

ALERT! – THE IMPORTANCE OF ISRAEL

In August Cathy and I were in the studio in Raleigh at which we record the television program, DARE TO BELIEVE! The subject that day was the last four episodes we have taped on the return of Jesus.

Some of you have heard me tell of what happened as the taping of the second episode began. The title of that episode is "The Importance of Israel."

Everything was set - I was in position behind the table I always sit at, the lights were up, the cameras positioned, and Cathy and the director were in the control room. The color bars and loud squeal were on the monitor as required by the stations broadcasting the episodes, and then the music began. Then I said my welcoming remarks - and snap, pow! crackle! - some strange electronic sounds were coming from the microphone wire on my side and leading up my chest to the mike on my shirt. The director came hurrying into the room, the taping stopped, and he examined all the wires. And we began again. And again the sounds and crackles!

The director was back with me. I shouted to Cathy in the control room: "Cathy, start praying!"

And I said to the director, "This must be a really good program."

He replied, without missing a beat, "Somebody doesn't want you to make this program."

Well, we prayed and pressed on and indeed we did make the program and it was broadcast. Since that time I have also recorded the CD, THE IMPORTANCE OF ISRAEL, which is available from our office or over the web site.

And all this brings us to the point of this email:

ISRAEL IS THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE (Zechariah 2:8).

How can the point be made clearer? That says it all, doesn't it. The apple of God's eye.

God gave Abraham - and thus Israel - all the land from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates, an area much larger than the current tiny geographic nation of Israel.

He made the point of saying the gift of this land is forever. FOREVER. God is not a man that he should lie. And, as we know, the gifts of God are without repentance. They are a gift forever.

So this land is Israel's forever.

Which brings us to the "peace" meeting apparently scheduled for November 27 in Annapolis, Maryland. From early reports this appears to be another effort aimed at negotiating some type of agreement in which Israel will be pressed to give up more of its land. This has been the position of the United States government for some time. There is even the possibility of Israel's giving up part of Jerusalem!

This, in a simple sentence, is wrong. It also is horribly dangerous for the United States, positioning itself on the wrong side of an issue involving Israel.

Unfortunately, we have fallen to the point that many of our leaders in Washington evidently do not know the importance of Israel.

God does not forget his promises. He did also say to Abraham that he would bless those who bless Abraham and curse those who curse Abraham.

So this is a dangerous time for Israel, and a dangerous time for the United States.

You might say, well the prime minister of Israel doesn't seem to object. Don't forget, as the book of Isaiah notes, many Jews just do not perceive the truth now.

There is a reporter William Koenig who has traced many disasters in the United States to occurring just after the US pressed Israel to do something it should not. The most dramatic in recent years was the sudden appearance of Hurricane Katrina immediately after the US pressed Israel to give back land in Gaza a couple years ago and the forced move of settlers out of the area had begun.

So many people do not know the importance of Israel or Jerusalem. Well, sadly, that fits, doesn't it? So many in our country do not really believe.

We are in the very end of the church age. Jesus will return sometime very soon. And Jerusalem is the city where he resides and rules after the tribulation period.

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem and Israel and for their protection. Pray also that Israel will not cede even more of its land that God has given it. And pray the leaders of our country will realize the importance of Israel and its role in the future, and will change their pressure on Israel to give away its land.

May God have mercy on our misguided country.

John

(Nov. 16, 2007)