

2026 Zechariah Series:
War Over Jerusalem
Zechariah 12-14



Pt. 1 - Zech. 12-13

Why Support Israel?

Tim Buck

fotet.org/notes

Feb. 17, 2026

FOCUS
ON THE END TIMES

I. THE WORLD TURNS AGAINST ISRAEL - ZECHARIAH 12:1-4

The burden [prophecy] of the word of the Lord [Yahweh] against Israel. Thus says Yahweh, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:

² Behold, ***I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling*** to all the surrounding peoples, when they ***lay siege*** against Judah and Jerusalem. ³ And it shall happen in that day that ***I will make*** Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; ***all who would move it away*** will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. ⁴ In that day, says the Lord, ***I will strike*** every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; ***I will open My eyes*** on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

A. 3 Trends Accelerating America's Turn Away From Israel:

- **Social Media Support for Bashing Israel**
- **The Islamification of America**
- **The Rise of Antisemitism**

B. Beliefs of Popular Antisemites

Misguided commentators like Tucker Carlson & Candace Owens are distorting Christian theology to advance their subversive personal agendas. But Scripture tells a different story, one of the Abrahamic Covenant that endures to this day. The bond between Jews and Christians ***is spiritual*** not political. Standing with Israel is not an act of nationalism, it's LIVING BY FAITH and believing God's word.

- A rejection of the "chosen people" based on DNA! They say, "there is no evidence the Jews of Israel today are the same Jews as in the Bible."
- They argue modern Israel was founded by a band of renegade Jews and there are no commands in the Bible for us to support the modern State of Israel
- Because the government of Israel is so corrupt, it can't be of God
- The U.S. gives Israel \$billions to Israel but we receive nothing in return
- Describing the War in Gaza as genocidal, "Netanyahu's mass murder"
- A deep hostility toward "Christian Zionism"

C. Christian Zionism:

The belief that the return of the Jewish people to the Holy Land and the establishment of the State of Israel is a fulfillment of biblical prophecy!

D. Why Support Israel?

The Battle over Israel is Spiritual, not Partisan. It asks every person: Do you Believe God Keeps His Promises? ***"God's gifts and His calling are irrevocable."*** [Rom 11:29]. To stand with Israel is to trust the faithfulness of God Himself.

II. UNDERSTANDING THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT



The **Abrahamic Covenant** comes in a series of **three visitations** between God and Abraham, which build on each other as follows:

- God outlines His **promises** to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3
- God uniquely **ratifies** His Covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15
- God **reaffirms** that His Covenant and Land promise are Everlasting in Gen. 17

A. Six Promises in the Abrahamic Covenant - Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord [Yahweh] had said to Abram: Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

1. The covenant was given to the descendants of Abraham through **Isaac** (not Ishmael) then **Jacob** (not Esau) and passed down exclusively through the **12 Tribes** of Israel
2. A specific piece of **'land'** with boundaries was provided (vs. 1) Gen. 13:14-15
3. The descendants of Abraham would be blessed & become a **'great nation'** (vs. 2)
4. God's "foreign policy" for Israel would be to, **"bless nations that bless Israel and curse those nations that curse Israel"** (vs. 3)
5. Jesus Christ was the ultimate "seed" of Abraham, to bless all nations - vs. 3
"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"
6. God's covenant promise is unconditional, ongoing, irrevocable, and everlasting!
7. Covenant Promises Repeated in Scripture

- **200 Times** - Israel's land promise is reiterated in Scripture
- **15 Times** - The land boundaries and borders are described
- **12 Times** - Land grant described as an "everlasting possession"
- **55 Times** - God confirms He gave the land to Abraham by an oath
- **64 Times** - God says He will bring his people back to their land in the last days, from the nations where they were scattered

B. God Himself Ratifies the Covenant **WITHOUT** Abraham - Gen. 15:9-18

1. **'Unconditional Covenant'** In Genesis 15, God does something profound and unexpected to illustrate the Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional

Definition for 'Unconditional' - God takes **sole responsibility** for the covenant's fulfillment, with or without Abraham or Israel's compliance. There are no responsibilities given in the covenant for Israel to fulfill! **God does it all!**

⁹ So He said to him, bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. ¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and **cut them in two**, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

2. "Cutting the Covenant"

a. In ancient culture, when two people made a covenant, the ritual was to walk through animals cut-in-half. This act was saying, **"May what happened to these animals happen to us if either one of us breaks this covenant."**

b. By passing through the animals alone, God ratified the oath with **Himself** saying that He alone would uphold the promises of the Covenant, with or without Abraham or Israel's participation!

3. Abraham Sleeps

¹² Now when the sun was going down, a **deep sleep fell upon Abram**; horror and great darkness fell upon him.

God put Abraham to sleep and performed the covenant act without him

4. God Walks the Isle Alone - Smoking Oven, Burning Torch

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a **smoking oven and a burning torch** [symbolic, God's presence] that passed between the pieces.

1. The Smoking Oven & Burning Torch symbolized the presence of God
2. This wasn't a bilateral agreement between two parties. It was a unilateral and unconditional promise **made by God to Abraham** and his descendants

5. Southern & Northern Land Borders - Genesis 15:18

¹⁸ On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: To your descendants I have given this land, from **the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates**.

The world says 'River to Sea' but God says, **'River to the River'**

C. An Everlasting Covenant – Gen. 17:7-8

⁷ And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. ⁸ Also I give to you and your descendants after you **the land** in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an **everlasting possession**; and I will be their God. [Gen. 17:7-8]

- God reaffirms the Covenant is an Everlasting Covenant, including the Land
- Today, the so-called “West Bank” and Gaza still belong to national Israel

1. Gen. 17:19 - I will establish My covenant with him [Isaac] for an **everlasting covenant** and with his descendants after him.

NOWHERE in Scripture is God's Covenant Relationship with Israel ever Permanently Nullified.

2. Israel continues into Eternity, in the New Jerusalem - Isaiah 66:22

²² For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me, says the Lord, **so shall your descendants and your name remain.**

- Rev. 21:12 - The names of the 12 tribes are on the 12 gates of New Jerusalem

National Israel will NEVER end!

National Israel will have a never-ending existence through the Millennial Kingdom and on into the new heavens and the new earth in eternity.

3. God's Discipline Ends, but His Love Doesn't – Jer. 32:37

³⁷ Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely.

- Israel has been evicted from the land twice, once in the Babylonian captivity and once when Rome evicted them in 70 AD.
- Israel's eviction does not change God's covenant promises - Zech. 9:11-12

¹¹ Because of the **blood of your covenant**, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit [Babylonian Captivity]. ¹² Return to the stronghold [Israel], you prisoners of hope. Even today I declare that I will restore double to you.

4. Don't Confuse Israel and the Church - 1 Cor. 10:32

³² Give no offense, either to the **Jews** or to the **Gentiles** or to the **church** of God.

Israel and the Church are distinct in nature, purpose and role in the end times. Israel is made up of only the descendants of Abraham while the church consists of both individual Jews and Gentiles in one body

III. END-TIME SIEGE OF JUDAH & JERUSALEM - ZECH. 12:2 [aka 'WEST BANK']

A. Dividing Israel into Two States is Doomed to Fail – Vs. 2

***I will make** Jerusalem a cup of trembling/reeling to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem [“West Bank”].*



1. **Cup of Trembling** - Because of all the lies wrapped up in the Palestinian land controversy, Israel's enemies act inebriated over the Jewish people and their Land

Dividing Israel's covenant land in exchange for peace with Allah-worshipping neighbors is a set-up for disaster doomed for failure - Israel's Land is Covenant Land!

2. **Laying Siege** – Israel's enemies are laying claim to Judea/Samaria and East Jerusalem, saying they must be part of a Palestinian State

The 'Two-State Controversy over the 'West Bank' is God's Final Test to Israel & the Nations that triggers the Tribulation!

3. **Trump's Board of Peace** - How Does it Align with Bible Prophecy?

a. One of the most important missing links in the progression of end-time developments, now able to take us to the edge of the Tribulation - **Daniel 9:27**

*²⁷ Then he [Antichrist] shall confirm [strengthen] a covenant with **many** for one week [7 years]; But in the middle of the week [3.5 yrs] he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering [Capture 'West Bank,' take control of Israel's Temple].*

b. The BoP could bypass the UN to serve as the authorizing arm Trump needs to move forward with the Two-State Plan launched during his first term



Board of Peace

B. Dividing Jerusalem is Dangerous – Vs. 3

*It shall happen in that day that **I will make** Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; **all who would move it away** [2- State Solution, giving ½ Jerusalem to the Palestinians] **will surely be cut in pieces**, though all nations gather against it.*

1. The Palestinian issue has fueled the world's obsession and lust for Jerusalem
2. Satan wants control of Jerusalem to be in close proximity to Israel for two reasons:
 - a) To launch his final holocaust of exterminating the Jewish people
 - b) To defeat and kill Jesus [again] when the Lord returns at His Second Coming

IV. GOD WILL UPHOLD AND PRESERVE THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL - ZECH. 12:4-9

A. God Intervenes For Israel During Their End-Time Wars

⁴ *In that day, says the Lord, I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will **strike every horse [military vehicles and equipment] of the peoples with blindness.***

1. God has supernaturally done this for Israel in Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iran
2. Pager war on Hezbollah; Israel taking out the leaders of Hamas/Hezbollah
3. During the 12-Day War, Iran admitted their missiles weren't launching because of a malfunction in the launch-system technology which they were unable to fix!

B. God Fights for the IDF and Supports the Government of Modern Israel

⁵ *And the **governors** [Captains, Generals] of Judah shall say in their heart, the inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.*

⁶ *In that day I will make the **governors** of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the **surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left**, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.*

1. **firepan**: used to carry hot coals to start a fire
2. **fiery torch**: used to light the dry grain on fire

⁷ *The LORD will save the tents of Judah first ("tents" = outlying villages), so that the glory of the House of David (Government, IDF) and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah.*

⁸ *In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be **like David**, (mighty warriors) and the house of David (Gov't/IDF) shall be **like God, like the Angel of the LORD** before them.* ⁹ *It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*

- **LIKE DAVID**
The feeble like God's greatest soldier
- **LIKE GOD**
Providential protection & blessing
- **LIKE THE ANGEL OF THE LORD**
Unlimited supernatural resources



V. GOD WILL REDEEM THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL - ZECHARIAH 12:10; 13:1

¹⁰ I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the ***Spirit of grace and supplication***; then they will look on Me [Jesus] whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.¹ In that day a ***fountain shall be opened*** for the house of David... ***for sin and for uncleanness***.

ROMANS 11:25-26

²⁵ "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that ***blindness in part has happened to Israel*** until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

A. God's Judicial Judgment of 'Spiritual Blindness,' is on most Jews today – vs. 25

"blindness [paralysis] in part has happened to Israel"

Because of rejecting messiah, God placed a substance over Israel's spiritual eyes, so most Jewish people are ***insensitive*** to the truths of the Word of God... but not all!

B. Israel's Blindness is Partial – ***"blindness in part"***

Israel is not totally blind today, her blindness is **not on every individual Jew**

C. Israel's Blindness is Temporary - ***"when the fullness of Gentiles has come in"***

When the last Gentile is saved, the 'Fullness of the Gentiles' is complete. This triggers the rapture of the church and then God removes Israel's spiritual blindness.

D. Israel Returns in Unbelief but will be Saved - ***"so all Israel will be saved"***

1. The prophets say when Israel returns to their land, **they return in unbelief**
2. The State of Israel today is secular, but beginning to change

E. God Transforms Israel's Status In The Millennial Kingdom - Zech. 8:13, 22-23

²³ Just as ***you were a curse*** among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and ***you shall be a blessing***.

²² Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. ²³ Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ***ten men*** from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ***Let us go with you***, for we have heard that God is with you.

Our God is a 'TURN-AROUND-GOD!'