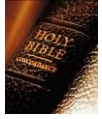


The DEFENDER—December 2023



“. . . defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: Pro Life Hypocrisy

In the month in which Christians celebrate the birth of our Savior, during which time King Herod's government sanctioned the murder of infants, we find that not a lot has changed in the last 2000 years. Babies are still being killed and the government is still involved, only instead of one paranoid tyrannical ruler ordering the edict, now corrupt politicians are making backroom deals for the sake of political expediency. Is there any person on earth lower than a politician? And are there any politicians lower than those who would jeopardize the life of a child for political capital? Unfortunately, in the game of politics (poly ticks = many bloodsuckers), this is business as usual. My primary concern, however, is whether or not pro-life organizations are assisting them.

In Missouri recently, pro-life legislation was proffered, and defeated, which would've held the mother liable for aborting her child. The Missouri Right to Life organization sided with the abortion crowd, agreeing to allow the killing of the unborn child through the first two trimesters of the pregnancy. Similar legislation, protecting the unborn, was proposed in Louisiana, with the same outcome. And in the Buckeye state, the Ohio legislature, in an effort to ostensibly prevent future pro-life policies from becoming law, passed into the state Constitution the right of women to reproductive health care, aka abortion.

But back to Louisiana. Pro-life people there thought they had enough votes to pass into state law equal rights protection for the unborn, recognizing that all life begins at conception, just as the Bible has told us for thousands of years. It's only been relatively recently that the medical community has agreed with that. Reluctantly. The interesting fact about the Louisiana bill's defeat is that it was shot down by Congressman Mike Johnson. Yes, that Mike Johnson. The self-proclaimed Christian who said that because of the GOP's razor thin edge in the House of Representatives, he couldn't take the chance that pro-abortion Louisianans would rise up in opposition and replace their Republican representatives with Democrats, thereby causing the GOP to lose control of Congress. Further proof that politicians treasure their own hold on power more than they do the life of a precious child, made in the image of God. Which begs the question of House Speaker Johnson, "Don't you believe that God could keep the GOP in power as a result of its honoring the One who gives all life in the first place?" After all, God Himself tells us in Daniel 2:21 that it's He who places and removes rulers and in Proverbs 21:1 we're told that it's also Him who turns the hearts of those rulers in whatever direction He wills. So where's your faith, Mike? Is it in the hearts of the fickle voters or in the hand of our Almighty, Sovereign God?

And a final question for our local Defenders might be, where does our own Right to Life organization here in Maryland stand? Based on their past record of defending the lives of the unborn, I think we already know. Dismal, at best. But I will find out for sure and report that to you next month. Until then, let true Christians everywhere celebrate the pregnancy of the virgin Mary and the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus with every breath of life that He has given us. Merry Christmas, everyone!

Rev. David Lewis

Israel and End-Time Prophecies
Part II – God’s Spiritual Warfare for Jerusalem and Israel

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Since the official return of God’s chosen nation to their PROMISED LAND on May 14, 1948, the ancient prophets seem as today’s News Reporters; “And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces...” (Zechariah 12:3).

Certain nations have always hated Israel because Satan has continually motivated their spiritually lost leadership as far back as the demon possessed “wise men and sorcerers”- the “magicians of Egypt” who cast down their rods [wooden staffs] and “with their devilish enchantments [and slight-of-hand] also produced snakes” (Ex. 7:11-13). Then by the sixth century A.D. and until our time, the followers of the “MOON GOD ALLAH” and His prophet Mohammed (who flew on a donkey from Mecca or Medina to Jerusalem to what is now “the Dome of the Rock” have taken maniacal hatred to its lowest form thus far. Noteworthy is that the minarets on every Mosque have at least one showing a quarter moon. The Dome of the Rock is now Islam’s third holiest site for worship.

Satan has repeatedly tried to destroy the Jews, and Jerusalem has been besieged, captured or completely destroyed over 40 times. Jerusalem means “habitation of peace” yet it has been one of the most violent cities in history. The United Nations originally authorized the resettlement of Jews in their “Promised Land” after enduring the holocaust in Europe. Now the U.N. only condemns this tiny nation when it defends itself from terrorists.

The on-going spiritual battle between the “Living God” (Matt. 13:37-43) is centered in Jerusalem because Satan knows that soon Jesus will come to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:3-4a) bringing to “ZION” His promised Kingdom (Heb. 1:8; Rev. 11:15).

Most Jews today, even Marxists and agnostics, are now convinced that unless there is a “higher power” directing the destiny of Israel, Israel as a nation cannot survive. If they ever lay down their weapons of defense or lose one war, they would be mercilessly vanquished. Israel is daily threatened with destruction not only by hostile enemy armies and devil possessed terrorists, but an ever growing and perhaps greater hostility: Anti-Semitism. This insidiously evil propagandizing leaven is at work in Europe, the USA and Canada and elsewhere in the world. Some even teach that the holocaust never happened and far too many believe that lie. Satan knows that if He could destroy Israel, the Words of Jesus would also fall.

Thank God He made an irrevocable promise to King David, “For thou hast confirmed ... Israel to be a people ... forever.” God’s promises are unequivocally linked to Israel (2 Sam. 7:24). God told Jeremiah, “Thus saith the Lord which giveth the sun for a light by day ... the moon ... and stars for light by night ... if those ordinances ever depart ... then the seed of Israel also shall cease ... forever” (Jeremiah 31:35-37). If any can count the stars of heaven then would Israel cease to be.

Satan always attempts to invalidate God’s promises, especially that Gods’ Son the Messiah would come through “the seed of the woman” (Gen. 3:14-24; Luke 1:26-33; Rev. 12:1-11). Thankfully, many believers have overcome the Devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their own testimony of faith in Christ (Romans 10:8-10).

Satan tried to pollute the bloodline through which the world's Messiah must come by unholy intermarriage (Genesis 6) and then through Israel's kings (2 Chron. 28:23-25; 2 Kings 21:1-16). Here again, Satan almost succeeded but God preserved the Messianic line and decreed His inviolable promise of a virgin born SON (Is. 7:14, 9:6). Yet still here in 2023 is Satan working to prevent the return of that very SON OF GOD who has promised (John 14:1-3) He "will not tarry" (Heb. 10:36-37; James 5:7-8) "... unto them that look for Him, HE WILL APPEAR the second time without sin unto salvation ..." (Heb. 9:28). By God's grace the devil has repeatedly failed through murdering pharaohs (Ex. 1:15-22) then with Assyrians (721 B.C. and in 586 B.C.) by Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian armies and the nearly two thousand year worldwide dispersion that only ended in the mid-twentieth century (May 14, 1948). Satan tried to kill all Jews on earth in the holocaust (6 million were murdered by Hitler's brand of Marxist madness).

The history of these judgments is also indicative of the New Testament Era of sadness and suffering for Jews under Greek and later Roman rule when Jews were falsely accused of crucifying Christ when all the while the Bible shows Christ was pre-ordained to die for every believing Jew or Gentile. Christ came purposefully to bring salvation by dying in our place (John 3:16). Now the "Spirit of Christ" lives in us (1 John 3:23-24).

By his demonic hatred, the devil has unceasingly tried to destroy God's Word by attempting to physically destroy Israel. Our Almighty God has kept all His promises so that "out of the ashes of Auschwitz" and all concentration camps of Europe – the modern nation of Israel was born. In fulfillment of God's prophetic pronouncements, the "dry bones" of Ezekiel 37 emerged from all nations of the world. We nevertheless derive from scripture that Satan's diabolical schemes only end at the appearance of "NEW JERUSALEM" (Revelation 20 and 21).

The Twentieth Century saw the reestablishment of Israel. Today there is an astonishing technological increase in weaponry (nuclear, laser-based, missile-guided, etc.) so that Israel is well able to defend itself (Zech. 14:9-16).

A reemergence of malignant Anti-Semitism, increased technological warfare and all machinations available to the wicked under Satanic possession, has used and will yet employ to threaten Israel - God's chosen nation. Worst of all Satan tries to destroy the Jewish people spiritually. So far only a remnant of Israel has come to faith in the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The devil has repeatedly throughout history made inroads in various Christian denominations blinding them to their duty to proclaim Christ's Gospel to "All the World" including the race that gave us the Messiah and all His Apostles (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 1:16, 11:1-5).

God reminded Ezekiel, "But if the watchmen see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet ... blood will I require at the watchman's hand" (Ez. 33:6). Christians are not to remain silent while Satan seeks to destroy Israel. We are duty bound to stand by God's chosen nation when attacked. Christ is their Messiah, and "all" believers are to stand by them and especially to tell all who will listen, Jew and Gentile, the good news of salvation in Christ. We are duty bound to do no less.

For the lay Christians in the contemporary world, "our prayers and thoughts ought to conform to God's plan for all of history" – of the Bible, the church age and the "last days" and the coming 'tribulation period.' God used the 'fig tree' as a symbol of Israel since he always intended for "his people to be a fruitful nation before all the world" (1 Kings 4:25; Micah 4:4; Mark 13:28-29). Jesus used the fig tree as a symbol of the end times revival in Israel (Matt. 24:32-35). Noting that "this

generation shall not pass away until all these things be fulfilled” (Luke 21:29-36). The generation that sees Christ’s return, also sees Israel as a nation under the reign of the “Son of David” fulfilling the Bible’s many messianic prophecies (Matt. 21:9; 1 Tim. 2:8). The replanting of Israel as a nation is the world’s single most important sign that we have of the return of Christ. It is “near even at the doors” (Matt. 24:33).

That revived Israel was again a nation of miracles from God as was evidenced in 1947 when Jewish leaders declared themselves an independent state and WWII General George Marshall warned Prime Minister David Ben Gurion that the Arab armies would kill every Jew in less than two weeks. Marshall was a 5-star general who helped eradicate the Nazi regime in Europe. Israel was outnumbered 30 to 1. By God’s grace Israel won that war and all other wars.

Israel’s victory went beyond human reasoning and the expert advice of military advisors, “God’s ways are not man’s ways” (Is. 55:6-9; Rom. 11:33). Victory for Israel came again by God’s provisions in 1956, in 1967 (the six-day war) at the surprise attack in 1973 and all other conflicts including 2023.

It is nothing short of multiplied miracles that the Jewish people survived as exiles for almost two thousand years and yet returned to their ancient, promised land and became a vibrant social, political and economic and military powerhouse (John 8:31-32; Zach. 8:2-5). By the decrees and prophecies of God, Israel has returned home but yet blinded to the gospel of Christ (Is. 29:10-14; Rom. 11:25). Certainly, all Christians should pray for God’s blessing and protections upon Israel and the Jewish people (Gen. 12:1-3).

Today the fig tree has budded and one Jew at a time is coming to Christ. See this at work at WWW.ONEFORISRAEL.COM and WWW.IFOUNDHALOM.COM. “Keep looking up” (Luke 21:28).

Chief Source:

Israel: God’s Most Important End-Time Prophecy



Silent Night

By Nancy Long

Isaiah 7:14 – *“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name, Immanuel.”*

Isaiah 9:6a – *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given*”

Luke 2:8 – *“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night,”*

Luke 2:16 – *“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.”*

Silent Night

*“Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night. Holy night, Wondrous star, lend Thy light
With the angels, Let us sing, Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.”*

Text – Joseph Mohr (translated by John F. Young) Music -- Franz Gruber

One of the most familiar, and also one of the most favorite, of all the carols we hear sung during the season of Christmas, is the hymn, *Silent Night*. There have been slightly differing versions written over time, details varying though, only a little, about how this song came into being. This forthcoming account has been taken from:

“Then Sings My Soul”
(150 of the world's Greatest Hymn Stories)
By Robert J. Morgan

“It was Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps. At the newly constructed Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, a Tyrol village near Salzburg, Father Joseph Mohr prepared for the

midnight service. He was distraught because the church organ was broken, ruining the prospects for that evening's carefully planned music. But Father Joseph was about to learn that our problems are God's opportunities, that the Lord causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him. It came to Father Joseph's mind to write a new song, one that could be sung organless. Hastily he wrote the words, "*Silent Night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright* " Taking the text to his organist, Franz Gruber, he explained the situation and asked Franz to compose a simple tune.

That night, December 14, 1818, "*Silent Night*" was sung for the first time as a duet accompanied by a guitar at the aptly named church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf.

Shortly afterward, as Karl Mauracher came to repair the organ, he heard about the near-disaster on Christmas Eve. Acquiring a copy of the text and tune, he spread it throughout the Alpine region of Austria, referring to it as "*Tiroler Volkslied*."

The song came to the attention of the Strasser Family, makers of fine chamois-skin gloves. To drum up business at various fairs and festivals, the four Strasser children would sing in front of their parent's booth. Like the Von Trapp children a century later, they became popular folk singers throughout the Alps.

When the children: Caroline, Joseph, Andreas, and Amalie began singing, "*Trioler Volkslied*" at their performances, audiences were charmed. It seemed perfect for the snow-clad region, and perfect for the Christian heart. "*Silent Night*" even came to the attention of the king and queen, and the Strasser children were asked to give a royal performance, assuring the carol's fame."

By the time of the Civil War, "*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!*" had been translated into the English, "*Silent Night! Holy Night!*" and was becoming a Christmas favorite in both the north, as well as the South. Today, as stated earlier, this tender and beautiful hymn, is one of the best known and most loved Christmas carols of all time.

God in His Providence!! We do need to trust more, don't we?! Were it not for a broken organ were it not for what was thought to be a possibly ruined church service there would have never been a "*Silent Night*." And God's story will go on and on and on!!

Merry Christmas, Defender friends!!



Put Christ Back In Christmas

By Hank Arthur, Defender

Over two thousand years have come and gone since that first Christmas morn
When baby Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, was born.
Angels' voices rang out in praise from the skies up above
How God sends to fallen man a gift, His precious Son, with love.
Now Christmas isn't really about the Christ child anymore.
It's about a tree and presents covering most of the floor.
Tonka trucks, Barbie dolls, and electronic games top the list.
While everyone racks their brain trying to remember what they missed.
We need to forget about Xmas and put Christ back where He belongs.
It will answer all of our needs, and right most of our wrongs.
So, on this Christmas morning, remember the Babe in the manger.
Don't allow the Son of God to remain a forgotten stranger.



The Christmas Gift

By Hank Arthur, Defender

Mary and Joseph came into town, looking for a room, anywhere.
Joseph was begging, "A baby's being born," but most people didn't even care.
Then someone said, "There's a stable out back, you might find an empty manger."
Later that night on Bethlehem's plain, they missed the entrance of a tiny stranger.

Up in the hills around the town, shepherds were tending their sheep.
They saw angels singing and shouting news that was by far too good to keep.
"Christ is born, the Son of God, He's laid in a manger low.
Hallelujah, Praise the Lord, leave your sheep, and go."

In Jerusalem, three men were asking about a governor's birth.
They seemed to feel that this man would impact all the earth.
From Jerusalem, and from the skies above,
They came to see the Christmas Gift God sent to earth with Love.

The hills are empty, the wise men are gone, the manger has rotted away.
But that first Christmas and God's perfect gift are still alive today
For God so loved this old world, that He sent His only Son,
Knowing that he would bleed and die, before it all was done.

Jesus finished what He came to do, and is now with his Father above,
Waiting to come back for those who believe, and take them home with love.

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 am
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service	11:00 am