



March 2011

אמת Emet (Truth)

Purim: Sunday,
March 20, 2011

Dear Mishpocha,

Truth for Today

As we prepare to celebrate Purim, which is based on the book of Esther, we are reminded that there is an enemy of the Jewish people who is still trying to eradicate them. The wicked Haman (boo!) was but one in a long line of anti-Semites, dating back to the Garden of Eden. It was there, after the fall of man, that hatred ("enmity") was prophesied between the serpent ("*hasatan*"), and a Messiah who would be born of a virgin. The prophetic path continues through Abraham. The Jews were chosen to give the world the Messiah or Savior. Satan's agenda has always been to thwart the purposes of God. Anti-Semitism is first and foremost spiritual and supernatural. It is neither rational nor natural. Most Jewish people do not know this truth. Jews are hated because of their Covenant connection with God and His Messiah.

Yeshua proclaimed that He had come into the world to bear witness to the truth (Jn. 18:37). He later said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life...*" (Jn. 14:6). In the Torah, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob identifies Himself with Truth as well. He is abundant in truth (Ex. 34:6). "*...Let God be true but every man a liar...*" (Rom. 3:4)

Today we see truth being challenged, undermined, trampled on, denied, twisted, and blasphemed. Lies abound. The father of lies is Satan, *hasatan*. The Bible tells us that there is no truth in him (Jn. 8:44). The same devil, who operated through Haman in Queen Esther's time, lying about the Jewish people, and attempting "*to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women...*" (Esther 3:13), is lying about the Jews today. Same horse. Different rider. The old ANTI-SEMITISM has become the new ANTI-ISRAELISM.

Truth to Set Us Free

The enemy's strategy today is to demonize, delegitimize, and deny Israel the right to exist as a Jewish state. Israelis are consistently portrayed as aggressors. The Palestinians, on the other hand, are portrayed as poor victims. Israel is branded a Goliath; Palestinians are like David. The IDF is vilified, its soldiers even compared to the Nazis. The Israelis keep building in the West Bank, accused of occupying Palestinian land. When they build walls in self-defense, they are blamed for causing intense human suffering. Israel is even accused of having an apartheid regime.

A recent article in our local newspaper made the following observations, "South Florida has emerged as a key battleground for anti-Israel activists to disseminate their biased news in an effort to change the hearts and minds of the American public, especially on college campuses...These organizations have the constitutional right to protest and espouse their hatred against Israel. However, responsible citizens in turn have the right and the moral imperative to inform the public of these groups' inflammatory rhetoric, to discredit their invalid arguments, and to expose these groups for who they are." South Florida is not unique. The anti-Israel group, Students for Justice in Palestine, may be active in your city as well. Remember: "*... we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age...*" Eph. 6:12

What Is The Truth?

Zionism is both a biblical mandate for the Jewish People, and a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. God promised the Land to His People for an everlasting inheritance. He made an unconditional covenant with Abraham and his seed after him, through Isaac and then through Jacob (Gen. 15:17-21, Ps. 105:7-11). The Bible says over 150 times that God would bring His people back to their own Land. The re-birth of the modern state of Israel is a miracle of God, as well as an absolute necessity for the return of the Messiah. How can there be Israelis crying out, "*Baruch Haba B'Shem Adonai*," "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," if there is no Jewish nation that awaits His return?

What about the Palestinians? Unfortunately, we have to go back to 1948 and realize that Israel's rebirth at the time is called the *Nakba* (Catastrophe) by the Arab nations. The refugees who fled Israel in 1948 did so at the command of the Arab armies, so that the Jews could be more easily wiped out. They were told—"Once we push the Jews into the sea, you can return and have your land back and theirs too." The Arab nations surrounding Israel could have absorbed all of the refugees. They chose not to. Lebanon, for example, keeps its 400,000 Palestinian refugees and their descendants in ghettos. According to the *Maoz Israel* Oct. 2010 newsletter, Lebanon refuses to give them citizenship, health care or Social Security—and are keeping them for the day when they will return to their "home" in Palestine—from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River.

Herein lies the dilemma: The Palestinians are dedicated to the complete destruction of the State of Israel. Hamas won a clear majority in the election in Gaza on this platform. They want an Islamic government with East Jerusalem as their capital. This would include the Western Wall and the Jewish sections of the city. Palestinian children continue to be taught to honor suicide "martyrs."

What has happened when Israel has given up land to the Palestinians? As Prime Minister Netanyahu said in Washington: "We left Lebanon. We got terror. We left Gaza. We got terror." What will happen if Israel is forced to pull out of the West Bank? In spite of these truths, the nations of the world are moving towards declaring the birth of a Palestinian state by August 2011 WITHOUT negotiations with Israel. As of January 2011, over 130 countries have already recognized Palestine as an independent state apart from any input from Israel, and without geographical boundaries!

The "apartheid" accusation is absurd! Israeli Arabs vote. They have elected Arab members to Israel's parliament. Israeli Arabs number approximately 1.5 million, and they live freely in the only democracy in the Middle East.

The Israeli Defense Force (I.D.F.) has a very high standard of military conduct. The anti-Israel bias in the MEDIA consistently portrays the I.D.F. as aggressors, when most of the time, they are defenders. They can certainly look like villains if you do not know the truth: that the Palestinians use women and children as human shields, that weapons are routinely placed in civilian homes, schools, and hospitals, while the I.D.F. drops pamphlets warning Palestinian civilians of their intended attacks.

Truth Stranger than Fiction

ISLAM is the force driving the re-focused anti-Semitism. Believers must know the truth about Islam because it affects the nation of Israel **AND** the entire world. Mohammed (also spelled Muhammad), the founder of Islam, actually learned monotheism from Christians who had some understanding of the Bible. As a forty-year-old merchant from the town of Mecca, he heard a voice telling him that he was the Messenger of God. He thought that he was possessed with an evil spirit (some historians say he had epileptic seizures), and his wife, impressed by his experience, took him to a monotheistic relative who encouraged him about his revelations. Mohammed began to challenge the polytheism prevalent in the Arabian Peninsula, and demanded an unequivocal profession of belief in Allah (the "one god") and total submission (the meaning of "Islam" in Arabic) to His will.

In the fall of 622 AD, Mohammed went to the city of Medina to help make peace among feuding Arab tribes. It was here that Mohammed was transformed from a private preacher into a political and military leader, and Islam became a major religious and political force in the Arabian Peninsula. At one point, Mohammed sought to win over the Jews of Medina by fasting on Yom Kippur, turning toward Jerusalem in prayer, and not consuming pork or blood, according to their customs. The Jews would not embrace Islam, however, and an embittered Mohammed began to portray the Jews as devious and treacherous people. On his deathbed, Mohammed ordered the expulsion of Jews (and Christians) from the Arabian Peninsula. (Efraim Karsh, **Islamic Imperialism**)

Unfortunately, violence has been a fundamental part of Islam almost since its inception. Although it is politically correct to call Islam a religion of peace, we believe that it is biblically correct to call Islam a religion of war. It is Islam that is the driving force behind anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism today. Muhammad embraced a spirit that preceded him by thousands of years. The Bible speaks of an "ancient hatred" between the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and the descendants of Abraham through Ishmael, and later through Esau, who both married outside the covenant blood line, and worshipped gods other than the covenant God (Gen. 28:9, Ezek. 35:5-6). The descendants of Ishmael and Esau are today's Arab nations. Their religion is Islam. If a believer in Islam converts to another religion, the penalty is death. According to Walid Shoebat, a former Palestinian terrorist, who is now a devoted follower of Yeshua, Islam is not just a faith. It is a way of life, with politics and culture intertwined. All who are not true followers of Allah are considered "infidels." That includes Jews and Christians. The only way of salvation in Islam is by dying as an offering to God, preferably killing "infidels" in the process.. According to Iranian pastor Hormoz Shariat, Islam is a religion based on fear, not on love, and can not bring peace to its followers. (At present, there is a great revival in Iran with many Muslims coming to the Lord, as God shows them a loving Savior who died for their sin!)

Islam and the Truth

Do you believe everything you read in the newspaper or hear on television? What about on the Internet? When the news is about Islam, or anything related to Islam, i.e. Palestinians, Israel, Sharia Law, and the U.N., you can be sure that you do not have the WHOLE TRUTH. Why is that? Unlike most religions, within Islam there are certain provisions under which lying is not simply tolerated, but actually encouraged. According to Abdullah Al Araby in **Lying in Islam**, Muhammad often lied and instructed his followers to do the same. He rationalized that success in missions to extend Islam's influence overrode Allah's initial prohibitions against lying. War is definitely considered a justifiable reason to lie. According to Islam, all nations controlled by Muslims are part of the "House of Peace." All others make up the "House of War." Richard Booker points this out in **The End of All Things is at Hand**, adding that once Islam controls a territory, Muslims consider it a permanent part of the Islamic world. "If the territory is lost to Islam, Allah has been diminished and the territory must be retaken." Israel was once under Islamic rule. This is an affront to Allah. Can you see the spiritual battle here?

The ultimate goal of Islam is WORLD DOMINATION. An Islamic "jihad" or holy war is already in progress, against Christians as well as Jews. A well-known slogan of Islamic fundamentalists is: "Today we kill the Saturday people (Jews), and tomorrow we kill the Sunday people (Christians)." The many recent attacks on Christians living in Muslim dominated countries bears this out. The real battle is not about land, but about spiritual authority. Allah, or the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Truth about Mosques and Muslims

Just as the horrific events of 9/11 should have been a wake-up call to citizens of the U.S., the proposed Cordoba Mosque near Ground Zero should have roused Americans from their slumber. When Jamie lived in Spain, she visited the Mezquita de Cordoba that at one time was a Christian church. Its conversion to a mosque is a typical pattern in Islam: Conquer a key area, then build a mosque on the site. Make a stand for Islam and its domination. Consider the Dome of the Rock in

Jerusalem. A mosque sits on the very location of Solomon's Temple. Ground Zero? A mosque is proposed at a key center of American economy and identity. This is no coincidence. Another "mosque" that has recently caused much controversy is the tomb of Rachel in Israel. UNESCO recently decided to re-label Rachel's tomb an Islamic mosque, even though it has never been used as a mosque. They have demanded that Israel remove the site from its National Heritage list. The Tomb of Rachel is Judaism's third-holiest site, the scene of prayer and pilgrimage for over three thousand years. Unesco and the Muslims want to erase Jewish history and Israel's Jewish future.

Islam has already put down deep roots in post-Christian Europe. France has Europe's largest Muslim population, over 6,000,000. Sharia (Islamic) Law is already being implemented in certain parts of England. Also in England, the official advertising agency of the UK decided that one of Israel's tourism posters could no longer be used in England. Why? It had a picture of the Western Wall on it, the most recognized symbol of the re-born nation of Israel. The British agency was obviously bowing to Muslim pressure and theology—that the Kotel was not part of the "State of Israel." Absurd—but true!

Some of you are thinking: "Not all Muslims are radical or fanatic. There are peace-loving Muslims." True, but: "The fact is that the fanatics rule Islam at this moment in history. It is the fanatics who march. It is the fanatics who wage any one of 50 shooting wars worldwide. It is the fanatics who systematically slaughter Christian or tribal groups throughout Africa and are gradually taking over the entire continent in an Islamic wave. It is the fanatics who bomb, behead, murder, or honor-kill." (Paul March, *Maoz Report* Nov. 2010) **Peace-loving Muslims have been made irrelevant by their silence.**

The Truth about Islam in the U.S.A.

America is at war with Islam, but most Americans don't realize this truth. Islam, with its goal of world domination, is gaining ground daily in the USA. There are more than 2.5 million Muslims in America. Islam has infiltrated Middle America...Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and more. In his book, **When a Nation Forgets God**, Erwin W. Lutzer, reminds us that, when it comes to Islam, tolerance is one-sided. "...Wait until all criticism of Islam is deemed a hate crime; wait until radical Muslims threaten any news outlet that reports 'honor killings' in America or expose Sharia Law when it is practiced." Rev. Lutzer uses Gert Wilders of the Netherlands as an example. This brave parliamentarian has made a movie depicting the plight of women in Muslim cultures. He warns that if Europe does not stop the spread of Islam, they will lose their identity, culture, freedoms and civilization. Wilders is being prosecuted in a Dutch court, charged with "inciting hatred and discrimination" against Muslims. Dr. Wilders maintains that the leaders in Europe are terrified of the Muslim threat. Therefore, they praise Islam in public, but express deep fear in private.

By the time you read this, the U.N. may have already passed a resolution that would make all criticism of Islam a crime. Of course, one can criticize Judaism, Christianity, or any other religion, without fear of harsh reprisal. Be prepared. If you speak the truth about Islam, you may be accused of Islamaphobia. But, fear not! "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). We must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matt. 10:16)!

Pray against the relentless spread of Islamic propaganda via the Internet. Pray that the Church sees the truth concerning Israel, the Palestinians and their connection to Islam's agenda. Continue to bless and support Israel. Pray that the students on college campuses across the U.S. hear and understand the truth about Israel and Islam. Pray against boycotts of Israel. Pray against Sharia Law making more inroads in the U.S. If it does, husbands will be allowed to beat their wives at will, kill their daughters who convert to another religion, and every freedom we hold dear will be greatly jeopardized. Pray for Muslims in the U.S. and throughout the world to be saved. Always remember that Love never fails (1 Cor. 13:8) and God is Love (1 Jn. 4:8)!

Love in Yeshua, Neil + Jamie

P.S. We will share future insights into world events at www.facebook.com/jewishjewels