

Israel My Brother

Jason Haché

Persia, Syria, Egypt, Rome, Greece, Babylon, Germany, Palestine, the list goes on and on. From as far back as history records there has been a nation bent on the annihilation of the Jews. Although, none who oppose the children of Abraham will prevail. Scripture is very clear that those who bless God's chosen people shall be blessed, and conversely, those who curse them will be cursed. Even with such a clear warning generation after generation, decade after decade, century after century anti-Semitism rears its ugly head again and again. As time passes on, this ancient foe has found a new frontier of hate and destruction.

I am a follower of the Messiah. Who was a Jewish "man", born to Jewish parents, in a Jewish city . . . conceived and sent by a Jewish God. He was foretold by Jewish Prophets, preserved through a Jewish line, and a savior of Jewish people. How often we Westernize Yeshua with our blue eyes and our blonde hair, and with the administration of each of these stereotypes we further the divide between our Jewish brothers and ourselves. This rift is not new, it has slithered its way throughout the history of His church. We have labeled them Christ killers, hated their adamant cohesion to the old covenant, and perhaps are even jealous of the place that God holds for them in His heart. What a wellspring of pain it must bring to the Father to see His children at such odds. How could one possibly profess love for the Lord God and harbor such hatred for the nation of His "first born son"?

Is it really that bad?

We stand by and watch through rose-colored glasses as the world mounts itself against Israel. Worse than that, it's all presented under the guise of peace. We cry out for unity, we shed tears over the death and destruction in the Middle East, but what is our true desire? Is it the restoration of the Jewish people to their God given position in Israel? Is it a longing for a stop to the bloodshed? Or are we merely uncomfortable with the entire situation and simply want it to end.

Peace at all costs.

Learn to live together.

Honestly, what is wrong with everybody in the Middle East? Why can't they just learn to co-exist? The answer is simple – the Palestinian Assembly is not looking for peace. They aren't looking for a small portion of land to settle and raise families. Instead, they seek the annihilation of the Jews and the sole possession of their land. Unfortunately, they are not alone. Israel has enemies at every side, and their sphere of influence is far reaching.

We are bombarded by a worldwide media coalition against the use of the term “terrorism” in regards to the merciless slaughtering perpetuated by multiple Palestinian “political” groups. That is truly what they are. They aren't extremists, militants, or zealots. They are politicians, purchasing their election to power with the blood of their own children. Certainly not all Palestinians feel this way? There are some that disprove of the means by which this end is attained, but it is an end they desire intensely. And, like the rest of the world, they are willing to turn a blind eye to these atrocities and hope that it all ends well.

Somehow, in the midst of all this bloodshed and shrapnel, we have misplaced the truth. This is not a war over land, or temples . . . it is a war over survival. The God given right to exist. The root of the Palestinian hatred towards the Israeli nation is based solely in their being. They long to drive the Jews into the sea. There is no middle ground; there is no compromise – just utter destruction. The Jews on the other hand simply wish to live. This basic right has been a struggle since the days of Abraham. The nation of Israel has been oppressed, captured, slaughtered, and dispersed – but they have survived! Through every trial, every tribulation God has kept a remnant, “for God's gift and His call are irrevocable” (Rom 11:29).

Yet now, we deal with a nation that attains the might and the power to defend her land, to defend her very life. No longer is she weak and frail. Finally, after so many years the Jews have the ability to fight back and for this we reprimand them. We mourn for those slaughtered through the Holocaust, we weep over historic accounts of the temple's destruction and the devastating slaughter that accompanied it; yet, when a beaten and bloody nation finally rises and says “enough” we cringe in the corner. We love to mourn with the Jews, calling out against a society that is overtly at fault, but when it comes time to fight alongside them we are nowhere to be found. Instead, we find ways

to justify our inactivity. We try to equate the life of a terrorist bomber with that of his victim. We see Israel's calculated strikes against the leaders of terror within her own nation and we liken them to that of a man entering a crowded city bus, full of innocent civilians, with the sole intention of shedding as much blood as possible.

Of course, war and casualties go hand-in-hand. No matter how calculated a strike there is bound to be innocent blood shed. But we can't compare the victims of war with the victims of terror. The prior is accidental and unfortunate, the latter is intentional and considered a success. We must remember who the real victims are here and we can no longer watch as nations clamor for their destruction.

As followers of Yeshua, we must not sit idly by and through our silence condone the abhorrent acts perpetrated by political terrorists. Let us band together with our brothers and sisters, this nation of the firstborn. We can no longer hide behind a facade of politically correctness. We *must* stand for truth. We *must* stand for love.

We *must* stand for our brother Israel.

*Then say to Pharaoh, This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son,
and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me."*

-Exodus 4:22,23a