



SPECIAL REPORT

CHRISTIANS, ZIONISM, AND AMERICAN POLITICS

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE ARAB SPRING?

By Albert James Dager

THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES in the Middle East, particularly involving the intervention of the United States in bringing about the Arab Spring, have had many puzzling aspects. How and why did the United States ever get itself embroiled in the morass of Middle East politics to the point of taking sides in the conflicts that have arisen over the past few years?

The loyalties of the current administration seem to have shifted back and forth between aversion toward and support for extremist Islamic groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, al-Qaeda and Hezbollah, as well as heads of states in countries such as Libya and Egypt, and, lately, Syria. With Barack Obama's determination to punish Syria's president Bashar al-Assad due to the alleged use of chemical weapons against alleged innocent civilians—including women and children—by al-Assad's troops, the U.S. stands poised to become embroiled in yet another Middle East conflict.

Barack Obama may disdain the U.S. Military, but it seems he loves being Commander in Chief. What a heady experience that must be for a former community activist. By insisting that Congress give him the go-ahead to initiate U.S. military intervention in Syria, Obama did exactly what he criticized President George W. Bush for doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. For now, it seems, more level heads have prevailed.

Is Obama's transformation from dove to hawk merely a case of a naïve man coming face-to-face with reality—a man who once hadn't a clue of just how complex the job of President of the United States really is until he was elected? If so, he owes Bush an apology. But apologies don't come easily from narcissistic heads of state. Especially when owed to someone from the political opposition.

Apologies or no, Obama is being motivated by something that is causing him to do a 180 degree retreat from his previous position. And there may be more than one "something" at work.

It is obvious to any thinking person that the way world events transpire is not a matter of serendipity. There must be

forces at play behind the machinations of politicians bent on achieving desired ends through the conflicts that arise among nation states and lesser militant entities including insurrectionists. The conflicts we see played before us by the mass media are not true grassroots attempts to bring peace and harmony to nations. Those may be the stated goals foisted on us by the propagandists of the various sides in those conflicts, but the truth is that someone is trying to gain power over people for their own ends, often unstated. To think otherwise is evidence of naiveté or denial—perhaps a combination of both.

And it doesn't matter which end of the political spectrum with which one may identify. There may be in politics individuals who are well-intentioned and who truly want to help people live better lives, but they are few and far between. Often those few are as much pawns in

the games of influential and aggressive forces as is the average citizen.

The name of the game in this world dominated by the world's master, Mammon, is power—power gained through the amassing of riches. And behind Mammon is the god of all false gods, Satan.

It also matters not to which aspect of the political spectrum one may adhere; if he adheres too tightly, he will be found working on the part of Satan. The good aspired to by those on the Christian right will also be found working for the enemy's benefit. There are many sincere Christians working diligently for Christian dominion over society's varied influences, thinking that they



BASHAR AL-ASSAD
PRESIDENT OF SYRIA

have a mandate from God to instill and even force a biblical ethic upon the world. Their dominion theology is leading many well-meaning Christians into working for social causes while setting aside the true calling of the Lord upon His Body. (See *Vengeance Is Ours: The Church in Dominion*; 1990, and *The World Christian Movement*, 2001, Sword Publishers.)

The same error is being made by many Christian Zionists who have bought the lie that the Jews have a different gospel than that given to the Gentiles—that they don't need the blood of Christ to cover their sins because they have a different covenant to which they must answer; they have the Law of Moses.

This error ignores the biblical truth that the New Covenant in the blood of Christ was made not with the Gentiles but with the houses of Judah and Israel (Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:8). By perpetrating this false teaching of two gospels, well-known pastors and TV ministers are playing into the hands of Satan and anti-Christ of every stripe.

The same may be said for Christians who support U.S. military action against Islamic regimes in the Middle East. There is no doubt that Islam is the most anti-Christ philosophy in the world. That it has over one billion adherents worldwide is certainly cause for concern. But why should Christians want the U.S. to spill its blood for the sake of political conflicts in the Middle East?

The insurrectionists seeking to topple heads of state in the Middle East are all associated with extremist Islamic factions. Why then has the present administration been aiding those insurrectionists in Middle East countries? This is true of Syria just as it was in Iraq, Libya and Egypt. And I have confidence that the same policy is planned for other Middle East countries as well, particularly Iran.

There is no question that the heads of state in the Middle East nations are ungodly, even anti-Christ. Many are despotic tyrants. And many have vowed to do all they can to destroy Israel. But the insurrectionists in those nations are just as bad, if not worse, having ties to extremist Islamic organizations. One must question whether anyone is better off in relation to Iraq after Saddam Hussein was deposed. Hussein, though an avowed enemy of Israel, was nonetheless benevolent toward Christians, even supporting Christian schools. He even had Christians in his administration. He was ruthless in destroying his political enemies—even Muslims—but that is not unusual among heads of state, not only in the Middle East, but all over the world.

Christians taking sides in conflicts between ungodly factions find themselves choosing one devil over another. As Jesus said, "Let the dead bury the dead." What have believers in Jesus to do with calling for warfare and bloodletting among the ungodly?

Politically, there are many reasons set forth for engaging in warfare in the Middle East: 1) we need the oil, so we have to protect our interests there; 2) we have to stamp out radical Islamic groups such as Al Qaeda who threaten our national security; 3) we have to protect Israel from the threats of Islamic nations.

Let's look at each of these according to God's Word, and with reasoned understanding of how our spiritual enemy works

to destroy us and/or to at least render us ineffectual in our spiritual warfare and advancing the Gospel of the Kingdom.

To begin, we must understand that the United States has been used by God through the spread of the Gospel to instill a sense of righteousness in the consciousness of non-Christians around the world. It isn't that Americans are within themselves more righteous than any other national group. But the biblical ethic upon which the first settlers from Europe based their community standards was transferred to the later-emerging nation state of the United States of America. Surely God has blessed this nation above all others throughout history with the exception of ancient Israel during the times she was faithful to her Lord, particularly under the reigns of David and Solomon.

But just as the Lord brought judgment upon Israel for her sins, the United States is fast sliding into judgment for her sins. What we are witnessing in these perilous times is not happenstance; the proliferation of natural disasters, many of magnitude as great, or even greater, than ever experienced, the morass of constant and increasing race hatred and conflict, the destructive economic policies of government on every level, the proliferation of immoral and ungodly media content for the pleasure of the majority of citizens, the unnatural sexual perversions that are being not only tolerated but celebrated while reaching as far down the age scale as pre-school children, the turning away from God's truth by the majority of Christian churches and other institutions—all these and more are evidence of God's judgment as well as reasons for God's judgment.

Considering this, let's look at the three primary reasons given and accepted as justification for America's suicidal military intervention in the Middle East.

We need the oil

This may have been a reasonable excuse at one time, but geologists in the United States have determined that there are sufficient so-called fossil fuel reserves within the boundaries of the nation to supply its energy needs for hundreds of years without dependence on other countries. And even though the present administration refuses to allow sufficient tapping into those resources to accomplish that end, the U.S. is still its own best supplier. Under the pressure of leftist, anti-Christ and anti-American elements, the government tells us that "climate change" (previously, "global warming," now debunked) is of greater importance than drilling for oil. But the fact is that fossil fuels are going to be used for the foreseeable future as the most economical and plentiful energy resource available, and someone's going to have to dig for it. So whether we dig for it ourselves, or buy it from other nations who dig for it, the sum of the equation remains the same. But by hindering drilling for it ourselves we remain dependent on foreign sources.

It may rightfully be pointed out that our largest foreign supplier of oil is Canada, but that doesn't negate the truth that we still rely on Middle East oil to fill the void. And as long as that's the case we will be urged to use military force to "protect our interests" in that God-forsaken area.

More to the point, however, is that no matter who is in control in the Middle East nations, our dependency on their oil

doesn't change. In fact, by supporting insurrectionists in these nations we are supporting our sworn enemies—radical Islamic groups such as al-Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood, Hezbollah, Hamas and others.

The idea that we need the oil is really a mundane reason which, one way or the other, has little to do with our faith and how we as believers in Jesus are impacted. The next excuse hits closer to home for believers.

We have to stamp out radical Islamic groups

Islam is certainly having an impact on the world and, consequently, on believers in the Lord Jesus. In the Middle East, Christians of various stripes are increasingly coming under attack by militant Islamists bent on imposing their religion on the world. Suffering for Christ is part of the package when we come to Him in faith. This doesn't mean we should not be concerned for Christians, even nominal ones, who are suffering for their faith.

There may be two ways to look at the problem of radical, violent Islam: 1) Satan is using it in an attempt to destroy as much as possible any vestige of biblical faith in the world; 2) God is using it to judge nations that have had the advantage of the Gospel but have turned away from His truth.

We have witnessed how radical Islam is like the Hydra of Greek mythology whose many heads, when severed by Heracles, were replaced by newly-grown heads. The more the U.S. has engaged al-Qaeda, the stronger that monster has grown. When the head that was once supported by the U.S., Osama bin Laden, was killed, others appeared to replace him. In fact, under the current administration al-Qaeda's numbers have doubled since the 9/11 attacks.

Even more disconcerting is that, while giving lip service to the war on terror, our government is aiding extremist Islamist insurrectionists in their attempts to seize control of nation states.

There will never be an end to Islamic terrorism; it has a life of its own, and barring direct intervention from God, man will never be able to eradicate it. It is a plague that He will use to chastise the "Christian" West.

Islamic terrorism is here to stay. And the more the U.S. and other nations attempt to destroy it, the worse it will become.

Does that mean the U.S. should just lie down and allow Islamic terrorism to run rampant? Unfortunately, it won't matter one way or the other. In truth, I believe the Lord has put a hook in the jaw of the United States and is dragging it into judgment through these protracted conflicts with an unconquerable enemy. As noble and well-meaning as our military personnel may be (and I have all respect for them), they are victims of their nation's rejection of God's righteousness. The leadership of the military, from the Commander in Chief to the higher ranking officers within the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the State Department, has capitulated to the LGBT community in all its demands. Additionally, it is now preparing to put women directly into combat positions to fight alongside the men. And then they wring their hands and lament how "sexual harassment" has gotten out of control in the military. What should they expect when they put women in the ranks of men who are

deployed for years away from home, deprived of normal female companionship?

That doesn't justify the actions of those men who have assaulted women in the military, but it should not surprise anyone that the basest forms of behavior emerge among unregenerate men (and women).

This is one more way in which Islam is being used to judge this nation.

Underlying Islamic hatred of America and the West are a number of factors: 1) the decadence of the West expressed in its loose morals and championing of homosexuality, which Islam rightly decries as evil; 2) the belief in Jesus as God incarnate and Israel's Messiah by faithful Christians; 3) the colonization and suppression of Islamic lands by Western European nations in the past, including the Crusades; 4) support for the modern state of Israel which Islam sees as an Infidel's stronghold in its midst, and which Islam has vowed to utterly destroy.

As long as the United States continues to support Israel we will remain a target for Islamic terrorism. Such a statement will cause apoplexy among many true believers in Jesus, but it is made without judgment. It is a statement of fact. Which leads us to the third reason used as an excuse for the U.S. to engage in yet another Middle East conflict.

We have to protect Israel

The reasons and evidence to support the previous two excuses for increased U.S. military involvement in the Middle East are fairly easy to discern, and to overcome. They are manufactured reasons for what I believe is the primary reason for U.S. military intervention in the Middle East. What is not so easy to discern are the reasons and the evidence for the excuse that we must protect the modern state of Israel. Our readers know full well our belief that modern Israel is a precursor to the Lord's return, after which He will gather all Israel and Judah into the Promised Land according to His promises. We do not adhere to replacement theology, nor do we believe that Gentile believers in Christ Jesus exist apart from faithful Israel. Together, Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus as Savior comprise one new man in Christ (Eph. 2:11-22).

In the conflict between Israel and her Arab antagonists, after considering the historical and philosophical evidence, we have consistently maintained that Israel is the victim in her struggle for survival. As the current Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, has said, "If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel."

Our hearts are toward Israel because it is through the Jews that salvation came to the world; it is the Jews to whom that salvation was offered first. Contrary to replacement theology, God has not eternally abandoned Israel and Judah; His promise of restoration to the promised land during the Millennial Kingdom is sure.

Our assessment is a reasoned one; it is not based on emotion or because we love Jews more than we love Arabs. We are to love all men equally. Our assessment is based on facts and truths that are not influenced by propaganda from either side.

We understand the plight of displaced Palestinians, but we also understand that they are victims of Arab states that are using them as fodder for their hate propaganda against Israel. They are purposely kept destitute by wealthy Arab states that have vowed to drive the Jews into the Mediterranean Sea. And the international community likewise does nothing to abate their desperate condition except to also blame Israel.

Ever since Israel became a nation in 1948 the U.S. has been her staunchest ally. With the election of Barack Hussein Obama, America's unwavering support has begun to waver ever so slightly. But Obama isn't about to risk his political currency this early in his second term by overtly calling for abandonment of Israel; rather, he is working to weaken Israel's defensive capabilities by insisting that she give up the territories she won in the Six-Day War—territories that have added a buffer zone against attacks by her enemies. What he will do as his term winds down remains to be seen, but it looks as if the days in which Israel can count on the United States for support are numbered. This is not for lack of Zionist influence in the U.S. government and in the mass media. Zionist-backed power brokers in these two arenas have worked for over a century to ensure that Jews would have a homeland of their own. Now that this has been achieved, there is no end to which they will go to preserve that accomplishment.

Here is where, in order to understand the spiritual as well as political powers at work in the Middle East, we must understand the Zionist philosophy. Thus, this portion of our study will be much more extensive than the previous two. It is, in truth, the central factor in the constant Middle East conflict.

Zionism Defined

What, exactly, is Zionism? Many believe it is a secret, cabalist movement within Judaism to achieve satanic dominion over mankind—a Jewish dominion theology. That there is among some segments of Zionism an occult influence cannot be denied. But does that define Zionism, or is it merely a segment within Zionism, much as there are occult segments to be found within Christianity?

The basic definition of Zionism has to do with *Eretz Yisrael*, the land Yahweh promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The name Zion refers specifically to the city of Jerusalem as the seat of the Messiah's future reign over the earth. Zionism as a philosophy predates modern Zionism as a political movement. Zionism as a hoped-for restoration of Israel and Judah to the Promised Land had its origins in the Babylonian Captivity when Solomon's Temple was destroyed. One might go even further back to the Assyrian Captivity after which the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed and its ten tribes were dispersed throughout the known world at the time. Because Jerusalem is the focus of Zionism, however, return to, and control of, the city is the hope that has remained with the Jews since the Diaspora that took place in AD 70 with the destruction of the second temple by the Romans. Ever since that time, certain leaders within Judaism have sought to bring about the return to Jerusalem and *Eretz Yisrael*. Because of this desire, the Jews have historically been dissuaded by their religious leaders from assim-

lating into other cultures. That has largely contributed to anti-Semitism and persecution by those who believe that separation is evidence that the Jews consider themselves superior to the rest of mankind. That perception is not entirely unfounded.

Zionism's Philosophy

Among some Jews throughout history there has been held the concept of racial superiority predicated on the truth that Yahweh chose Israel over all other nations for His favor and for the appearance of His Messiah. It is that sense of superiority, manifested in the oral traditions of the rabbis and codified in the Talmud and other Jewish literature, that has brought upon the Jews much persecution over the centuries. Conversely, persecution of the Jews left them early on, centuries ago, no option but to devise means to preserve themselves and their culture through the accumulation of material wealth. This does not apply to all Jews, but to a minority of wealthy financiers and bankers who have believed that control of money (Mammon) equals security in the world. Unfortunately, the love of money (the root of all kinds of evil [1 Tim. 6:10]) also leads the human soul to seek more and more power over others. It is the perceived greed of wealthy Jewish financiers that enabled despots such as Adolph Hitler and Josef Stalin to single them out as the primary cause of all the misery in the world, and particularly in their countries at the time. That perception remains today, even among some believers in Jesus.

Yet in spite of the evil nature of mankind and the reflection of that evil in the occult arts that underlie the ability of certain Jews to attain great wealth and power, the Lord has used them to preserve His people for the time when He will restore all Israel to the Promised Land upon His return to the earth. Zionism is a large part of that plan because it keeps alive in the hearts of the Jews the desire to see the restoration of His promise.

Not all Zionists are so religious. Many merely desire to see the traditions of their ancestors restored as a means of national pride. But regardless how ungodly unbelieving Jews are in rejecting their Messiah, Yeshua, they are nonetheless part of God's plan to restore His people to their land. Underlying the pragmatic and emotional reasons for Zionism is the spiritual element that moves Zionists to work to that end.

Yet not all Jews are enthused about this. Many see Zionism as an attempt to force God's hand of restoration through human means. This is particularly true of many Hasidic Jews, some of whom even take the side of the Palestinians in today's struggle for peace and justice in the Holy Land. They want Jews to wait for their Messiah to appear (for them, the first time) and restore the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6).

There are those who accuse the Jews, and particularly the Zionists, of wanting to re-establish the kingdom of Israel as the dominant world power and enslave the rest of mankind. This may be the desire of a small, radical element, but the real thinking of Zionists is just to establish and maintain the Jewish homeland with the eventual hope of occupying all that was promised to them in their religious traditions. The ultimate hope for religious Jews is that their Messiah will be the one to establish *Eretz Yisrael* as the central authority over all the na-

tions. This is a mundane hope more than a spiritual one. It does not involve His reign over the nations through supernatural means with the cooperation of His resurrected saints, but through mortal Jews using conventional human means.

Modern Zionism

Modern Zionism as a political movement was founded in the late 19th century by secular Jews who, although irreligious, saw the need for a response to the rising anti-Semitism in Europe, particularly in France and Russia. The primary figure in the formation of modern Zionism was Theodor Herzl, an Austro-Hungarian journalist. His book, *Der Judenstaat* (*The Jewish State*), published in 1897, encouraged Jews to migrate to Palestine which at the time was still under Ottoman control. But until the middle of the 20th century it was not only impractical for Jews to migrate to the land promised their fathers by God; it was near impossible.

Zionism was not the only movement among Jews to counter the effects of anti-Semitism, but after the horror of the Holocaust under Adolph Hitler, Zionism became the most potent force for the establishment of a homeland for the Jews.

Some believe this was by Zionist design because among Hitler's early financial backers were Jewish financial interests. It has been reasonably speculated that powerful Zionists were willing to sacrifice their own people in order to create conditions for the world to accept the Zionist plans for a Jewish state.

Those plans were realized on May 14, 1948, when the United Nations officially recognized the new state of Israel after having partitioned the land of Palestine, with the Jews being given a small portion for their homeland. But the city of Jerusalem (Zion) would not be theirs until the Six-Day War in 1967 when the state of Israel defeated her Arab neighbors who had mustered an attack to hopefully destroy her.

Modern Zionism's primary allegiance is to *Eretz Yisrael*; it is not to the nations in which modern Zionists reside. That's not to say Zionists have no love for their nations, but *Eretz Yisrael* is their mother. Thus, they will use their influence within their resident nation to garner as much support for the state of Israel as they can. The great wealth of Zionism is used for propaganda through the mass media, a large segment of which is owned by Jews. The wealth of Zionism is also used to lobby Congress and the administration to favor Israel in its foreign policy.

This isn't necessarily bad, but the influence Zionism exerts on Christians by persuading them to leave off evangelizing Jews for fear of offending them is ungodly. Zionists love to use Christians to support the cause of *Eretz Yisrael*, but they are quick to condemn and ridicule Christianity in general through their influence in the mass media. Just as ungodly is Zionism's ability to convince Christians to adopt a war-like stance toward Israel's enemies, not for the sake of right or wrong, but for the influence those Christians (particularly leaders) may have in their churches. The more Christians the Zionists can get to support their cause, the less likely the government is to slacken in its support of Israel.

Not that the government—particularly the Obama administration—has any respect for Christians; just the opposite. But

politicians are well aware that the majority of citizens still consider themselves Christians, even though the majority of the majority may be false brethren.

As for the U.S. becoming even more embroiled in the Middle East conflict, this is not only welcomed by the Zionists, it has been planned for decades at least.

A Sinister Truth

I recall as a teenager hearing my father relate a disturbing story about a personal experience of his.

From my earliest memories he owned a small printing shop on the corner of Washington Boulevard and Main Street in Los Angeles. The Dager Maniform Company was nothing much; he was his only employee. People have often had difficulty discerning his (and my) ancestry. We've been taken for Italian, Mexican, Armenian and even Jewish. In one instance, shortly after Israel became a state, a Jewish customer—a Zionist—thinking my father was Jewish, gleefully confided in him that the day was coming when American troops would be fighting for Israel.

My father threw him out of the shop.

I called my father "prejudiced."

Later, I realized that he was merely angry at the Zionists for plotting to manipulate the United States into sacrificing its life and posterity for the sake of a foreign nation.

Now, as we see the Arab states increasing their antagonism toward Israel, and the U.S. government sending troops to bolster its plans to establish "democracy" among them, it comes as no surprise to me that we are in this protracted warfare over there.

As long as the Arab states can be kept in constant internal conflict, or in conflict with one another, Israel is relatively safe. And that fits the Zionist plans to a T.

Zionists know that the Arab states will always exist, and that they will always be their enemies. So the more those Arab states can be made to expend their military energy against their own people or against one another, the less they will have to strike against Israel.

We should not be fooled by the posturing of Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, and even some Republican leaders who portray urgency in the need to defend "innocent women and children" from the evil Syrian government.

Yes the Syrian government is evil, as are all the world's governments, including ours. And although Obama, et al, are at the time of this writing withheld from military intervention in Syria, they are waiting in the wings, determined to push the United States into another bloody and costly military campaign on the basis of second-hand "evidence" that al-Assad is using chemical weapons against his people. Isn't that the same kind of "evidence" regarding alleged stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction that George W. Bush trusted to attack Saddam Hussein?

Who Benefits?

There is no more first-hand, empirical evidence to support the claims that al-Assad used chemical warfare than there was that Saddam Hussein was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. There is even speculation that the insurgents (who, again,

are largely led by extremist Islamist groups) are using the chemical weapons and blaming them on al-Assad.

Now, in this case it may be true that al-Assad is using such weapons. But why not be absolutely sure before meddling further in foreign disputes? In fact, why meddle in any case? Or is this another Zionist plot to keep the pot boiling for the sake of Israel? And might Israel's desire for the U.S. to attack al-Assad's military positions be the basis for future antagonism toward Israel's most vociferous enemy? Might the toppling of Syria's government be the Arab Spring's next stepping stone to the destruction of Iran?

It was reported that after Obama softened his stance against Syria, Israel expressed loss in its confidence in the U.S. to protect its interests against its Arab neighbors.

Who are more vocal in their call for the U.S. to use military power against the Arab nations than Jewish Zionists and Christian Zionists?

For decades we have been told that America's involvement in every war since WWII was to protect American interests abroad. That has been used to justify the unconstitutional declarations of war by presidents as Commanders in Chief, even though the Constitution grants only to Congress the power to declare war. In order to skirt the Constitution presidents have relied on Article VI which states:

This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

Thus, by entering into a treaty with the United Nations, the government has used Article VI to justify placing U.S. Troops under United Nations' commanders from the Korean War (named a "police action" to avoid the term "war") to the present. But Article VI wasn't meant to allow such convolution of terms. All laws and treaties must be made pursuant to the Constitution which does not give the president or any other entity besides Congress the ability to declare war. Certainly the Constitution does not grant any foreign entity, including the United Nations or NATO, the power to engage American troops in war.

The canard that we must use all means to protect American interests abroad is a smokescreen that has been used to put American troops in harms way for too long. The only legitimate reason for any nation, including the United States, to engage in warfare is to protect itself in the event of an attack by a foreign power. What exactly are "American interests"? Does it involve financial consideration? Not legitimate. American blood should not be spilt for the sake of Wall Street.

How about friendship with other nations? Still not legitimate unless their destruction could lead directly to the destruction of the United States.

The late President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned against what he called "the military industrial complex." Simply stated,

this is a description of collusion between the government, the military and commerce to bolster profits and political power to all entities involved. It is led by people who worship Mammon to the point they are willing to spill innocent blood for profit and/or to gain political power.

In order for the military industrial complex to be sustained it is necessary to foment wars at regular intervals. To do that it is necessary to bypass Congress as the only government body authorized to declare war. Individuals (like presidents) can be bought off by the complex far more easily than can all of Congress. But there have been enough people in Congress willing to illegally grant to the president the power that the Constitution allows to Congress only.

Congress has not issued a declaration of war since WWII. But it has been persuaded to grant to the president the ability to declare war, even though Congress has no constitutional authority to grant its reserved powers to the president.

Barack Obama, in order to appear reasonably concerned about the constitutional ability for him to launch attacks against Syria, decided to ask Congress for permission to do so. Yet it is patently clear that he was caught with his pants down by first declaring a red line that Syria could not cross (using chemical weapons), and then denying that he ever set that red line. He absolved himself of all responsibility (again) and continues to play the game of political football with the lives of American troops and the practically bankrupt economy. In the process he has made Vladimir Putin look like the good guy to the world, and Russia has made giant strides toward becoming the dominant superpower in the Middle East.

The Believers' Position

Why is all this political intrigue of importance to the Body of Christ? Because Christians by the droves are being persuaded to not only back military action against Syria (and Iran, Egypt, Libya, and any other Middle East country that threatens Israel), but to actually beat the war drums and vociferously demand that the U.S. government "do something" to protect Israel. They are of the same spirit as the disciples who asked the Lord if they could call down fire from Heaven to destroy the Samaritans:

And it happened, when the time came that He should be received up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of Him. And they went and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for Him.

And they did not receive Him because His countenance was as though He would go to Jerusalem.

And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want that we command fire to come down from Heaven and consume them, even as Elijah did?"

But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man has not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

Yet Christians are calling for the shedding of blood under the false belief that it is the Lord's will to destroy men's lives in defense of the modern Zionist state of Israel.

While the Christian right in America (many within its ranks being Christian Zionists) demands that the government adhere strictly to the Constitution, it has no problem demanding that the government act contrary to the Constitution by giving the president war powers that the Constitution reserves for Congress. Even the appeal to the War Powers Act of 1973 is misplaced, because that Act grants the president the power to act only in the event of an emergency that directly threatens the United States, and then only for 60 days until Congress has had the opportunity to decide if war is justified. It does not grant to the president the right to act in the interest of Israel.

Again, my position has always been, and always will be, one of compassion for Israel because I know God's plans for her as a precursor to His return. But I am not for "Israel, right or wrong," nor am I for Israel above the national interests of the United States of America. I am all for Zionists seeking material support for Israel, but I cannot be for the Zionist methods of inciting Christians to bloodlust, and of lobbying our government to spill American blood for their cause.

Yet I realize that even in these things God is at work. He will judge His people for compromising the Gospel out of fear of unbelieving Jews; He will also use the U.S. and any other nation to keep Israel safe until Jesus returns. Just as He used Adolph Hitler to create conditions for the founding of the nation of Israel out of compassion and even pity for the suffering Jews, He will use the ungodly Jewish Zionists and Christian Zionists to maintain that nation. But even if the United States decides to withdraw support for Israel at every level, Israel will still stand until the Lord decides otherwise. It is He to whom we must look for Israel's security, not to any nation.

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses and trust in chariots because they are numerous, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek YHWH!

Yet He is also wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back His words, but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of those who work iniquity.

Now the Egyptians are men, and not God, and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When YHWH shall stretch out His hand, both he that helps shall fall, and he that is helped shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

For YHWH has said this to me: "Like the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called out against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor weaken himself because of their noise, so shall YHWH of armies come down to fight for Mount Zion, and for its hill.

As birds flying, so will YHWH of armies defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it, and passing over, He will preserve it. (Isaiah 31:1-5)

Christian Zionists are looking to "Egypt" (the world) and are acting in fear and faithlessness; they are trusting in the worldly strength of an ungodly nation to bolster the security of another ungodly nation that persecutes believers in Jesus. Israel's persecution of Jewish Christians may not be as severe as that suffered in Arab nations, but the spirit behind it is the same. It is anti-Christ. And the Zionism to which these Christians attach themselves is anti-Christ. Just as we could not be for Adolph Hitler, we cannot be for any other ungodly element, including Zionism.

Believers in Jesus must not put themselves above the Lord who Himself is not on Israel's side except as it suits His purposes:

And it happened, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him, and said to Him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

And He said, "No, but I have come as captain of YHWH's army." (Joshua 5:13-14)

God is not for Israel except as Israel fits into God's redemptive plan He will preserve her, and no man or devil can move Him in either direction. It is time for believers in Jesus to believe in Jesus and trust Him to fulfill His promises to Israel.

And what about God's prophecy that the Jews will be driven into the wilderness by anti-Christ for three-and-one-half years (Rev. 12:6-14)? Will Christian Zionists be fighting against God to prevent that from happening? Or do they not want the Lord to return?

One final thought: it is believed by many that all or a vast majority of Zionists are evil—even satanic—and committed to the principles outlined in that infamous document, *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, which ostensibly outlines plans for Jewish conquest of the world. The truth is that rank-and-file Zionists are not so evil as they are convinced that the state of Israel is the only hope for Jews to find security in the world. They do not realize that there is no safety in this world, either for the Jews or anyone else. The only refuge they have is their Messiah, Yeshua.

Our responsibility is to help the Jews come to that understanding.

But wait. We must also love the Arabs just as much, and help them come to that understanding as well. Our love is for men, not for nations, all of which are under Satan's domain. And although it may shock some believers to hear it, that goes for the modern state of Israel no less than for Iran or Syria. ❖

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