# SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

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"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Psalm 119:105

Dear Lovers of Truth,

# **NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED AGENDA**

Benyamin Netanyahu lost no time in announcing his new government's policies.

His allies include the Religious Zionism and Jewish Power parties, which oppose Palestinian statehood and whose leaders - both West Bank settlers - have in the past agitated against Israel's justice system, its Arab minority and LGBT rights. [Reuters]

### **DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

The overall government's policy statement did not speak of sovereignty, but it referenced the Land of Israel and in so doing did not distinguish between territory that was within and without the country's sovereign borders.

"The Jewish people has an exclusive and inalienable right to all areas of the Land of Israel," the government said in its overall policy statement.

It did not define the territorial borders of that declaration but it did pledge to "promote and develop all parts of the Land of Israel."

The policy statement, however, did explain that the land slated for development included the Galilee, the Negev and the Golan Heights, all of which are contained within the country's sovereign borders.

Within that same line, the government pledged to develop <u>Judea and Samaria</u>, which in effect is Area C of the West Bank, which is located outside of its sovereign territory. That territory is under IDF military and civilian control.

The office of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas immediately condemned the new government's intention to strengthen its hold in the West Bank, on land it believes should be part of the final borders of its state.

Abbas's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh warned that the guidelines constituted a "dangerous escalation" and would have "regional repercussions," according to Palestinian news agency WAFA.

Without an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital, there would be no security or stability in the region, Rudeineh said, as he called on Washington to prove it is committed to a two-state resolution to the conflict.

Israeli-Arab NGO Adalah warned that the reference to the "exclusive Jewish rights to the Land of Israel amounts to a complete denial of this right to the Palestinians, in all the territories under its control."

Adalah added that this "serves as a clear commitment to preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state."

In its policy statement, the government promised to strengthen the status of Jerusalem. It further expanded on that pledge in its agreement with the RZP, where it underscored the importance of preserving and developing a united Jerusalem that was Israel's sovereign capital. PA activities in the city will be thwarted, it promised.

Israel applied sovereignty to east Jerusalem immediately after capturing it from Jordan during the 1967 war and cemented that move with a Knesset declaration in 1980. The international community and the Palestinians hold that east Jerusalem should be the future capital of a Palestinian state. The issue of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights was underscored, in the government's priority list, with an explanation provided that it was a "strategic region" with a large potential for development. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria.

When this agenda is accomplished it will fulfill the prophecy of Obadiah which predicts the ultimate destruction of Esau's descendants. Obadiah v.18-19 18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.

19 And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

#### ISRAEL'S TROUBLES IN THE LAST DAYS

This policy will inevitably anger the Palestinians and their UN supporters. **Jeremiah** penned words about these days. He was given visions of Israel restored again to their land – but choosing to court the favours of the nations and forsaking their God and His holiness. Inevitably, their lovers will forsake them.

Jeremiah 30:13 There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines. 14 All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased.

That whole chapter is a cameo of this present scenario—"ALL thy lovers" are now voting against Israel in the United Nations assembly—with very few exceptions—and these are overwhelmingly outnumbered. The following is a sobering report!

<u>US Funds Arabs Who Want to Destroy Israel</u> by Bassam Tawil • December 5, 2022 Gatestone Institute

What is disturbing is that a large portion of this incitement is coming from Arabs whose governments signed peace treaties or other agreements with Israel: Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians. What is even more disturbing is that the hate against Israel is coming from Arabs who continue to benefit from unconditional US financial aid. The Palestinian Authority, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, continues to spearhead the Arab campaign of incitement and delegitimization against Israel. In addition to the incendiary rhetoric, the Palestinian Authority does not hide its vehement opposition to any kind of peace with Israel. This is the same Palestinian Authority that maintains good

relations with the Biden administration, which recently decided to upgrade US relations with Abbas and his associates.... The allegation that Israel is committing "war crimes" can be seen as a direct call to Palestinians to engage in violence against Israelis. The "war crimes" libel is also intended for Western audiences as part of the campaign to delegitimize Israel and pave the way for prosecuting its leaders before international courts. It is worth noting that since April 2021, the US has provided more than half a billion dollars in assistance for the Palestinians. The time when support for Israel in the United States was bipartisan is unfortunately over.

The Biden administration's proclamations of friendship toward Israel cannot hide actions of relentless hostility. While the Republican Party now has pro-Israeli positions, the Democratic Party includes representatives who not only hate Israel but do not even try to deny

## BUT ISRAEL IS GOD'S PEOPLE

The Biden administration has not yet learned the eternal decree of God Almighty:

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee" (Genesis 12:3).

Up to October this year (2022) there had been 15 weather/climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each to affect the United States. The current "Weather Bomb" makes 16—but the cost of this once-in-a-lifetime catastrophe cannot be calculated until some future time when the devastation/horror will be revealed.

In a recent broadcast, Kathy Hochul—New York Governor said: "We are at war with 'Mother Nature'. BBC News, By Jude Sheerin & Max Matza

It is God—the Almighty Creator Himself—that those who oppose Israel are offending and shall "reap the whirlwind" for their rebellion!

Nearly 250 million Americans and Canadians are feeling the icy grip of a massive winter storm linked to at least 19 deaths ahead of the holiday weekend.

More than 1.5 million people lost power and thousands of flights have been cancelled since Thursday. The vast storm extends more than 2,000 miles (3,200km) from Texas to Quebec. A bomb cyclone, when atmospheric pressure plummets, has brought blizzard conditions to the Great Lakes on the US-Canada border. Near white-out conditions have been reported in Minnesota, lowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Buffalo, New York, where the US National Weather Service (NWS) reported "zero mile" visibility. Nashville, Tennessee, saw its temperatures plunge to below zero for the first time in 26 years, while Casper, Wyoming, set a new record low on Tuesday of -42F

#### REBELLION AGAINST GOD

Belief in the One True God is very rare—and becoming exceptional. To worship "The God of Israel" and Jesus as His "only begotten Son" is even less—evidenced by global moral standards.

Also evidenced by the United Nations Assembly's obvious bias against the tiny nation of Israel—

In 2022, EU member states voted for one resolution each to criticize Iran, Syria, North Korea, Myanmar, the U.S. for its embargo on Cuba, and six resolutions on Russia's war in Ukraine. . . By contrast, EU states will likely vote in favour of nearly all 15 resolutions against Israel.

These same EU states have failed to introduce a single UNGA resolution this year on the human rights situation in China, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, Algeria, or on 175 other countries.

## EARTH'S YEAR OF UN-NATURAL DISASTERS

As Jesus foretold in **Matt. 24 and Luke 21** the world is reeling as those calamities descend in God's fury.

1. Pakistan Floods Kill at Least 1,739 – June to October 2022
2. Earthquake in Afghanistan Kills at Least 1,036 – June 2022
3. Floods in Nigeria Kill at Least 612 – June to November 2022
4. South African Flooding Kills at Least 461 – April 2022
5. Earthquake Kills at Least 334 in Indonesia – November 2022
6. Storm Megi Kills at Least 214 in the Philippines – April 2022
7. Floods Kill at Least 233 in Brazil – February 2022
8. Drought Kills At Least 200 in East Africa – July 2022
9. Flooding in India Kills 192 Lives – June to September 2022
10. Floodings Kill More Than 182 in Afghanistan – August 2022

And there have been more in the past few weeks. There are at least 24 active volcanos erupting at present. Among these are some with well-known calamitous histories from ancient times—such as Etna (Sicily); Krakatau (Sunda Strait); Semeru (Java); Palov (Alaska)...

At any time any of these may erupt with the violence and tsunamis of Karatau or Hunga Ha'apai—the underwater volcano near Tonga.

### A TALE OF WOE – OR THE DOOR OF HOPE?

What a blessing it is that God has not left us to "follow the mob" in seeking some vain solution of all these calamities—He is firmly in control—as our Hymn says: "What though all the world resist Him—God will realise His plan".

In the rock-solid words of the Peter: 2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise ...

ISRAEL'S MESSIAH IS SON OF DAVID—SON OF GOD Jer. 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. 8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

"David their king" is the One who was crucified as "King of the Jews" almost 2000 years ago—Jesus.

We have as our anchor, the words of Gabriel: He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end (Luke 1:32).

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and for your redemption draweth nigh. 21:28 In the Master's Service, Arthur Wright