

Changed in an Instant!

ALLOWING GOD TO REMOVE YOUR BIAS

BY VICTORIA SARVADI, TH.D.

I believe it is safe to say that most Christians and conservative Americans consider themselves patriots, lovers of their country, democracy, and God. These people believe in godly standards of morality and the biblical values our country was founded upon.

I also believe the same can be said about Israel's people living in the only democratic country in the Middle East. Aren't they also entitled to be patriots and lovers of their country? After all, God led Abraham to the land that would eventually be named Israel and founded it (literally) upon his Word and his ways some 4,000 years ago. Then, in 1010 BC King David established Jerusalem on Mt. Zion, also calling it God's Holy City and the City of the Great King. It is the same land God

claimed as his own and gave to Israel as an inheritance. Israel's patriotism for this beloved land is called Zionism.

THE NATIONAL SHIFT

After the Romans destroyed the temple and the city of Jerusalem in the first century, the Jewish people were forced into exile in other nations. They were unwanted everywhere they went. Their Zionist heritage was ridiculed, and their culture and religion were scorned. However, the Jewish followers of Yeshua took this opportunity to spread the faith of Messiah to all the pagan lands they journeyed into.

Three hundred years later, the Roman emperor was compelled to hear about the faith to which so many Gentiles had been converted. Constantine the Great approved of many aspects of the new faith. Still, because he hated the Jews and their Zionist loyalties, he insisted on modifying the doctrine into a new religion that was cleansed of anything that was obviously Jewish. Constantine was a polytheist and a pagan. His beliefs in Venus (the fertility goddess [Ishtar in Babylon]), Sol (the sun god), and Adonis (Tammuz of Babylon), were central to his religious worldview. By simply re-assigning Ishtar as the day of Resurrection, the day of Sol as the new Sabbath, and Tammuz as Jesus, he created a Latinized and paganized faith that he called the Universal or Catholic faith. With a simple pen stroke, an edict was



established within the entire Roman Empire that mandated a new creed for every subject in the empire.

As we compare the indigenous faith of Yeshua to Catholic and Protestant Christianity today, it becomes apparent that the faith of Jesus has been grossly redefined and subjected to prodigious changes from its original inception and matrix.

AWAKENING IN THE NATIONS

Today, church reform has continued to the tune of more than 33,000 Christian denominations. Separations of denominations and splits within churches are extremely common. However, many believers in Messiah are awakening as if out of a deep trance. It seems as if there is an inherent interest of true believers seeking Yeshua in his original Jewish context. Because Yeshua warned us that there would come a time of great apostasy in the End Days, we must be on guard now more than ever before for false teachings, lawless doctrines, and woke expressions of Christianity.

MARRYING INTO A FAMILY

I was thrust into a very unfamiliar heritage when I married my husband. Paul was Romanian. When his parents would start speaking in Romanian to each other, I always wondered if they were talking about me—the only blond non-Romanian in the room. Everything was foreign. There were different holiday traditions, different foods, and different cultural expectations. When our family began to grow, I realized that my children now shared this heritage. And I knew nothing about Romania—its geographic location, history, and culture.

But something began to brew inside of me. I began to understand the heart of Ruth as she latched on to Naomi, her mother-in-law. And as such, I needed to understand the roots of my husband's and children's ancestry as well. I began to embrace the foreign culture and traditions of the amazing family into which I had married. I spent a lot of time with Paul's mother and his grandmother, learning how to prepare chicken *paprikash* and Romanian pastries like *churi gava* and *pupasa*. I learned Romanian sayings that continue with our children today, like *Hristos a inviat* (Christ has risen) and *Adevarat ca a inviat* (He has risen indeed). I learned Romanian songs, nursery rhymes, and holiday games that are still known by our family today. We eventually took our children and grandchildren to the old country. It felt like my own!

LEARNING THE WAYS OF OUR JEWISH REDEEMER

One day, it dawned on me that my Messiah and bridegroom, Yeshua, was born a Jew. He lived in Samaria and Judea, spoke Hebrew and Aramaic,

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ate indigenous foods, practiced Jewish customs, and eloquently taught from the Hebrew Scriptures. He passionately kept Sabbath and Passover and the other feasts outlined in Leviticus 23. He spoke about things that seemed foreign to me—like washing feet, wearing prayer shawls, or going to synagogues. I began to see a recurring pattern—if he calls me his bride, then doesn't it make sense to do the same thing for him that I did when I immersed myself into my earthly husband's heritage? Shouldn't I want to know everything possible about him?

What I found as I plunged into the Hebrew roots of my Lord was that I was falling in love with him all over again. I began to see him in his true Jewish context and no longer through my Western, twenty-first century filter. It was as if Yeshua re-introduced himself to me! As I sought him in truth, I noticed the subtle anti-Semitic judgments I had learned from my Lutheran upbringing begin to fall away from

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me. I intimately understood how our God sees Israel as the apple of his eye. I no longer perceived Israel through the anti-Israel rhetoric of liberal media that had me brainwashed. I also began to love the brothers and sisters of my Lord just as I had grown to love my husband's family. In fact, I found myself loving everything that my Messiah loves. He led me on a long road of historical and prophetic truths concerning Israel and the Jewish people. I was pained to see the historical persecution and oppression forced upon the Jews by political pogroms in Eastern Europe, ethnic cleansing crusades led by the Catholic Church, the prejudicial inquisitions that purged entire populations of Jews from various countries, and the senseless Holocaust of six million Jews murdered in a ridiculous agenda of ridding the world of what some called an "inferior race."

As I became more enraged by my own past bias, I began to see the *spirit* behind all the discrimination and hatred. It became apparent to me that the church has had spiritual blinders on. I had been lied to! A light began to shine in me, and I knew I couldn't stay silent anymore. I asked him to remove any bigotry from me and help me relate to and receive the pain of the people who have become my people. And just as I had visited Romania, the country of my husband and children, I also visited Israel, the homeland of my Savior.

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I return as often as possible, and cry every time I must leave it.

THE REBIRTH OF ZIONISM

The resurrection of the Jewish homeland was insightfully envisioned and established by the efforts of a Jewish man from Poland named Theodore Herzl in the late nineteenth century. Motivated by the hateful discrimination and anti-Semitism toward his people, Herzl envisioned a resurrected Jewish State. It was 1896 when Herzl started the pathway through several Zionist Congress meetings. At the end of World War One, the defeated Ottoman Empire was mandated by the League of Nations to concede Palestine to Great Britain. The Jewish homeland at the time was barren and scarcely populated with Jews and Arabs. There has never been a global patriotic movement to bring back to life an ancient home state, resurrect its ancient language and culture, and encourage the indigenous people to return to repopulate the land. As God would have it, the concept of a National Jewish Homeland outlined in the Balfour Declaration was approved by the League of Nations Council on July 24, 1922, and endorsed by a joint resolution of the United States Congress on June 30, 1922. The mandate of the Jewish homeland was issued by the League of Nations, and on May 14, 1948, the Provisional Government of Israel proclaimed the new State of Israel.

Since the inception of the sovereign state, the United Nations has unfairly condemned Israel more than all other countries combined. The world calls Israel an apartheid state when the apparent meaning of apartheid is about racial, social, and economic segregation. How is it then that Arab citizens in Israel have full, equal rights in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, and the Israeli court system, including the Supreme Court? Arab doctors, professors, police officers, teachers, and countless other professionals, working side by side with Jews. These malicious lies designed to sway public opinion have been effective. Anti-Semitism is increasing, and many Jews feel forced to leave countries like France, Ukraine, Poland, and South Africa seeking refuge in their homeland.

Although many globalists hate the philosophies of nationalism, it should incense American patriots and those of the free Western world that any country should be chastised for their heart for patriotism toward their own sovereign land. Of course, like America, Israel and her patriotic citizens have every entitlement to stand in allegiance to their land.

THE CALL TO CHRISTIANS

Many Christians have seen the anti-Semitic attitudes within the church and have repented for the biases passed down from the arrogant

Greco-Roman Church. Are they also aware of anti-Judaism that results in boastful pride that further separates us from God's Chosen People?

These anti-Semitic, anti-Judaic, anti-Israel, and anti-Zion sentiments are not of God. God loves his people and his Land, Israel—he constantly reiterates this point—and he has promised to bring all his people back to the land *and* faith in him. We are seeing this happen right before our eyes.

Paul gives the church a colossal clue and some treasured advice as he warns: "Then you will say, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, *provided you continue in his kindness*. Otherwise, you, too, will be cut off."¹

Paul then admonishes believers to regard this necessary reproof so they are not accursed or cut off from God. We must realize that duplicitous demonic spirits of religious pride and haughty arrogance will separate us from God and his ways if we boast against Israel. We should instead continue the kindness of God, treating his people with patience and love. This is what God is looking for—how we treat the Jewish people.

HOW CAN WE SHOW KINDNESS?

I have numerous suggestions:

- Daily pray for the peace of Jerusalem and be a watchman on the wall declaring into the heavenlies what the will of God is concerning Israel.²
- Give to humanitarian aid organizations in the land of Israel.³
- Help Jews to make aliyah from all countries and be instrumental in the effective integration of all immigrants into Israeli society.⁴
- Take tours to Israel.
- Buy Israeli products.⁵
- Start a Jewish Roots Bible study or host a "Bring a Dish" *Shabbat* gathering to familiarize Christians with the first-century faith of Yeshua and encourage them to support his people.
- Start—or attend—a March of Remembrance Holocaust event in your city, inviting first and second generation Holocaust survivors to speak to your city's Christian and Jewish communities as a coalesced event. This is a powerful way to stand for the Jewish people declaring, "Never Again!"⁶

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

In addition to showing kindness, we must become knowledgeable about and stand against:

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- Efforts to delegitimize Israel through BDS (Boycotts, Divestments, and Sanctions).
- NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and funds from foreign governments that seek to injure Israel.
- The New Israel Fund and joining in positive influence toward the policies and positions of the Israeli government.

Instead, we should support the distinctiveness of the Jewish people by furthering Zionist education that are fostering spiritual and cultural values as well as teaching Hebrew as the national language.⁷

AND FINALLY . . .

Last, I encourage you to be patient with the Jewish people. Trust in the Lord to fulfill his promises concerning Israel and his Chosen People. God is faithful to finish what he started with his church and his people Israel.⁸

As we know, one day, all will change instantly—in the twinkling of God's eye.

Let us all be ready. 

¹ Romans 11:19–22.

² Isaiah 62.

³ Cf. visionforisrael.com.

⁴ Cf. globalaliyah.org and icej.org.

⁵ Cf. BlessedBuyIsrael.com.

⁶ Cf. marchofremembrance.org.

⁷ Cf. imti.org.il

⁸ Zechariah 12:7–14.

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Learn more about Dr. Sarvadi's extensive library of inspirational, informative, and challenging materials that are posted at www.victoriasarvadi.com.