

# Standing with Israel

## Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day)



**By Hannah Neshet**  
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In these volatile times, especially with regards to Israel, it is vital that we view the situation through God's eyes, and not judge by what we see taking place in the natural realm. As God's people, walking by faith and not by sight, it is imperative that we evaluate the conflict in the Middle East using the truth of God's Word, rather than human reasoning fueled by emotions and oftentimes-biased media reporting.

The other day, I took a car ride on the highway with the two children in the back seat. It was not an easy drive from the very beginning and everyone was feeling stressed (a complete understatement). At one point I had to pull over to the side of the road and unbuckle them to get a bee off of one of them and wipe the spit up off the other. When we resumed, one of the children, Liat, was obviously struggling with latching her seatbelt. *"I have tried and tried and I know it is in the right one, but it just won't do up!"*, she cried. Knowing that in the back seat of this particular vehicle, the seat belt buckles were crossed, I instructed her to try the other buckle. *"You want me to put it in the wrong one?!"* Liat exclaimed, obviously exasperated. She couldn't believe that I wanted her to do something that was, in her eyes, totally wrong; but the fact was that I knew information she did not have. I knew the belts were crossed but she didn't. Still, I expected her to obey me. God also knows things that we have no idea about and he also expects us to obey Him 'just because he said so', even when we don't understand and

even when it seems not right or fair in our eyes. We are to **“Trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding.”**

In understanding Israel today, we must not lean on our own understanding of the situation but trust in the word of God that abides forever. This kind of unconditional obedience to the Holy Spirit will be crucial to our survival through the coming crisis. He may ask us to do things that seem completely misguided to our human, limited understanding. But we need to learn to obey anyways. Our lives may depend on it. We are in a season of training and preparation for the times that lie ahead.

Also crucial to our survival will be our unconditional commitment to stand with Israel. Before the day of the Lord’s return, all nations will turn against Israel. It will look like it is all over for this tiny country. Something will have to spark this turning of the entire world - all the nations - against Israel. A headlines in the newspaper read,

“Israeli strike bombs UN team!”

Underneath was a caption indicating that the bombing (which killed several Canadians) seemed deliberate. Reporters claim that the UN peacekeeping team called several times to Israeli officials pleading with them to call off the bombing in their area but to no avail. What can we make of that? It looks very bad for Israel. The photos of the unfortunate civilians suffering in Gaza because of the conflict in Israel looks terrible. Even though Israel is only defending herself from years of being bombarded by enemy rockets which have been killing and terrorizing her citizens for the last eight years, the photos and news reports make Israel look very bad. Palestinian women and children are being used as human shields for an enemy that does not value human life. However, as people of God, we must not be ignorant of what is truly going on; we cannot allow ourselves to be swayed from our standing with Israel, no matter how bad the situation looks in the news. This must come to pass in order that prophecy be fulfilled!

When it looks like it is all over and all the nations surround Jerusalem, that is when the Lord will battle for Israel and destroy all her enemies. Do we really get this? The Lord will save Israel; but all the enemies of Israel and all those who ally themselves with the enemies of Israel will be destroyed! **“The Lord will save the tents of Judah first...In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem...I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”** (Zech. 12:7-9) What a time this will be – the time of Jacob’s trouble will be terrible – but they will be saved out of this and they will recognize their Messiah – the one whom they pierced – and they will mourn for him (Zech. 12:10). And just as Joseph said to his brethren when they finally recognized him, Yeshua will say, *“Do not be angry with yourselves and do not be afraid, for this was all in God’s will – that salvation would come to many people!”* Blindness has come upon Israel in part in order that the fullness of the Gentiles would be gathered into the kingdom. Perhaps this time is coming to a close.

From the description in scripture, it appears as if the destruction upon the enemies of Israel will be nuclear in nature. This is what will happen to all those who fight against Jerusalem: **“Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths...”** (Zech.

14:12) Finally, all nations will celebrate Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) and there will be no more mocking or accusations from Gentile Believers about being ‘under the law’ for wanting to celebrate the Biblical feasts. I fear for the portion of the Gentile Church that is being deceived into allying themselves with the enemy, just as they sided with Hitler during World War II. The red dragon, Hasatan, will lead the whole world astray with regards to Israel, but the people who know their God should not be following them into the pit. We must warn those in our congregations and fellowships who are being led like sheep to the slaughter by the blindness of their own pride, arrogance or ignorance. Any trace of anti-Semitism must be repented of now by individual Christians and Church leadership. We can expect that with this Israeli crisis, world-wide anti-Semitism will rise even further.

Timothy celebrated his Bar mitzvah, a coming of age ceremony for a boy when he turns thirteen years old. It was at this age that Yeshua became lost from his parents in Jerusalem. At least his parents thought he was lost, but the child was where he knew he now must be – in His Father’s house. Yeshua had come of age and knew he now had to be about His Father’s business. In Hebrew, Timothy is called Shmuel (Samuel). His birth parashah (Sabbath portion of scripture) was from the book of Samuel and also Numbers (Bamidbar) chapter 16. The bar mitzvah boy is usually called upon to read from the Torah and also give a D’var Torah (Word or message). He dealt with the rebellion of Korach, Datan and Aviram against Moses and Aaron. It was not the riffraff of the congregation who joined the rebellion, but the elect – 250 well-known men of renown. What was God’s word to His people? **“Get away from the tents of the wicked men! Touch nothing of their or you too will be consumed in all their sins!”** (Numbers 16:26) All the rebels and everything that belonged to them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. Then a fire came out from the Lord and consumed the men who had joined the rebellion. This contains a powerful lesson for the people of God. If Israel is the apple of His eye; if His covenant with her is forever, then all those who ally themselves against Israel are fighting against God and will be destroyed. May those who have ears to hear listen to this message.

The one indisputable fact that needs to be established is **Israel’s right to the Land by divine covenant**. We seem to forget that it was God who commanded Joshua to lead Israel into the Land, battle for it, drive out the former inhabitants and take possession of it. Today, our humanistic mindset and wimpy kind of attitude tries to label “battle” as something intrinsically evil – as if a country has not right to battle for its survival! Why do we even read the bible then if we don’t accept it as legitimate Truth? There is a time for peace and a time for war. Often, the time of peace is not established until we have gone through a time of war. We often fail to confront difficult issues or people in our lives and think we have peace; but this is not peace – this is cowardice, this is living a lie and a false peace that will never last. Psalm 18 says **“He teaches my hands to make war ...For You have armed me with strength for the battle; ...You have also given me the necks of my enemies.”** (v. 34& 39). We, as Believers, have so spiritualized everything that we don’t take these scriptures seriously. Our enemies are mostly unseen, spiritual entities; but if we read the Bible, there have always been physical enemies and

real battles for the people of God. Where is the spirit of the warrior in the Church? In the Last days, scriptures will be fulfilled literally and many of our battles for survival may also be physical and our enemies very much flesh and blood, even if those driving them are spirits of darkness. Israel has a legitimate right to fight for and defend her existence and her Land. We must stand beside her and voice our support.

When Yeshua returns, he is coming for vengeance – for Zion’s sake. When He came the first time, He quoted from Isaiah 61 to the congregants in the synagogue, declaring Himself to be the fulfillment of those scriptures. (Luke 4:16-19) But he stopped short of reading the entire prophecy. He ended with, **“to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”** If we look at the original quote, it goes on with these words, **“...and the day of vengeance of our God. To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion....”** (Isa. 61:2) Why didn’t Yeshua quote these words also? Because this was not the purpose of His first coming. He came first as the Lamb led to the slaughter – to make atonement for our sins through the sacrifice of His life. But vengeance and comfort is the purpose of His second coming. As the Lion of Yehudah He will pour out His wrath upon the enemies of Israel and provide comfort, consolation, beauty and joy for the survivors of Israel – the remnant who will call upon the name of the Lord in truth and righteousness. We’ve got to get this firmly established in our minds and hearts that we will not be led astray.

The covenant for the Land of Israel began with Abraham (Gen. 12:3,7,14-17). It was the very reason God brought Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees – to give Him this Land. (Gen. 15:7) The covenant is clearly everlasting and forever. (Gen. 17:7-8) If we then trace the line of covenant we find it then descends through Isaac (Yitzchak) Even Abraham was fooled into thinking that Ishmael would inherit the Land: “O that Ishmael may live before You”, Abraham said to God. But God answered, “No – **My covenant I will establish with Isaac.**” (Gen. 17:21) When it comes to Jacob and Esau, the inheritance passed to Jacob. God said, Jacob have I loved and Esau I have hated. Who are we to argue with God’s election? He is the potter and we are the clay. It is God who passes the inheritance of the Land to Jacob (Gen. 28:13) Scripture makes this clear. The Land does not belong, in any way, shape or form - not any portion of it – to the descendants of Ishmael or Esau (the Arabic people today). God promised to bless the descendants of Ishmael and Esau, as the seed of Abraham, but the Land is not part of their inheritance.

Part of the misunderstanding among Christians, comes from an ignorance about Edom. In Hebrew, the word, Adom, means red. It is a kind of ‘nickname’ for Esau, who was born red and hairy. “Adom is Esau” (Gen. 36:1). Esau is father of the Edomites.(Gen. 36:43) As painful as it may be, we must face the truth of the prophecy against Adom in the book of Obadaiah: **“For violence against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you and you shall be cut off forever.”** (v. 10) In fact, the Word says that not one survivor will be left of the house of Esau. How sad. But they have every opportunity to repent and turn to God and be saved. May we pray for God’s mercy on the soul of every enemy of Israel and every anti-Semite.

**“For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish and those nations shall be utterly ruined.”** (Isa. 60:12) This is not about Israel worship or about placing the Jewish people on some kind of pedestal where they don’t belong. But it is about respecting and honoring God’s purposes and destiny for a nation and a Land.

The prophet Isaiah saw a time when the “glory of Lebanon would come to Israel...”  
**The sons of those who have afflicted Israel shall come bowing before her and those who despised her shall fall prostrate at the soles of her feet.”** (Isa. 60:14) All those who hate Zion will be put to shame. We must make a firm decision now, before the crisis breaks out in full force – where do we, individually, as a family, and as the Body of Messiah, stand? And what will we be willing to sacrifice in order to hold to this bold stand?

Finally – how can the Gentile Church respond to show their support of God and His purposes for Israel? Here are some suggested places to begin ‘doing’ and not just ‘hearing’:

- 1) Repent individually and as a Body for anti-Semitism and for all sins committed by the Christian Church against the Jewish people. The Jewish people must come to know that, rather than being their worst enemy, which Christians have shown themselves to be over the centuries, they want to be her friend. Ask God to examine our hearts and give us a clean heart, renew a right spirit within us.
- 2) Stand on the Word of God about Israel – know the Word and proclaim it to others; gently trying to correct those in opposition that they may come to their senses and escape the snare the devil has set for them. Don’t stay silent on this issue. Be willing to suffer persecution for righteousness’ sake.
- 3) Give materially to Jewish ministries and Israeli Believers. Paul gives a clear and direct word to the Gentile Christian Church that since they have received so much spiritually through the Jewish people – the Word of God, the Messiah, a place in the covenants – they are under an obligation (duty) to give materially. This means that if the Church is not devoting a portion of their offerings to the ‘saints in Jerusalem’, then they are not making payments on their debt! Even visa demands a minimum monthly payment. Shouldn’t we, as the people of God, be willing to give financially to see the Jewish people reached with the gospel? Many Christians are giving their money to the Orthodox or secular ministries in Israel while completely bypassing the Believers. This is totally contrary to scripture which commands us to support our families - household of faith should come first. What good will it do a Jewish person to go to hell with a blanket or a sack of groceries? Many ministries in Israel sign agreements not to share the gospel with the Jewish people. Get to the grassroots level. Find Believing families in the Land who are sharing the Lord with their neighbors and enduring much hardship without all the hoopla, fanfare and color newsletters.
- 4) Pledge your unconditional support for Israel and the Jewish people, whether Believers in Yeshua or not. Remember Ruth’s beautiful pledge to Naomi – old embittered, obnoxious Naomi, who wanted to be called Mara (bitter). Ruth stuck with her through thick and thin. And through her kindness to Naomi, she gained

- the favor of Boaz, her redeemer. Don't think that the kindness you show to Israel goes unnoticed by our Redeemer. You will be given your full reward by the God of Israel under whose wings you have taken refuge. Remember that the only one saved out of Jericho was a prostitute (Rahab) who helped Israel by hiding spies.
- 5) Be prepared to give food, shelter, clothing, and medical assistance to Jewish people attempting to escape the persecution. Righteous Gentiles who tried to help the Jews escape Hitler's death and destruction in WWII are honored at Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. But when Yeshua returns, he will separate the sheep from the goats. The honor and rewards given to those who help even the least of Yeshua's brethren (the Jews) will be so great – these righteous Gentiles will inherit the kingdom – eternal life. On the other hand, the punishment of those who refuse to help or those who stand by passively out of fear or apathy will be terrible – everlasting punishment of eternal damnation. (Matt. 25:31-46) Perhaps God is giving the Church a chance to redeem itself – to show itself strong and courageous this time around by helping the Jewish people in their coming hour of need.
  - 6) Become educated – read, study, take classes – even take a tour! Familiarize yourself with Jewish culture, Hebrew language, the feasts of the Lord – in order to be a worker qualified to reap the end time harvest of Jewish souls. Yeshua of Natzeret is not returning as a pastor or deacon but as a Jewish rabbi. Gentile Christians have been grafted into the commonwealth of Israel; isn't it about time to get to know the family? We welcome you with open arms and shalom!

Thank you so much (todah rabah) for being among those in the Gideon's army who will take a strong and courageous stand for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people in these end times. For those who know their God will be strong and do great exploits.

### About the Author:

Hannah Neshet grew up in an Orthodox Jewish home and received her education in a religious Hebrew school in Canada. During a crisis pregnancy, she came to know Jesus (Yeshua) as her Messiah and Savior. She now lives in Israel with her children and grandchildren, teaching Christians about the Jewish roots of their faith.



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