**“Speak Pleasant Words to Us”**

In Isaiah 30:10, the following word is spoken to Israel: “For this is a rebellious people, false sons, sons who refuse to listen to the instruction of the Lord, who say, to the seers, “You must not see visions, and to the prophets; you must not prophesy the truth to us. Speak to us pleasant words, prophesy illusions.”

Much of the Church, especially in the west, shares this same mentality---teachings, prophetic words, visions and dreams tailor-made to fit the preferences of the audience.

In Revelation 10:9-10 the apostle John gives this account: “And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.”

God’s truth as expressed in Scripture isn’t contingent upon my personal preference. We’ve not been given that option. He doesn’t offer us a menu from which we can choose from Column “A” or Column “B” or as if it were some kind of smorgasbord. He doesn’t have a “Suggestion Box” and doesn’t need an editor.

We must swallow it whole, the bitter with the sweet, the curses with the blessings, the severity with the kindness. Moreover, I don’t believe we can fully appreciate the kindness of God apart from knowing something of the severity of God and the more we learn of His severity, the more we can appreciate His kindness.

When we engage in the most difficult of issues such as the Holocaust and a future Time of Jacob’s Trouble, they should be approached as if we were treading on holy ground. At the same time, it can also double as a mine field.

Folks like Candie and myself are considered Second Generation Survivors because in the majority of cases, to various degrees, the psychological effects of their parents’ experiences are indirectly passed on to their children as subtle as they may be. And as far as I’m concerned, the only real experts on the Holocaust are those who personally experienced it. The word expert comes from the Latin “expertus,” meaning “to try” or “experience.” And so, I could study this subject all my life and never be anything more than an academic.

In addition to that, it’s a real reality check not only to recognize how rapidly Holocaust survivors are dying out, but that their children are now senior citizens. And so, “redeeming the time” and “making the most of our opportunities” aren’t just wise life principles but are sobering realities.

Closer to the centrality of this message is this: In the past, my question had been, “Who has believed our report?” These days, it’s “Who is even willing to listen to it?” If it were only my report, that would be one thing. But if it’s presented as God’s report, then, at least it deserves to be heard or read for serious examination. That’s what true Bereans do!

In Acts 20:27 Paul states to the Ephesian elders, “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the WHOLE purpose of God.” But these days, there’s a whole lotta “shrinkage” going on, and from those who should know better, or who privately do know better but have determined that it would be far too costly to let it be known that they do know better.

If in our minds we can justify omitting multiple verses, then, eventually, there’s a mighty good chance that we’ll omit whole inconvenient chapters, which is being done by some of our most notable teachers. “Sins of omission” can be made manifest in a variety of ways, and this very much applies to how we approach the Scriptures.

Paul wrote, “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction.” In another place he wrote a similar statement, “Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction.”

Notice the objective of studying the people and events of the past. It's not for the sake of gathering useless facts. It’s to instruct us by learning lessons from the past that we might apply those lessons to the present and especially to the future.

The study of history and eschatology goes hand in hand. So, as we go along, I’d like you to process this message through the filter of history and eschatology, recognizing the historical and eschatological parallels and common threads that run all through the past, present and future.

And this ties into the primary theme of this message. Was there a divinely orchestrated purpose to the Holocaust or was it merely the inevitable outgrowth of man’s fallen nature that the devil would exploit, and that would eventually lead to the catastrophic event known as the Holocaust?

Does the same hold true for a future “Time of Jacob’s Trouble” within the Big Picture of the Everlasting Covenant and the Eternal Purpose of God? Even as the son of a Holocaust survivor I have a responsibility to eat the entire scroll. In other words, I don’t get a pass.

As a Jew, rather than having a reasonable excuse for avoiding such a topic, it makes me even more responsible as being entrusted with a stewardship. So, I have an obligation not to conveniently define and relegate such catastrophes into the simple and safe categories of perpetrator and victim, while adding Satan as orchestrating things from behind the scenes.

Like so many evangelicals, if the focus is only on the atrocities and the Jews as victims, we’ve shirked our responsibility to place this catastrophic event, within the proper context of God’s Purposes in His dealings with Israel. And when it comes to the Holocaust, we must be willing to look straight into that burning bush and not turn away in our examination of the Scriptures, if we examine them at all.

We must be willing to allow God to take us where we would not wish go. The lives of six million Jews are far too high a price to pay to ignore God’s ultimate purposes and His ways in fulfilling them as revealed in Scripture.

It reminds me of a public statement made by an older Jewish woman at a Messianic Jewish conference not that long ago whose relatives perished in the Holocaust. She said, “Six million Jews were killed for nothing!” Such a mindset only adds to the tragedy.

Bible teachers who influence countless numbers of people, and yet don’t objectively look to the Bible for an explanation is about as contradictory, or perhaps, hypocritical as it gets. As far as I’m concerned, it’s a blatant violation of theological integrity. It’s theologically dishonest! It’s apparent to me that the issue isn’t one of intellect, but of man’s flesh dominating spirit and truth.

All too often many of these “Bible scholars” and “pillars of the faith” manage to omit large portions of Scripture to avoid these rather inconvenient truths. They will go but so far and no farther. What’s the major difference between these most eminent Bible teachers and myself? I simply don’t ignore as much Scripture as they do.

Of course, much of what I read in Scripture is very difficult to accept, and especially when it comes to Covenantal Judgment upon my own people. But it’s not a matter of trusting or not trusting in a particular view. It’s a matter of trusting the Author who wrote it.

What has made the difference for me? Recognizing that apart from God’s grace, it would be impossible for me to objectively examine such a subject, especially with it being so personal. I confess that there are whole Scriptural passages that I would much prefer they not be found in the Bible, but there they are, the bitter intermingled with the sweet.

The very thought of a genuine and objective examination of the Holocaust and the Time of Jacob’s Trouble can make cowards of us all. We have no problem discussing the glorious promises that await the remnant of Israel as well we should. But it’s the process required to get there, willing to be taken down a path that we would not wish to go, that’s the great stumbling block for evangelicals.

I find it quite interesting that after the First Century, the term, “heresy”, gradually came to mean, departing from established doctrine. But the original Greek word, “hairesis”, is where we get the word heresy, meaning, “to choose.” I call it “Snippetology!”

We don’t get to apply, what I refer to as the Humpty Dumpty method of biblical interpretation as depicted in this little exchange found in the classic work by Lewis Carroll, “Through the Looking Glass.” It goes like this: “As Humpty Dumpty said to Alice, "words mean what I say them to mean", and Alice answered, "But how can you make them mean so many things?”

**The Great Stumbling Block for Professing “Lovers and Friends of Israel”**

Leviticus 26:14-45 – God warns the Children of Israel that if they rebel as a nation and there is no godly repentance, the next round of judgments would be seven times greater in scope and intensity than the previous one. And who is it that’s the author and sender of these severe judgments upon Israel? The answer is found in a single letter: “I”, referring to the God of Israel.

And as if for emphasis, and to leave absolutely no doubt as if it were possible to have any doubt as to the source of these judgments, amid these series of “I’s”, God says, “I, even, I.” To me, it’s sort of the equivalent of “What part of “NO” don’t you understand?” Or, in this case, “What part of “I” don’t you understand or refuse to understand?

It always comes down to, “Hath God said?” And even if He did say it, did He really mean it?” I’m reminded of Jesus’ rebuke of the two men on the Road to Emmaus: “You foolish men and slow of heart to believe in **ALL** that the prophets have spoken!”

While many unsaved Jewish rabbis may pretend that chapters like Isaiah 53 and others related to the Messiah don’t exist or alter their intended meaning, we have evangelicals, both Jew and Gentile, who purposely do the exact same thing with Scripture like Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28 and others throughout the Prophets because it doesn’t fit theirs and their audiences’ preferred narrative.

How do so many noted Bible teachers manage to ignore entire passages and chapters such as those previously mentioned? Either they’re a teacher who truly doesn’t understand these things or a teacher who doesn’t want to understand these things or a teacher who does understand these things but doesn’t want anybody else to know that they understand these things.

There’s no difference between that and “Speaking that which the Lord has not spoken.” There’s no difference between a half-truth and a total lie. Whether it’s adding to God’s word or taking away from God’s word, the indictment is still the same. Perhaps some of us should take this warning more seriously, since “as teachers, we incur the stricter judgment.”

To illustrate my point, there’s a view that attempts to make the case that “without Christian anti-Semitism there would have been no Holocaust.” Have significant Christian leaders over the centuries contributed to anti-Semitism? Of course! That’s indisputable! But to claim and teach others that without Christians, genuine or otherwise, the Holocaust would never have happened? How do Bible teachers possessing great intellect and knowledge come up with a view like that?

It can’t be a matter of biblical interpretation since there’s no Scripture provided to be interpreted. It’s not even “Snippetology.” If we purposely ignore such massive amounts of inconvenient Scripture as cited earlier, then there’s nothing left to snippet. It’s theologically dishonest. The subtle message being implied is, “Move along folks! Nothing to see here!”

Look! I’m the son of a Holocaust survivor married to the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Do you think the Scriptures that I previously mentioned and those like them fit our preferred narrative? The fact is that all too many Bible teachers and believers in general have presumed to apply their own preferred narrative or impose their own humanistic standards upon God.

It goes something like this: “God wouldn’t” (fill in the blank) or “Are you telling me that (fill in the blank)” or “Sorry! But that’s a little too far-fetched for me.” **FOR ME**. Now, that’s chutzpah! And these comments and other comments like them, come from influential evangelical Bible teachers, including the one I used as an illustration.

One of many of God’s responses to this presumption can be found in a single phrase in Psalm 50: “You thought that I was just like you.” And I love this quote from a British playwright named Frank Wedekind: “God made man in his own image, and man returned the favor.”

That ever-haunting question, “Where was God?” appears to have something of a debilitating effect on many. Regardless of whether they truly believe what they publicly say, some of the most theological heavyweights will decide to play it safe and give, what I refer to, as a non-answer answer, such as, “In all their affliction, He was inflicted.” OK! But how does that answer the original question?

As students of the Bible our objective is to follow the truth wherever it may lead and not stubbornly defend our position regardless of the evidence. Yet, how is it that even Bible scholars, who truly are Bible scholars, suddenly become biblically illiterate when it comes to addressing the subject of the Holocaust and become basically Deists, where God doesn’t interfere in the affairs of men?

**Prelude to the Holocaust and Martin Luther’s Significant Influence**

The following is more than a history lesson but also a cautionary tale:

It’s been said that what a man can build with his gifting can be torn down by his character. Paul wrote this word of exhortation to Timothy: “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching.” Tragically, Martin Luther failed to heed this advice.

Early in his career he had hoped to convert many Jews because of his intellect and theological prowess. When they rejected him and didn’t come into the Kingdom in droves like he expected, he gradually turned against them.

His pride was hurt, which led to a root of bitterness, which ultimately defiled many in the most tragic of ways. Once again, we see that the issue wasn’t a matter of intellect but that of the heart. This is a sad and tragic example of the verse, “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick.” Consequently, he failed to “guard his heart with all diligence.”

A very significant factor which led to the Reformation was the issue of grace.

Luther condemned the Roman Catholic Church for its omission and disobedience to the foundational doctrine of grace. But the fact of the matter is that he couldn’t find it in his own heart to extend that same grace to the Jew.

Julius Streicher who was Nazi Editor of the most notorious anti-Semitic newspaper at the time, for his birthday in 1937 was given an original copy of Luther’s book, “On the Jews and their Lies.” The title alone gives us a pretty good idea where this book is coming from and where it’s going. Upon reading it he commented that it was the most anti-Semitic pamphlet he had ever read. That’s some book review considering both the source and its recipient!

It’s an extremely vulgar book and again we come back to the classic omission of Scripture from the premier theologian of his time. In his vile attack on the Jews, he manages to omit any passages related to God’s Everlasting Covenant with Israel.

Moreover, Luther proposed in his book the following question: "What shall we Christians do with this rejected and condemned people, the Jews":

* "First, to set fire to their synagogues or schools ... This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians ..."
* "Second, I advise that their houses also be razed and destroyed."
* "Third, I advise that all their prayer books and [Talmudic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talmud) writings, in which such idolatry, lies, cursing, and blasphemy are taught, be taken from them."
* "Fourth, I advise that their [rabbis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabbi) be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life and limb ..."
* "Fifth, I advise that safe-conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the Jews. For they have no business in the countryside ..."
* "Sixth, I advise that [usury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usury) be prohibited to them, and that all cash and treasure of silver and gold be taken from them ..."
* "Seventh, I recommend putting a flail, an ax, a hoe, a spade, a distaff, or a spindle into the hands of young, strong Jews and Jewesses and letting them earn their bread in the sweat of their brow ... But if we are afraid that they might harm us or our wives, children, servants, cattle, etc., ... then let us emulate the common sense of other nations such as France, Spain, Bohemia, etc., ... then eject them forever from the country ..."

If this sounds much like the anti-Semitic Nazi policy of the 1930’s there’s a very good reason for it. Luther’s work not only perpetuated existing prejudices but also, literally, added much fuel to the fire of anti-Semitism, that would continue to burn for the next 400 years and setting the stage for the Holocaust. I’ll go so far as to say that as far as I’m concerned, Luther was an accessory to the crime.

There’s no question that the Nazis used Luther’s writings as they rose to power and initiated the Holocaust. An original copy of Luther’s book was always on-site in a glass case at these spectacular Nuremberg Nazi rallies. In Hitler’s book, Mein Kampf, published in 1925, Adolf Hitler praised Martin Luther as “a great warrior, a true statesman, and a great reformer.”

In 1937, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Luther’s words are everywhere, but twisted from truth into self-deception.” In fact, at the Nuremberg trials, the editor of that newspaper, who was also among the leaders of the Third Reich defended himself by asserting: “I have never said anything that Martin Luther did not say.”

Did Luther ever recant his anti-Semitism? Well, what I can tell you is that there’s no record of it. In fact, only four days before his death, he gave a series of sermons where in one of them he continued to warn the people about those diabolical Jews. He just couldn’t contain himself even at the end. “For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.” And many more Martin Luther’s will be emerging in the days ahead. Yes! “It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to the one through whom they come!” How tragic that Luther became as blind to God’s Covenantal Promises to Israel as he accused the Jews of being in their blindness.

**Hitler and the Third Reich**

Many consider Hitler to be a foreshadow of the Antichrist, and I can see some very legitimate parallels to support that view. Just as with Hitler, I believe the ascendancy of the Antichrist will be a subtle and gradual rise to power by the unlikeliest of individuals in the unlikeliest of ways. The details of Hitler’s background, from his childhood to young adulthood and rise to power clearly bears witness to this. But perhaps that’s for another time.

So, let’s look at some key aspects to Hitler as Fuhrer. For political reasons, to win the professing Christian masses over to blind, fanatical devotion to himself and Nazi ideology, he meshed Nazi ideology with Christianity, along with its terminology. It was called “Positive Christianity,” which promoted a Nazism which was both respectable and justifiable.

Hitler also took advantage of professional theatrical coaching, learning how to accentuate gestures and voice inflections to excite the crowds and to maximize the ability to manipulate an audience as one. These massive and spectacular events were designed and orchestrated to focus on one man, with a heavy emphasis on symbolism.

So powerful was the effect that an elderly Jewish man recalled that as a youth in 1930's Germany, he sneaked out of his home one night to see one of these grand Nazi rallies. According to his personal account, amid the crowd and the atmosphere, he also found himself being caught up in the energy and excitement of the moment; everyone raising their arms in unison and shouting the same things.

It was an explosion of emotion apart from reason. It was mass humanity reacting to commands and a response brought on by an appeal to their emotions. If a Jewish youth could get caught up in such a sea of emotion, and a Nazi activity at that, just think of the possibilities in the future!

Primo Levi, an Italian Chemist, writer, and Holocaust survivor, made the following statement: “Monsters exist but they are too few in number to be truly dangerous. More dangerous is the common man.”

How does this apply to the Church of today? A severe lack of biblical literacy and discernment does not bode well for the future---a deceived people ready made to follow anyone who can offer false signs and wonders, and ear-tickling teachings, and get away with it. No Scriptural examination! No testing of spirits! No judging of prophetic words---a sure recipe for disaster.

**The Evian Conference – July 1938**

Deuteronomy 28:64-66 says this: “Furthermore, the Lord will scatter you among all the peoples, from one end of the earth to the other; and there you will serve other gods, made of wood and stone, which you and your fathers have not known.

Among those nations you will find no peace, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. So your lives will be hanging in doubt before you; and you will be terrified night and day, and have no assurance of your life.”

As Jews fled Europe under Hitler’s rule, representatives from 32 countries met in Evian, France, in July of 1938 to discuss the growing refugee crisis in Europe. Representatives from Great Britain said it had no room to accommodate Jewish refugees. The Australians said, “We don’t have a racial problem and we don’t want to import one.”

Canada said of the Jews that “none was too many.” Holland and Denmark offered temporary asylum, but only for a few refugees, and the United States refused to increase their immigration quotas. I think a case can be made that to various degrees there was plenty of blame to go around.

Only the Dominican Republic offered to take 100,000 Jews, but their relief agencies were so overwhelmed that only a few Jews could take advantage of the offer. One German newspaper’s comment on Evian stands out: “We can see that one likes to pity the Jews…but no state is prepared to … accept a few thousand

Jews. Thus, the conference serves to justify Germany’s policy against Jewry.” And so, the Jews of Europe would soon find that they had no place to stay and no place to go.

**Excerpt from Speech by Hitler, September 12, 1938**

"They (the democratic nations) complain… of the boundless cruelty with which Germany-and now Italy also-seek to rid themselves of their Jewish elements. All these great democratic empires taken together have only a handful of people to the square kilometer. Yet Germany, without blinking an eyelid, for whole decades admitted these Jews by the hundred thousand.

But now… when the nation is no longer willing to be sucked dry by these parasites, on every side one hears nothing but laments. But lamentations have not led these democratic countries to substitute helpful activity at last for their hypocritical questions; on the contrary, these countries with icy coldness assured us that obviously there was no place for the Jews in their territory.”

**Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)**

On November 9th and 10th, 1938, about one hundred Jews were murdered and 30,000 more were sent to concentration camps. Nearly 200 synagogues were burned down. More than 7,000 Jewish-owned business were destroyed.

The vast amount of shattered glass from the windows of Jewish homes and shops gave the rampage its name, Kristallnacht or Night of Broken Glass. Oh! And coincidentally, November 10th just happened to fall on Martin Luther’s birthday.

During the previous five years, Germany’s Jews had been stripped of their legal rights and subjected to occasional outbursts of violence, but nothing comparable to the systematic, nationwide devastation of Kristallnacht. Hitler’s persecution of the Jews assumed a new and terrifying character in the autumn of 1938, with many historians viewing this event as the start of the Holocaust.

Now Hitler awaited the world’s response, to see whether there would be any serious international opposition to his anti-Jewish policies. Kristallnacht did not fundamentally alter the international community’s response to Hitler.

There were many verbal condemnations, but no economic sanctions against Nazi Germany, no severing of diplomatic relations, no easing of immigration quotas, not even a complete opening of the gates to the Jews’ own ancient homeland. The Free World’s muted reaction to the Kristallnacht pogrom foreshadowed the terrible silence with which it would greet the Nazis’ Final Solution.

**Excerpt from Hitler’s** [**Reichstag Speech**](https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/timeline-event/holocaust/1939-1941/hitler-speech-to-german-parliament) **January 30, 1939**

“Today I will once more be a prophet: If the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!”

As early as January 30, 1939, he telegraphed to the world what his intentions were. He found an excuse to invade Poland later that year in September, which began WWII, which led to the excuse of exterminating the Jewish race in Europe.

**Was it Even Possible for Hitler to Ever be Influenced by Public Opinion?**

Here’s a little-known and surprising fact. In 1939, Hitler signed a written decree called the T4 program. It was a policy authorizing the so-called “mercy killing” of German patients considered to be mentally and physically disabled. Throughout 1940 the general population became increasingly aware that thousands were being 'mercy-killed' by the Nazis in a Hitler-sanctioned state program.

Between 1940 and 1941 the German people's negative reaction became increasingly vocal and vehement, culminating in Hitler being openly jeered by a crowd watching mentally challenged patients being loaded onto a train at a rail station in Bavaria in 1941.

Ultimately, this negative public reaction to the T4 program and Hitler's sanctioning of it, bolstered by denunciations from German Catholic and Protestant church leaders, forced Hitler to publicly cancel the program in August of 1941. But when it came to the Jews, there was hardly a peep. Why? Because anti-Semitism had been part of the German fabric for centuries.

**The Bermuda Conference – April 1943**

Quoting from Leviticus 26:36-38 - “As for those among you who are left, I will also bring despair into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. And the sound of a scattered leaf will chase them, and even when no one is pursuing they will flee as though from the sword, and they will fall. They will then stumble over each other as if running from the sword, although no one is pursuing; and you will have no strength to stand before your enemies.

Instead, you will perish among the nations, and your enemies’ land will consume you. So those of you who may be left will rot away because of their wrongdoing in the lands of your enemies; and because of the wrongdoing of their forefathers, they will rot away with them.”

By the end of 1942, reports confirmed that the Nazis intended to exterminate all European Jewry. Both in the United States and Britain, Jewish groups demanded that their governments take a stand against the atrocities. The two governments then planned the conference to quiet public opinion but arranged it so that they would not have to make a serious effort to save any Jews.

The Conference was convened by the United States and Great Britain in Bermuda on April 19, 1943. The purpose of the conference, supposedly, was to deal with the issue of wartime refugees. The real reason the conference was called, however, was to silence the growing public outcries for the rescue of European Jewry without having to find any solutions to the problem.

They chose inaccessible Bermuda as the conference's venue to control the number of reporters and private representatives attending. Members of the Joint Distribution Committee and the World Jewish Congress were not permitted to attend.

The organizers also severely limited the issues that could be discussed. They insisted that the Jewish aspect of the problem not be mentioned, and neither government was willing to discuss the “Final Solution."

Furthermore, even five years after the Evian Conference and being fully aware of what was happening to European Jewry, the Americans still refused to consider changing their strict immigration quotas to let in more Jewish refugees.

At the same time, the British refused to consider Palestine as a safe-haven for Jewish refugees. They would not even discuss sending food packages to concentration camp prisoners.

The Americans also betrayed their lack of seriousness by not sending a high-ranking delegation with the authority to make decisions. At the conference itself, the attendees spent much time talking about renewing the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, which had been created at the 1938 Evian Conference for the purpose of negotiating with the Germans about refugees.

However, the point was moot because, as negotiating with the Nazis was no longer an option, no one was willing to fund the committee. No other solution suggested was deemed acceptable by the two governments, either. Thus, nothing was accomplished, and the Bermuda Conference did not save one Jew.

This was a foreshadow of what was to come at the time of Jacob’s Trouble.” Jeremiah had prophesied about this very thing: “All your lovers have forsaken you; they do not seek you.”

**Education as the Answer to Fighting Anti-Semitism**

Germany proved that to be a fallacy. It can be argued that pre-WWII Germany was the most sophisticated, educated and cultured society of that time. Many of the greatest intellectuals, educators, authors, philosophers, inventors, engineers, scientists, those of the arts, along with theologians were produced in Germany, some of whom becoming part of the leadership of the Nazi regime. And, it has been said that, in general, these Nazi leaders were model family men.

This leadership wasn’t comprised of a bunch of thuggish morons. It wasn’t a lack of education or intellect that had caused these men to become what they did. It never has been. It was a heart issue. It was a spiritual issue. At the Nuremberg Trials immediately following the war there 24 defendants, who were at the highest levels of the Nazi regime.

During the trial they were given IQ tests. Every one of them was tested out as having above average intelligence. Hitler’s personal physician estimated that he likely had an IQ of near 140. That may have been an exaggeration but after reading much of Hitler’s writings and accounts of his public debates, I don’t happen to think that his estimates are that far off.

Does Holocaust education have any benefit at all? At best, I would say rather minimal. Why? I repeat, because it’s not a matter of information but that of the heart and spirit, but also, within the bigger picture of the prophetic.

Today, we clearly see that the facts don’t matter. And even for that tiny percentage that are beneficially impacted by such education, in the vast majority of cases it will quickly evaporate. Why? I repeat, because it’s a heart issue. It’s a spiritual issue.

**Hitler’s View on Education**

We see what's going on in our public schools these days, heavy on indoctrination and light on academics and traditional values. Well, here’s a little quote from Hitler in 1935 that speaks volumes: “He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future.”

In 1938 he said this under the title: “Shaping the Future: Indoctrinating Youth” “These boys and girls enter our organizations [at] ten years of age, and often for the first time get a little fresh air; after four years of the Young Folk (name of the organization) they go on to the Hitler Youth, where we have them for another four years . . .

And even if they are still not complete National Socialists, they go to Labor Service and are smoothed out there for another six, seven months . . . And whatever class consciousness or social status might still be left . . . the Wehrmacht [German armed forces] will take care of that.”

**Jewish Identity**

Prior to the Nazi-driven Holocaust, Jews were, historically, either persecuted or martyred for their identification with the Jewish religion and culture or spared from such a fate through religious conversion or total assimilation into the dominant national culture.

What set this Holocaust apart was not only in its magnitude, but in the criteria used in defining, “Who is a Jew?” Conversion and assimilation would no longer spare you. Having Jewish blood was all that mattered.

Just prior to and during the Holocaust, it was difficult enough to hide one’s Jewish identity. But with today’s and tomorrow’s technology it will be virtually impossible. DNA testing to identify one’s ethnicity is already incredibly fast and accurate.

I can easily envision in the future everyone being required to submit to DNA testing. Once Jews are identified their personal information would be stored and segregated into a data bank and readily accessible.

**Wannsee Conference**

In January of 1942, the German High Command, convened at the Wannsee Conference located in a suburb of Berlin, where the Final Solution was discussed and established as official policy, with the objective of exterminating all Jews in Europe.

In March of 1942, the use of Zyklon B was first introduced in the death camps. Aside from the efficiency of killing large numbers of prisoners in a very short period, there was one other impetus for its implementation so quickly.

Up until then, the primary method of murdering Jews, especially in eastern Europe was by firearms and to a smaller degree carbon monoxide from the exhaust of trucks as it rode around with Jews inside until they were all dead. The reason for getting away from the method of firearms was that it was using up too much ammunition and that it was having a negative effect on morale.

**Why Jewish Resistance was so Difficult**

Deuteronomy 32:30 - “How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had given them up?”

Isaiah 30:17 - “One thousand will flee at the threat of one man; you will flee at the threat of five, until you are left like a signal post on a mountain top, and like a flag on a hill.”

In the past, the question has been raised, “During the Holocaust, why weren’t the Jews who far outnumbered their Nazi guards unable or unwilling to rush and overwhelm them when gathered in mass? Upon further review, I wouldn’t be too quick to attribute it to cowardice.

It’s questionable how significant a difference it would have made in the end, but starting in 1936, the Gestapo prohibited German police officers from giving firearms licenses to Jews. In November 1938, the 1938 Regulations Against Jews' Possession of Weapons prohibited the possession of firearms and bladed weapons by Jews.

So, you’ve got Nazi soldiers with all types of machine guns, from light to heavy, trained on this totally defenseless mass of Jewish humanity, with whole families huddled together. These soldiers are armed with weapons that fire several hundred rounds per minute. As soon as anyone would make a move towards these soldiers, they would immediately open fire.

With such a mass of humanity so closely bunched together, there would soon be only a mass of death. And what would the husbands and fathers instinctively do? They would try their best, although in futility, to shield their loved ones from the bullets. The quick work of eliminating the husbands and fathers would lead to quick work of the women and children. That’s the reality!

There are examples of Jewish resistance, camp uprisings and partisan groups operating primarily in the surrounding forests using guerilla tactics. Perhaps, the best-known revolt, which happened to be in an urban area was the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The relatively few weapons they had to fight the Nazi’s had to be smuggled in.

It took four weeks to finally end the resistance, which was quite an accomplished by the Jews and quite an embarrassment for the Nazi’s. Ultimately, virtually all of the 700 young Jewish fighters were either killed during the fighting itself or captured and immediately executed.

**The Rescue of Jews by Non-Jews**

We find in Proverbs 24:11-12 the following admonition: “Rescue those who are being taken away to death, and those who are staggering to the slaughter, oh hold them back! If you say, “See, we did not know this,” does He who weighs the hearts not consider it? And does He who watches over your soul not know it? And will He not repay a person according to his work?”

The rescue of Jews by non-Jews, was the exception rather than the rule during the Holocaust. Most people never considered helping Jews. The brutal repression of those who helped and fear of such repression, the culture of conformity, the prevailing atmosphere of antisemitism, and in many times and places, the profound suffering brought upon by the war, all contributed to an attitude of caring only for “me and mine” and the general abandonment of the Jews to their fate.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that out of nine million Jews under Nazi domination, tens of thousands were rescued during the Holocaust by non-Jewish people. If caught by the Nazis, those who attempted to provide aide to Jews were sent to prisons or concentration camps or immediately executed, depending on the country in which they lived.

Rescue put both the immediate family and sometimes even the entire community of the rescuer in peril. Some rescuers survived with those they hid or helped escape until the end of the war, only to be murdered by their neighbors for having had the audacity to help Jews. Some Jews were saved when they were hidden by non-Jews in and around their homes.

Hiding places included attics, cellars, barns, underground bunkers, and even dog houses were used as hiding places for weeks and months. Some Catholic and Protestant clergy hid Jews in churches, orphanages, and convents. Most people are familiar with Corrie Ten-Boom's story, “The Hiding Place,” and how her family helped save many Jews during the Nazi occupation of Holland during the Second World War.

But, out of that entire story, two items, often overlooked, caught my attention.

First, that of the estimated 800 Jews that they physically saved, directly or indirectly through the Dutch Underground network, it’s reported that they never attempted to convert any of those Jews.

They were eventually discovered, arrested and sent to the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp, which was really a death camp, exclusively for women.

They were there among the afflicted while they themselves were afflicted. Amid the misery they were lights that shone in the darkness.

They became living epistles, and those women recognized it. Their testimony opened the hearts of countless women who were led to the Lord, many of whom were Jewish. In the words of Joseph, “What men meant for evil, God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result.”

**The Holocaust in Retrospect**

Before we go any further, we ought to address the word, “Holocaust” itself. Where does the word “Holocaust” come from? It’s of Greek origin, which literally means, “burnt whole” but was originally understood to mean in the ancient Hellenistic religion, “a burnt sacrifice offered whole to God.”

Some years ago, I ran across this prophetic passage in reference to judgment found in Hosea 13:3 which stopped me dead in my tracks. Out of the New American Standard Bible it reads: “Therefore they will be like the morning cloud and like dew which soon disappears, like chaff which is blown away from the threshing floor, “**and like** **smoke from a chimney**.”

The following is a foreshadow of the remnant of Israel who comes through the fire at the end of Jacob’s Trouble. Here it is, the end of 1941. Most of Europe is under German occupation. France had already been defeated by the German Army the year before. England was on the ropes and barely hanging on with significant assistance by the United States in shipping supplies to sustain her. But here is where the divinely orchestrated scenario enters the picture:

Japan attacks the United States at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. America declares war on Japan. Because of Germany’s pact with Japan, Germany in turn declares war on the United States. Isolationist America, although it was already being gradually drawn into the war, could no longer sit on the sidelines. Thanks to Japan and God’s sovereign intervention, she was now, “All in!” The result? A third of European Jewry comes through the fire and survived.

And here is the prophetic fulfillment at the end of Jacob’s Trouble taken from Zechariah 13:9 - ‘And it will come about in all the land,” declares the Lord, “that two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire.”

By 1944, when it became apparent that Germany was on the verge of losing the war, Hitler diverted many of the military resources towards the annihilation of the Jews. That became his number one priority. Why? Because Hitler’s ultimate ambition was to rid the world of all Jews at any cost, even if it meant sacrificing Germany. That’s not normal. That’s a demonic obsession, the very sort of obsession that the Antichrist will have towards the Jews in his time.

Nazi Germany and its collaborators killed about 1.5 million Jewish children. Jewish adolescents (13–18 years old) had a greater chance of survival, as they could be used for [forced labor](https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/narrative/3384/en). But we’ll never know for sure the number of children murdered as many were never recorded in the reports.

Why? There were times where upon a train’s arrival babies were ripped from their mother’s arms and thrown directly into a burn pit. You see, you couldn’t put them to work, and they had no gold teeth or hair. They simply had no value. Pregnant women went straight to the gas chambers.

But here’s something else I think you should know. Since the re-establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the estimated number of abortions performed in that tiny country vary widely, with the lowest estimate being 800,00 and the highest being over 2 million. Regardless, I think today the Nazi’s would likely be quite amused at the irony of it all.

**What Sort of People Came Out of the Holocaust?**

Jeremiah 5:3 - “O Lord, do not Your eyes look for truth? You have smitten them,

but they did not weaken; you have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to repent.”

II Cor. 7:10 - “For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

With few exceptions, what came out of the Holocaust, was not a godly sorrow according to the will of God which produces a repentance leading to salvation, but rather, a worldly sorrow, the sorrow of a victim, which resulted in the defiant declaration, “Never Again!” and relying on the arm of flesh as their strength. As a people the “pride of their power” had yet to be broken.

Nevertheless, the Scriptures tell us that we are to bless Israel in a variety of ways. But where the line needs to be drawn is when we contribute to that pride, the very thing that God must break in order to bring her into the Bond of the Covenant. On this issue there can be no middle ground. We will either bless her or curse her.

**The Prophetic Bridge to Jacob’s Trouble and the Final Return**

We often discover God’s purposes with something of a bridge found in phrases like, “so that” or “in order that.” They aren’t bridges to nowhere. We don’t need any more prophets of doom, who are no prophets at all, who just leave us hanging, with no redemptive objective or purpose.

What we do need is to be familiar with the prophetic signs that God has revealed to us, otherwise, how are we to “Watch and pray” if we’re ignorant of what to watch for?---but not only for our own sakes but especially for the sake of others, and especially the Jewish People so that we can “give understanding to the many.”

Sadly, and tragically, there will be more than enough examples of “the blind leading the blind,” The all-too-common pseudo-spiritual comment of “I don’t get into prophecy” and “All that matters is to just be ready” is unscriptural to begin with. Your devotion is centered around the unholy trinity of me, myself and I. This sort of ignorance is neither a gift nor a fruit of the Spirit.

Honest ignorance is one thing. Willful ignorance pertaining to God’s prophetic purposes as revealed throughout Scripture is quite something else. In addition to willful ignorance, which includes, just plain laziness, it renders us ill-prepared to be “a vessel, fit for the Master’s use.”

In the west, especially, with virtually unlimited access to Bibles, we are without excuse not to have at least a basic knowledge of the prophetic in the spirit of the “sons of Issachar, who understood the times, with knowledge of what **Israel** should do.” Notice, it doesn’t say that they understood the times, with the knowledge of what the sons of Issachar should do. It was about what **ALL Israel** should do.

I want to say a word about how critical understanding the times is as a prerequisite of what we are to do at the proper time. When it comes to the prophetic, we can’t get away with being right in one and not the other. Understanding the times and not knowing what to do is no better than knowing what to do but not at the right time.

As an example: Isaiah 40:1-2 - “Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God. “Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

This passage, along with countless others, has been invoked by well-meaning evangelicals for a very long time. But there is one significant problem, or inconvenient truth, if you will---Israel’s warfare hasn’t ended, and her iniquity hasn’t been removed, which must occur **BEFORE** they enter the Land to possess it forever.

But is it all due to blindness? I’m not convinced that it is. Along with blindness, we might also consider, wishful thinking, self-deception, or a conflict of interest that might be detrimental to one’s ministry, or due to the fear of man, not having the courage and integrity to speak the truth no matter the cost.

Throughout the Scriptures, and especially those dealing with Israel in the Law and the Prophets, there is what I call the “When and Then Principle.” At times it will be the “If and Then Principle.” They are always associated with pre-conditions set forth by God. The following is only one of many examples:

Deuteronomy 30:1-3 - “So it will be **WHEN** all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have placed before you, and you call them to mind in all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul in accordance with everything that I am commanding you today, you and your sons, **THEN** the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.” **AND NOT BEFORE!**

Passages such as Ezekiel 20:33-38 and Amos 9:8-19 tell us in so many words that God will purge all the rebels from Israel leaving a redeemed remnant prior to the Final Return who is to enter and possesses the Land forever.

Deuteronomy 4:27-30 - “The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord drives you. There you will serve gods, the work of human hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear, nor eat nor smell anything.

**BUT** **FROM THERE---From where? From there** you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things happen to you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice.”

Hosea 5:14-15 - “For I will be like a lion to Ephraim and like a young lion to the house of Judah. **I, yes, I**, will tear to pieces and go away, I will carry away, and there will be no one to rescue. I will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; in their distress they will search for Me.” God repeats what He said to Israel in Leviticus 26. This all comes from Me!

This is what it all comes down to as I understand the Scriptures: We refer to geographical Israel as the Holy Land. Is it called to be a Holy Land? Yes! Is it a Holy Land today? No! Why? Because a holy God requires a holy people to inhabit a holy land.

The high priest couldn’t enter the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle or Temple of God unless he had first sanctified himself by taking off his normal priestly garments, wash, and then put on the special garments which were prescribed for the sacrifices which took him into the Holy of Holies.

He couldn’t just enter the Tabernacle or Temple on his own terms, but strictly according to God’s terms. And, even if he was permitted to enter, he wasn’t “home free.” He had to conduct himself in a manner worthy of the owner of the dwelling and according to the strictest of instructions. If not, he didn’t last long.

T. Austin-Sparks made this statement: “God’s end is always present in His beginnings.” When sin entered man, through man, it also entered the Garden. The man and the Land were no longer compatible. “So, He drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.”

It’s the very reason why Israel has never been able to keep the Land. But in the end, as stated previously, they must enter the land on God’s terms, as a completely sanctified people, and His terms are nonnegotiable!

The belief that the modern-day State of Israel represents the prophetic fulfillment of the Final Return, and, therefore, is invincible militarily, never again to experience a successful invasion and dispersion from the Land is as common as the belief in an imminent pre-trib rapture, and just as dangerous, if not worse---and I believe it’s worse.

For many years I’ve been quite concerned over the wholesale encouragement and even recruitment of Jewish believers to emigrate to Israel. This effort is based upon the false premise that regardless of cataclysmic world events directed at the Jews, Israel will be the only safe haven during such times to the end of the age. I don’t question the sincerity of such teaching, but the result is no less dangerous, if not lethal.

Here’s another example of “Snippetology” influenced by what I believe to be wishful thinking: There are those who take a snippet out of Ezekiel 37, namely verse 10, and base their premise having taken this verse completely out of context.

So, having taken this snippet out of context to justify and teach the view that at the very last moment when Israel is on the verge of total annihilation that God will raise up this physical exceedingly great Israeli Army scattered all over the earth to defeat these invading armies.

If one will read past verse 10 and read verses 11-14, the explanation given by God contradicts, what I believe to be a doctrine based upon wishful thinking, and a violation of theological integrity, even if unintended.

But we don’t have to be a theologian to recognize the problem with this interpretation of a physical Ezekiel’s Army. There is absolutely nothing militaristic in the explanation of this exceedingly great army.

Isaiah 66:19-20 describes the condition of the Jews at the end of Jacob’s Trouble: “Then they shall bring all your countrymen from all the nations as a grain offering to the Lord, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem.” Does that sound like an “exceedingly great army” to you?

Even aside from that, consider this: After 3500 years, God finally brings Israel to the place of complete brokenness, with their pride shattered only to backtrack and raise her up to defeat a horde of nations coming against her. I don’t think so!

Zephaniah 3:11-12 says, “On that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds by which you have rebelled against Me; for then I will remove from your midst your proud, arrogant ones, and you will never again be haughty on My  
holy mountain.”

Having said that, there are those who are and will be genuinely called to live and minister in Israel, having prophetic insight, having been strategically placed in order to instruct many at the most critical of times.

But, I’m convinced from Scripture that, in reality, particularly during the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble,” those who have been sold on the belief that modern-day Israel represents the Final Return, and therefore is under God’s Divine protection to the end of the age, will suddenly discover that they have unwittingly “jumped from the frying pan into the fire.”

In this case, evangelicals may be literally loving the Jewish People to death. And so, the original romanticism of making "Aliyah" will eventually and tragically be extinguished, and who will be answerable for the unintended physical and spiritual consequences? “Speaking that which the Lord has not spoken” comes at a very high price!”

And what are these teachers going to say when it becomes crystal clear that they were wrong and that their end-time teachings and timelines had, literally, passed them by? “Oops! My bad!?!” I call this ministerial malpractice!

How can the prophesied invasion of Israel described in Ezekiel 38, among others, the Abomination of Desolation and Jacob’s Trouble be reconciled with the belief that modern-day Israel established in 1948 is the fulfillment of the Final Return? I’ll tell you how; by applying the unbiblical method of wishful thinking, by ignoring, spiritualizing, or putting these prophetic events in the past.

If we take these prophetic events literally, and there is nothing to indicate that they should be interpreted any other way, it is impossible to reconcile these events with modern-day Israel as the fulfillment of the Final Return.

A while back I quoted the verse, “O Lord, do not Your eyes look for truth?” This applies to the message supporters of Israel promulgate as well. I believe that a significant contributor to the “Great Falling Away” will be two-fold.

When it becomes clear that an imminent pre-tribulation rapture has not occurred, and it also becomes clear that what was thought to be the Final Return of the Jewish People back to the Land wasn’t the Final Return after all, I can envision people saying to themselves and to each other, “If we were wrong about the pre-trib rapture and we were wrong about the Final Return, what else have we been wrong about?” It will be a double whammy!

**End-Time Reality Check**

J.R.R. Tolkien gave the following advice, “Let him not vow to walk in the dark, who has not seen the darkness fall. Translation: Talk is cheap!” Peter told Jesus, “Even if they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away!” We all know how that turned out.

James flat out tells us that our boasting about tomorrow is not only arrogant but evil. It’s so easy for us to say, “How could they do that?” or “Why didn’t they do that?” or “Well, I never would have done that.”

The following are the types of questions I sometimes ask myself:

Had I been a German citizen and a Christian in Nazi Germany, “What could I have done?” “What should I have done? and leading up to the ultimate question, “What would I have done?” We can take it a step further by asking the question, “What if I were a soldier in the German Army, what could I have done?” “What should I have done?” “What would I have done? or, not done?”

“What if I had been a Jew in a death camp chosen to be a Kapo, a prisoner selected to be something of a taskmaster, who in turn received better food and better clothes, how would I have treated my Jewish brethren?” If I were a Holocaust survivor how objective would I be in examining such a sensitive and volatile subject? Would I be able to do it at all?

Giving some consideration to these questions in the present may have some benefit in preparing for the future. I do know one thing for certain, that short of the grace of God, all bets are off as to how I would react under such intense circumstances.

On this side of such extreme persecution, I realized a while back that a fleshly kind of pseudo-spiritual machismo, a romanticized notion of martyrdom, and trusting in the arm of flesh, will likely turn out to have been a lethal presumption.

So now, let’s place those questions in the context of the future. “What could I do?” “What should I do?” And that final nagging question, “What will I do if faced with similar circumstances as with the Holocaust, and a future Holocaust referred to as the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”?

For those of us around at that time, we can be certain that we surely will be confronted with similar circumstances, only greater, in those final days as we already see anti-Semitism on the rise and on the verge of exploding. For me, I find myself unable to answer any of these questions with any degree of self-confidence, and that’s how it should be.

The noblest of intentions, the grandest of visions, the correctness of our eschatology won’t be enough to sustain us nor others in those most critical prophetic days to come. We are already well on our way to something of a “Smoke Out” season for the Church in several areas, two of which are the following:

When it’s no longer in vogue to be associated with Israel and when anti-Semitism is taken to a level that even exceeds that of the Holocaust, many professing “Lovers of Israel", will be exposed as having had no more than a human fascination and sentimental attachment to her.

Much like Peter having denied knowing the Lord three times, there will be many so-called “Lovers and Friends of Israel” who will likewise go from, “Why some of my best friends are Jewish” to “I never knew them!” Lovers can come and go but how is true friendship revealed? Proverbs tells us: “A friend loves at **ALL** times.”

Originally, I wasn’t going to quote this passage since virtually everyone is quite familiar with it. But I can’t think of a better expression and example of that kind of love and devotion than that of Ruth, a Gentile woman:

“For where you go, I will go, and where you sleep, I will sleep. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord do so to me, and worse, if anything but death separates me from you.”

That’s the kind of divine love and devotion that will be required of a Church who made such claims during more tranquil times. But with a spirit like that, it makes your belief in the timing of the rapture virtually a moot point.

That said, our eschatology alone won’t be sufficient to withstand the onslaught to come that will eventually be faced by believers. There will be some who hold to a post-tribulation rapture and yet will not be able to endure to the end and there will be some pre-tribbers who will. Why? Because they had a solid spiritual foundation, meaning, their faith was built upon the Person of Christ, not their eschatology.

But make no mistake! Eschatology is a critical part of the building. It’s far better, both for us and for the sake of others, to have an accurate view of the end-times that we might be prepared as “a vessel, fit for the Master’s use,” equipped to give insight to the many” at the proper time.

The witness of the Church and eschatology are inextricably linked. We need to recognize, just as the early disciples did, that the restoration of Israel and the Second Coming, otherwise known as “the Day of the Lord,” is a package deal, a joint fulfillment. Israel and the Church are joined at the hip. The destiny of the one cannot be fulfilled apart from the other. They are intertwined.

To my pre-trib imminent rapture brethren who profess to be “Lovers of Israel” but who are just itching to be taken out of here prior to the time the Jew will need you the most, you should know that your testimony has just been obliterated. Even worse, you’ve placed one more stumbling block before the Jewish People. Well, God has a message for you.

“Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?”

Proverbs tells us: “A prudent person sees evil and hides himself, but the naive proceed, and pay the penalty.” It’s for this very reason that the Church must be made aware and prepare for the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble” which will run concurrently with the “Great Tribulation,” the last 3 1/2 years of the 70th Week of Daniel.

It will also be the time of the Church’s greatest glory and God’s greatest glory in His vindication as the God who was indeed able to bring this people into the bond of the Covenant, not only to enter the Land as they’ve done multiple times before, but to finally keep it and fulfill their original calling to be “a light to the nations.”

In the end, when Israel has come to the place where “the pride of her power is gone, and they are without hope,” they will say, “Why has the Lord our God done all these things to us?” Contained in that question is finally the recognition that all along it’s been the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who has inflicted these judgments upon them. I would to God that well-meaning Gentiles recognized the same thing, while at the same time others recognizing that “God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.”

And so, the remnant of Israel finally takes ownership of what has befallen them that goes beyond the convenient categories of perpetrator, victim, and Satan. As God expresses it, “It will come to pass when in their distress they will search for Me, acknowledge their guilt and seek God’s face.”

If the Church doesn't GET IT, how can we expect the Jew to GET IT, when in their weakness and despair, pose those ultimate questions to us, "Where was God?" and “Why did God?” God expects us to not only to provide **AN** answer, but the **CORRECT** answer, that which He has already revealed in His Word, beginning with the Law and the Prophets.

If the Church refuses to seek and to accept God's answer, then she will have no legitimate answer to give to the Jew at the very time he will need it the most. Almost out of desperation, merely quoting “In their affliction He was inflicted” will fall miserably short of declaring the “whole purpose of God” to Israel.

Could it be that much of the Church’s unwillingness to honestly seek and to accept God’s dealings with Israel as revealed in the Scriptures is due to her own willful avoidance in first applying it to herself? If the Church can lower the godly standards for Israel, doesn’t that make it easier to justify lowering them for herself?

And just as there will be but a remnant left as the result of God’s necessary purging of Israel, so too, will there be but a remnant of the Church as a result of the same process applied in producing a corporate “vessel, fit for the Master’s use.” Doesn’t the Scripture tell us that judgment must first begin with the household of God?

As such, God's dealings with the Church in brokenness and humility must precede that of Israel. And, even there, such a judgment must first begin with us as individuals. To miss that, is to miss the Church's necessary preparation and ultimate calling in repaying her debt to the Jew.

As I stated early on in this message, it all comes down to that original question, "Hath God said?" And, even if He did say it, did He really mean it? And if He did mean it, why do we choose to ignore what He said? This is not a matter of intellect, but a matter of the heart.

Just as the Ten-Boom sisters manifested Christ as the proof of their testimony at Ravensbruk by sharing in the same afflictions as the rest of the prisoners, so too, in the spirit of a Ruth, God is calling the Church to follow their example.

Daniel 11:33 tells us that “Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many.” Simply put, without that insight, we won’t have the necessary understanding to give to the many. And should the Lord tarry, we’ve been entrusted with a stewardship to pass it on to the next generation and the next.

If Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church, which He is, then, Israel is the capstone. Therefore, it's incumbent upon the Church to understand that she cannot be made perfect or complete apart from that redeemed remnant of Israel. For in Israel’s welfare is the Church’s welfare.

The Church has been given a last days mandate to function as something of a corporate midwife, assisting in the delivery of that nation that is to be “born in a day.” It all comes down to this: “Salvation is of the Jews” and God is calling upon the Church to return the favor!