earth was picked by God to be:

His Bearers of Truth,

His Begetors of the Line of Messiah, and

His Blessing to All Nations – ISRAEL.

What were God’s Objectives in choosing Israel? He called Israel to proclaim His existence as God, and to proclaim Him as Jehovah the God of Revelation. He then would demonstrate through Israel the blessing to be derived from belonging to God.
They were to become the writers and preservers of God’s revelation, and become God’s nation-priest to the nations of the world, and finally to bring into the world - the world’s Redeemer.

God of the Universe solemnly swore to Abraham that a nation would descend from him that would be the Chosen People of Destiny. Those People are the Jewish People, the Israelites, and God’s People.

2. GOD PROMISED TO GIVE A LAND TO HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY THE JEWS WITH CLEARLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES to ABRAHAM.

He renewed that promise to Abraham's son Isaac, to his grandson Jacob, and to their descendants after them forever

3. GOD PROMISED TO BRING HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY TO THE PROMISED LAND.

It is a historical fact that God brought these "chosen people" into the "Promised Land," an amazing story of miracles in itself.

4. GOD PROMISED TO JUDGE HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY IF THEY FORGOT HIM IN THE PROMISED LAND

When the Jewish people entered the Promised Land, God warned them that if they practiced the idolatry and immorality of the land's previous inhabitants, whom He had destroyed for their evil, He would cast them out as well. That this happened is, again, an indisputable fact of history.

5. GOD PROMISED TO SCATTER HIS UNFAITHFUL BUT CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY FROM THE PROMISED LAND

God declared that His people would be scattered "among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other". And so it happened. “The wandering Jew” is found everywhere.

6. GOD PROMISED A CURSE UPON HIS UNFAITHFUL BUT CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY AS THEY WANDERED THE WORLD WITHOUT THEIR PROMISED LAND

God warned that wherever they wandered the Jews would be "an astonishment, a proverb, a byword...a curse and a reproach". Amazingly, this has been true of the Jews all down through history, as even the present generation knows full well.

7. GOD PROMISED TO CHASTEN HIS UNFAITHFUL BUT CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY.
Furthermore, the prophets declared that these scattered peoples would not only be slandered, denigrated, and discriminated against, but they would be persecuted and killed as no other peoples on the face of the earth. History stands as eloquent witness to the fact that this is precisely what has happened to the Jews century after century wherever they were found.

8. GOD PROMISED TO PRESERVE HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY FROM ANNIHILATION.

God declared that in spite of such persecution and the periodic wholesale slaughter of Jews, He would not let His chosen people be destroyed, but would preserve them as an identifiable ethnic, national group. The Jews had every reason to intermarry, to change their names and hide their identity by any possible means in order to escape persecution.

9. GOD PROMISED TO REGATHER HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY BACK TO THE PROMISED LAND

The Bible declares that God determined to keep His chosen people separated to Himself because He would bring them back into their land in the last days prior to the Messiah's second coming. That prophecy and promise, so long awaited, was fulfilled in the rebirth of Israel in her Promised Land.

It happened at last in 1948, nearly 1900 years after the final Diaspora at the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 by the Roman armies of Titus. This restoration of a nation after 25 centuries is utterly astonishing, a phenomenon without parallel in the history of any other peoples and inexplicable by any natural means, much less by chance.

10. GOD PROMISED TO MAKE HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE OF DESTINY A SOURCE OF FEAR FOR THE WHOLE WORLD WHEN THEY GET BACK TO THE PROMISED LAND

God declared that in the last days before the Messiah's second coming, Jerusalem would become "a cup of trembling...a burdensome stone for all people". At the time Zechariah uttered this prophecy 2500 years ago, Jerusalem lay in ruins and was surrounded by wilderness. And so it remained century after century.

The Jewish People are God's People, the Jewish Custom's are God's Shadow of things even yet to come.

ISRAEL and the Miracle of God's work in and through them is the second great key to God's Prophetic Roadmap for the FUTURE.
The Lord has claimed that He ALONE can declare the future. “I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done” (Isaiah 46:9-10). “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed”(2Peter1:1).

What happens to ISRAEL has been ordained by God, and we need to be careful to understand from the past dealings of God with the Jews to realize in the future that He is still at work!

First we must see that God has Chosen the Jews as His People, and God has Chosen the Land of Canaan (not Palestine) as His Land and God has Chosen the Destiny of the Nation of Israel as His Destined Plan for His Destined People.

The Jews, the Land of Israel, and the Nation Israel are a Chosen People of Destiny.

As we read the newspapers and see how intense the hatred is of Israel by her enemies, even the continued existence of the Jews after centuries of dispersal and persecution unique in human history.

*Their continued existence is a mute but eloquent testimony to fulfilled prophecy.*

The restoration of Israel as a nation among nations in our own generation is merely the most recent in a long line of fulfilled prophecies dealing with the Jewish people.

Through the Holy Scriptures (almost all written by Jews) and through Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham has indeed become a blessing to all families of the earth. Some from every nation have found salvation and blessing through faith in Him.

One of the strong evidences of divine inspiration of the Bible (not found in other religious books of either past or present) consists of its hundreds of fulfilled prophecies. So, there can be No Ordinary Explanation for the existence in the world today of God’s Chosen People of Destiny, the Jews, and the nation of Israel.

For just a moment try to feel the impact of these observations.

The prophecies about the Jews, their history of suffering, their rebirth as a nation, and the future destiny God has mapped out for His Chosen People of Destiny “have been a matter of public record on the pages of Scripture and available for careful examination for centuries.
That they have been fulfilled in specific detail cannot be the result of mere chance but is in fact more than sufficient proof for the existence of the God who inspired the Bible and of that Book's authenticity and inerrancy.

In view of such clear and overwhelming evidence, one can only charitably assume that no agnostic or atheist has bothered to read the biblical prophecies and check them personally against history and current events.

During the last few centuries, the world, Christians included, has fallen into a bad habit. We have bought into some early Roman propaganda. We have used the name Palestine, which Roman Emperor Hadrian placed on the country of Israel in 135 A.D., for so long that it has become common usage.

This would be as incorrect as calling the Russia of today the "Soviet Union" or referring to Berlin as "East Germany."

**History of the Term Palestine**

Palestinians? There never was a Palestinian people, nation, language, culture, or religion. The claim of descent from a Palestinian people who lived for thousands of years in a land called Palestine is a hoax!

That land was Canaan, inhabited by Canaanites, whom God destroyed because of their wickedness. Canaan became the land of Israel given by God to His people.

Those who today call themselves Palestinians are Arabs by birth, language, and culture, and are close relatives to Arabs in surrounding countries from whence most of them came, attracted by Israel's prosperity.

The name Palestine comes from the Philistines, who were not Semites, but invaded Canaan from Crete and parts of Asia Minor. Yet Arafat, an Arab, claims that ancestry.

As previously noted, history records that in a.d. 130, the Romans rebuilt Jerusalem as a pagan city with a temple to Jupiter where the Jewish temple had stood. Provoked to rebellion, about 500,000 Jews were killed and thousands sold into slavery.

The Romans angrily renamed Israel "Syria Palaestina." Jews living there became known as Palestinians. During World War II, the British Army had a Palestinian Brigade made up entirely of Jewish volunteers. The Palestinian Symphony Orchestra was all Jewish, and The Palestine Post was a Jewish newspaper.
Israel's claim to the land goes back 4,000 years to Abrahams purchase of the cave of Machpelah in Hebron. There Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Leah are buried. In Hebron David was crowned king. This sacred Jewish site has no relationship to Arabs or Muslims.

Yet Muslims claim Hebron as their own, built a mosque to keep Jews and Christians from visiting the cave, and are determined to drive out every Jewish resident.

For 3,000 years Jerusalem was the capital of Israel. Temple Mount on the summit of Mount Moriah is the heart of Jerusalem. This 35-acre parcel arouses such explosive passions that it could trigger World War III at any time.

This is where Abraham built an altar to offer his son Isaac to God. That spot was purchased by King David from Ornan the Jebusite to build there an altar to God. There Solomon built the first temple. In its place now sits the Dome of the Rock, a monument to Islams unbiblical and irrational claim that Abraham offered, not Isaac, but Ishmael.

Where did the term Palestine originate from? How did the world and the church get into the habit of calling the land of Israel "Palestine"? One who has done considerable research on this subject informs us that before 135 A.D., the Romans used the terms Judea and Galilee to refer to the Land of Israel.

When Titus destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Roman government struck a coin with the phrase "Judea Capta," meaning Judea has been captured. The term Palestine was never used in the early Roman designations.

It was not until the Romans crushed the second Jewish revolt against Rome in 135 A.D. under Bar Kochba that Emperor Hadrian applied the term Palestine to the Land of Israel.

Hadrian, like many dictators since his time realized the propaganda power of terms and symbols. He replaced the shrines of the Jewish Temple and the Sepulchre of Christ in Jerusalem with temples to pagan deities.

He changed the name of Jerusalem to Aelia Capitalina, and changed the name of Israel and Judea to Palestine. Hadrian's selection of Palestine was purposeful, not accidental. He took the name of the ancient enemies of Israel, the Philistines, Latinized it to Palestine, and applied it to the Land of Israel.

He hoped to erase the name Israel from all memory. Thus, the term Palestine as applied to the Land of Israel was invented by the inveterate enemy of the Bible and the Jewish people, Emperor Hadrian.
It is interesting to note that the original Philistines were not Middle Eastern at all. They were European peoples from the Adriatic sea next to Greece. It may have pleased Hadrian to utilize this Hellenistic term for the Jewish land. In any case, the original "Palestinians" had nothing to do, whatsoever, with any Arabs.

**GOD IS AT WORK TODAY IN THE SAGA OF THE JEWS:**

The Jews began to return to Palestine in small numbers in the early part of the twentieth century, and then in much larger numbers after World War I and the Balfour Declaration. Jerusalem was still under British rule, however.

After World War II, the Israeli nation declared its independence in 1948 and was soon recognized by most of the nations and by the United Nations.

The new city of Jerusalem indeed did go back to the Jews at this time. However, the old city, including the all-important temple site on Mount Moriah, remained in the hands of the Jordanian Arabs.

In the "six-day war" of 1967, Israel finally recaptured the old city of Jerusalem, and the Israelis insist they will never let it go again. As of Christmas 2000 they have retained possession of all of Jerusalem for thirty-three long years, and there is no indication at all that the Arabs are going to recapture it.

**COULD GOD BE WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN?**

Yet, the Lord has not come! The times of the Gentiles are still in full sway, even though Jerusalem has apparently gone back to the Jews.

However, there is one exception. This exception makes all the difference and indicates with what fine lines the Holy Spirit inscripturates His Word. Jerusalem is not, in God's judgment, a collection of houses and streets, like other cities. It is a temple where God dwells, where His people approach Him through sacrifice, and where He meets with them.

**GOD HAS FOCUSED ON 40 ACRES OF LAND:**

As Solomon built the temple (1200x800 foot Temple Mount), God said: "I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there” (2 Chronicles 6:6). But long before this, God had first spoken through Moses: "There shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause His name to dwell there, thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt-offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD" (Deuteronomy 12:11).
WHERE IS GROUND ZERO:

This place was not just any place in Jerusalem; it was an exact spot, chosen by God. Jerusalem, so very small yet it shakes the entire earth!

- It was on Mount Moriah (2 Chronicles 3:1) Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

- The spot which God told David to purchase from Ornan the Jebusite and to set up the altar there (1 Chronicles 21:18) Therefore, the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

- This was the same spot where Abraham had, almost a thousand years before, prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:2) Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

- These 40 acres are only a short distance from Calvary itself. This spot, to the Jews and to God, is Jerusalem! And, amazingly, this one spot is the only spot in Jerusalem still controlled by Gentiles.

  It is on Mount Moriah that the Arabs have built their famous Dome-of-the-Rock, the second most holy place in the Muslim world. The Jews, for political or other reasons, have not yet dared to expel the Arabs from this site, raze it, and proceed to rebuild their temple, as they surely desire to do.

  It is apparently by this exceedingly slender thread, therefore, that the "times of the Gentiles" are still suspended.

- As the Lord Jesus said, "One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18).

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Have you ever noticed that the whole Bible is framed by the People of God known as Israel?

.. Genesis to Deuteronomy declares God chooses them as His People.
.. Joshua through Esther declares God Gives them His Land
.. Psalms through Malachi declares God Promises them His Future Plans
.. Matthew through Jude declares God Uses them as His Ambassadors
.. Revelation declares God Finishes His Plans for them!

There are all 66 books of God's Word in one frame work- ISRAEL!

*End Quotation from John Barnett’s “The Miracle of Israel”.*

**Truth** represents facts that are based on evidence.

Yet we continue to place our **Faith** in what we **choose to believe**, whether it is true or a lie.

**The war is over but the battles continue…prepare well to defend the truth that you chose to believe.**