

What Do You Believe?

Quoting from the Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade movie:

“It is time to ask yourself what you believe.”

There are passages in the Bible at which we nod our heads and say, “I believe.” But can you apply that information to your daily life? Take for instance the blessing and curse promise to Abraham.

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;

Genesis 12:2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Do you believe that God still curses those who curse Israel? People that bring this up publicly are sometimes ridiculed by the God-less society in which we live. Even an eminent Bible scholar like Bruce Waltke sides with the “replacement” theology crowd. “The promise does not pertain today to unbelieving, ethnic “Israel” (see Rom 9:6-8; Gal. 6:15) but to Jesus Christ and his church (see 12:7; 13:16 and notes; Gal 3:16, 26–29; 6:16).¹” Do you believe that God will become unfaithful to the covenants He made with the House of Israel and the House of Judah? (Jeremiah 31)

¹ Waltke, B.K. and Fredricks, C.J. (2001). *Genesis: a Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan. 206

**Lamentations 3:22 The LORD'S
lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His
compassions never fail.**

**Lamentations 3:23 *They* are new every
morning; Great is Your faithfulness.**

If you look at nations that have been intensely antisemitic, did anything bad happen to them? Look at Germany from WW2. Terrible devastation. Or look at Iran today. Terrible devastation, although a different kind and perhaps incomplete.

The basic question is this, “Does God act in the world today?” My answer is “Yes!”

But first, let us start with the sons of Israel. They were promised immense blessings for obeying God and terrible almost unspeakable sufferings if they did not.

Israel was disciplined when the nation was full of people who did their own thing against God. The book of Judges narrates this.

**Judges 2:11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in
the sight of the LORD and served the Baals,**

Notice that “evil” is identified with breaking the first commandment: Love the Lord. That command is repeated in the New Testament. So when we engage in serving gods that are not God, then we are engaged in evil.

**Judges 2:12 and they forsook the LORD, the
God of their fathers, who had brought them
out of the land of Egypt, and followed other
gods from *among* the gods of the peoples who**

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were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger.

Judges 2:13 So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroath.

Judges 2:14 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around *them*, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.

Judges 2:15 Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed.

Israel was disciplined for turning against God.

Judges 2:16 Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.

Yet, in spite of Israel's unfaithfulness, God provided the solution. However, in the extreme cases of hostility toward God, the Fifth Cycle of Discipline was applied.

In the so called Fifth Cycle of Discipline God takes Israel out of the land.

Leviticus 26:33 You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword

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after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.

The suffering of the Jewish people is documented many places.

But God will never reject Israel from the covenants He made with them.

Leviticus 26:44 Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God.

Leviticus 26:45 But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.”

The basic problem is summed up in a couple of passages. The last verse in the book of Judges says it clearly.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

There was no divine standard being applied individually nor in the individual tribes.

We know from the book of I Samuel that the King was God Himself.

1 Samuel 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah;

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1 Samuel 8:5 and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.”

1 Samuel 8:6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD.

1 Samuel 8:7 The LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

Keep in mind that God is the king of Israel. Jesus in the New Testament is both King because He is God but also king because He was descendant from King David and will sit on King David’s throne.

Enough on Israel. What needs to be stressed here is that God acts in history. That is easy to demonstrate from the Old Testament. Israel’s enemies are vanquished after they become constantly hostile against Israel.

Early judgments against hostile nations is found in the book of Judges.

Judges 3:7 The sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.

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Judges 3:8 Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, so that He sold them into the hands of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the sons of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.

Judges 3:9 When the sons of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the sons of Israel to deliver them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

Judges 3:10 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.

Judges 3:11 Then the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

Do you remember the story of Gideon? God put Gideon in charge of a small army. He kept whittling down the size of the army. The reason was:

Judges 7:2 The LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel would become boastful, saying, 'My own power has delivered me.'

There is a very important principle that applies to Christians today. If we live by the Spirit, then what we do is not something we can boast about

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because it was God that did it. That is what God is saying to Gideon here. I will let you win, but do not think you won the war. God won the war. Very important concept to keep in mind.

Judges 7:22 When they blew 300 trumpets, the LORD set the sword of one against another even throughout the whole army; and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the edge of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

It is clearly stated here that “the Lord set the sword of one against another.” We must always recognize in our own lives that God is implementing His plan even if we do not give Him credit or even if we do not even realize it.

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But now let us look at some documentation from a Christian reporter named Bill Koenig. He has a website on which he documents anti-Israel activity and subsequent disasters. God acts in history.

If you have time, there is an interesting presentation by Mr. Koenig at the 2024 Pre-Trib Conference. You can access that from the website: <https://www.pre-trib.org/2024-ptsg-conference>

William (Bill) Koenig has a website that comments on current events: <https://www.watch.org>

What about today? Does God intervene in current events when there are events that are anti-Israel?

One of the most glaring examples of destruction against an anti-Semitic country was Germany during World War II. If you look at Germany today you might wonder how was it possible for there to be extensive damage yet to have rebounded to a vibrant country now. We don't often consider the amount of damage inflicted on the anti-Semitic country that caused the deaths of so many Jews. Here is a brief quote from a summary of the damage caused by the allies strategic bombing of Germany:

“The survey notes the effects on the German population: 3,600,000 "dwelling units", approximately 20% of total housing stock were "destroyed or heavily damaged" with an estimated 300,000 civilians killed and a further 780,000 wounded. About seven and half million were left homeless. The survey found that German morale deteriorated after attacks night bombing having a greater effect but although dissatisfaction with the war increased, under the German police state the will or means to oppose the leadership was absent.²”

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Strategic_Bombing_Survey. This survey was ordered to assess the damage inflicted as a result of bombing during WW2.

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The term “pogrom” is applied to several attacks against Jews within countries. Notably, there were pogroms in Russia. From the Britannica:

“The pogrom in Kishinev (now Chişinău) in Russian-ruled Moldavia in April 1903, although more severe than most, was typical in many respects. For two days mobs, inspired by local leaders acting with official support, killed, looted, and destroyed without hindrance from police or soldiers. When troops were finally called out and the mob dispersed, 45 Jews had been killed, nearly 600 had been wounded, and 1,500 Jewish homes had been pillaged. Those responsible for inciting the outrages were not punished.³”

What followed a few years later was the communist take-over of Russia. There was a civil war in which many were killed, including Jews.

“Both sides regularly committed brutal atrocities against civilians. During the civil war era for example, Petlyura and Denikin's forces massacred 100,000 to 150,000 Jews in Ukraine and southern Russia. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were left homeless and tens of thousands became victims of serious illness. These massacres are now referred to as the White Terror (Russia).⁴”

“Estimates for the total number of people killed during the Red Terror carried out by the Bolsheviks vary widely. One source asserts that the total number of victims could be 1.3 million, whereas others give estimates ranging from 10,000 in the initial period of repression to 140,000 and an estimate of 28,000 executions per year from December 1917 to February 1922. The most reliable estimations for the total number of killings put the number at about 100,000, whereas others suggest a figure of 200,000.”

3 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/pogrom>

4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Russia

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“The Russian economy was devastated by the war, with factories and bridges destroyed, cattle and raw materials pillaged, mines flooded and machines damaged. The droughts of 1920 and 1921, as well as the 1921 famine, worsened the disaster still further. Disease had reached pandemic proportions, with 3,000,000 dying of typhus alone in 1920. Millions more also died of widespread starvation. By 1922 there were at least 7,000,000 street children in Russia as a result of nearly ten years of devastation from the Great War and the civil war. Another one to two million people, known as the White émigrés, fled Russia, many were evacuated from Crimea in the 1920, some through the Far East, others west into the newly independent Baltic countries. These émigrés included a large percentage of the educated and skilled population.⁵”

Russia subsequently had terrible rulers which included Lenin and Stalin who were infamous for the varieties of sufferings imposed on the Russian people.

What about today? Do you not think that God is intervening in history today? Do you look at current events as just another day in the Devil’s world? Or do you see current events as God working out His glory by keeping His word? In part that word includes the promise of cursing and blessing found in Genesis 12:3.

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

What is one of the most if not the most anti-Israel nation in the world today? Iran?

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Russia

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OK, let's look at what is happening in Iran today. Iran bombarded Israel with missiles to cause much destruction and fear in the Israeli population. Based upon rhetoric from Iranian leaders, were Iran to have nuclear weapons, they would likely be used to bomb Israel into oblivion. Iran has funded terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and Hamas. While much of the media is perhaps downplaying the destruction caused as a result of the "October 7" attack of Hezbollah on Israel, terrible things happened against the Israeli civilian population. If God is going to keep His promise to Abraham, then Iran should at some point be cursed.

Take away any political flavor and just look at the destruction happening in Iran now. And it is continuing to happen.

Here is a top level summary from Wikipedia:

"Following the 2025 Twelve-Day War, a domestic crisis began in Iran. The period is characterized by domestic unrest, political instability, protests (including their suppression [sic]) and economic decline within the country, to which the government of Iran responded with government crackdowns, mass executions, arrests and militarization in an effort to maintain control.⁶"

The economy is in tatters.

"In the aftermath of the Twelve-Day War, Iran's internal economy has entered a phase of heightened instability and fragility. The conflict delivered a sudden shock to a system already weakened by years of sanctions, mismanagement, and infrastructural decay. The displacement of nearly seven million people from urban centers during the war disrupted commerce, transportation, and local economies. Though many residents have returned, the economic rhythm has not fully recovered, and business continuity remains strained in key sectors."

⁶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_internal_crisis_\(2025%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_internal_crisis_(2025%E2%80%93present))

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“Post-war, Iran faces the dual challenge of physical and institutional recovery. Power shortages, already critical before the conflict, have worsened significantly. Industrial zones now experience unscheduled and prolonged blackouts of up to five hours daily, severely undermining manufacturing output and supply chains. Compounded by logistical breakdowns and reduced fuel availability, basic services are under pressure, and small businesses face renewed uncertainty. If the Israeli strikes damaged refining capacity or disrupted distribution channels for industrial inputs, the recovery trajectory will be even more arduous.”⁷

Drinking water is scarce.

“According to the World Resources Institute (WRI), Iran ranks among the most water-stressed countries in the world. The country falls under the "extremely high" category on the Water Stress Index, where 80% to 100% of renewable water resources are withdrawn annually. This means Iran is utilizing nearly all of its available water supply for agriculture, industry, and domestic use, leaving little to no buffer for periods of drought or variability in rainfall.”⁸

Other countries have become increasingly anti-Semitic. Take France for example.

“According to a report from the Conseil Représentatif des Institutions juives de France (CRIF), the number of antisemitic crimes in France in 2023 nearly quadrupled compared to 2022, with 1,676 reported incidents. In 2024, the number remained high, reaching 1,570 antisemitic incidents.”⁹

“Since 2000, France has experienced "an explosion of antisemitism, unprecedented since the Second World War", according to Timothy

7 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_internal_crisis_\(2025%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_internal_crisis_(2025%E2%80%93present))

8 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_scarcity_in_Iran

9 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitism_in_France

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Peace. Statistics for assaults, attacks on property, and desecration (such as in cemeteries) have increased. Antisemitism in the form of public expression (chants, slogans and placards with "Death to the Jews" and so on) and tensions in public places such as schools have mounted. As a result, the Jewish community is becoming increasingly concerned and fearful; some parents have removed their children from schools, and a record number have been leaving France and emigrating to Israel or other countries. The rise in incidents since 2000 has resulted in numerous books, press, and other media coverage, and gave rise to a debate about a "new antisemitism", whether it exists in France, and if so, who is responsible for committing such acts, and why.¹⁰

Some headlines that encapsulate some French national difficulties:

“Rising energy prices and fiscal adjustment weigh on demand”

“Inflation expected to increase due to higher energy and food prices”

“Large primary deficits and rising interest payments to keep fueling public debt¹¹”

So you have to ask yourself, “What do you believe?”

10 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitism_in_France

11 https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-surveillance-eu-member-states/country-pages-including-country-reports/france/economic-forecast-france_en