

# ENVISIONING THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES TO ISRAEL

*I WILL GIVE YOU EVERY PLACE WHERE YOU SET YOUR FOOT, AS I PROMISED MOSES. YOUR TERRITORY WILL EXTEND FROM THE DESERT TO LEBANON, AND FROM THE GREAT RIVER, THE EUPHRATES—ALL THE HITTITE COUNTRY—TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA IN THE WEST.*

JOSHUA 1:3-4 NIV



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*A Christian ministry assisting Jewish people moving to Israel*

George: "I want to move to Israel to live my best Jewish life! ...As I got more and more involved with the Jewish community around me in college, the more interested I became in Israel. So, I visited Israel twice... you feel so much more connected to your identity as a Jew and to Hashem. I know my future is in Israel, ... It's a land of Jewish opportunities that I simply don't have in the U.S."



## GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

BY CHAIRMAN PHIL MARKWARDT, OEUSA

*In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to bring back the remnant of his people . . . He will raise a flag among the nations and assemble the exiles of Israel. He will gather the scattered people of Judah from the ends of the earth.*

Isaiah 11:11-12 NLT

**W**e have probably all been disappointed — and perhaps disillusioned — by promises made to us but not kept. Maybe the other party couldn't keep them or didn't intend to. This can become problematic if we project those broken promises onto our understanding of God and His Word, especially when many of God's promises were written thousands of years ago and we still haven't seen their fulfillment.

The difference is that God keeps His promises! We see proof of this throughout history, even when His promises seemed far-fetched. For example, Sarah laughed when the angel of the Lord said she would have a son in her old age (Genesis 18:12). And after God promised Israel deliverance from slavery, Israel was terrified when Pharaoh's army pinned them from any escape, until the sea opened a path to freedom (Exodus 14). In addition, God promised Hezekiah deliverance when Sennacherib's army of 185,000 men came to destroy Jerusalem, and the angel

of the Lord struck them down (Isaiah 38:6-7). Clearly, God has no trouble keeping His promises even when it looks improbable or — more likely — impossible.

Regarding the return of God's people to Israel, there are many people who have been faithfully believing His promises and preparing for decades for the return of Jews to Israel. We are seeing *Aliyah* gradually evolve, but not to the extent of the promises in God's Word.

At Operation Exodus USA, we are praying to challenge ourselves and our supporters to truly commit to the LORD to receive the full revelation of the "grandeur" of His end-time work — in fulfillment of all His promises to gather His people, restore the Land to them, and to redeem them. Through them, all nations will be blessed! Let us dare to believe that we will be a nation blessed by the LORD because of faith and obedience to *all* of God's Word.

**LET US DARE TO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE A NATION BLESSED BY THE LORD BECAUSE OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE TO ALL OF GOD'S WORD.**

*I will cause your descendants to become as numerous as the stars of the sky, and I will give them all these lands. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed.* Genesis 26:4 NLT

**CLEARLY, GOD HAS NO TROUBLE KEEPING HIS PROMISES EVEN WHEN IT LOOKS IMPROBABLE OR — MORE LIKELY — IMPOSSIBLE.**

Cynthia: "I have thought about making *Aliyah* for several years. I visited Israel in May and strongly felt that I should move there. Israel needs moral support, and it is getting very uncomfortable to live in the United States due to the protests and the unbalanced news reporting across most news outlets (if not all). There is a genuine sense of community in Israel. If something happens, people show up to help. I feel safer in Israel than in the U.S. in that sense."



## EMBRACING GREATER FAITH AND COURAGE

BY JOHN PROSSER, PRESIDENT, OEUSA

*I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates — all the Hittite country — to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.* Joshua 1:3-4 NIV

**I**n the Scriptures above, God reiterates His promises to the Israelites through Joshua, outlining the vast expanse of the Land they are to inherit. These Scriptures serve as tangible reminders of the miraculous work He will perform on behalf of His chosen people making *Aliyah* from the nations — particularly the US, which is home to more than seven million Jews.

In Joshua 1:9, the LORD commands Joshua to be strong and courageous, and not to be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD promised to be with Joshua wherever he went. This command underscores the necessity of courage, strength, and obedience, which can only be obtained through great faith and trust in the LORD.

**THIS COMMAND UNDERSCORES THE NECESSITY OF COURAGE, STRENGTH, AND OBEDIENCE, WHICH CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH GREAT FAITH AND TRUST IN THE LORD.**

We are living in times of extreme opposition to the fulfillment of God's promises to restore all the Land stolen by the enemies of Israel. Nations are rising against Israel with unprecedented

levels of hatred through the rise of anti-Semitism. The United Nations' highest courts are making demands for Israel to end "its unlawful presence in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip." These are courts of deception and lies, agents of the enemy. God is faithful to carry, sustain, and rescue Israel from their enemies. Those who are against Israel will be shamed and destroyed.

The LORD is raising a banner to magnify the awareness of a potential tsunami of *Aliyah* from our nation. Across the United States He is connecting our ministry with many individuals who are called to partner with us. They are prepared to meet the needs that may arise in difficult times. Please join us in prayer that the LORD will bring an even greater increase of servants willing to bless our Jewish friends through their *Aliyah* journey.

We are grateful for the passionate prayer support from our faithful intercessors in the US and the Ebenezer International community. Our unceasing prayers remove the obstacles on the *Aliyah* Highway preventing the majority of the vast Jewish communities in our nation from returning home. Together, may we rise up with greater faith and courage to serve the LORD as He gathers the exiles home. May we dare to believe that the LORD will do all that He said He would do to restore the Land, return His people home, and redeem Israel and the nations — For His Great Name's Sake!

*"... They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory.... At the right time, I, the LORD, will make it happen."* Isaiah 60:21-22 NLT



## In loving Memory of Merrill Bolender

September 7, 1936 - January 10, 2025

Merrill's life was a profound testament to his unwavering love for God and His people. He was a pillar of faith, an anointed teacher, and a renowned international author. For decades, Merrill poured his heart into intercession for Operation Exodus, demonstrating relentless passion and faithfulness. He will be deeply missed—a true friend, and a faithful partner in God's holy work of *Aliyah*.

# UNDERSTANDING GOD'S COVENANTAL PLANS

BY OUR BELOVED FRIEND, THE LATE MERRILL BOLENDER

Ignorance breeds pride, and pride leads to blindness. Blindness in the church has created major obstacles (boulders) in the minds of many Jewish people. Most Christians are unaware of the shocking history that has been omitted from most Christian history books. The history reveals the tragic role the church played in the persecution of the Jewish people. The cross — a symbol of God's sacrificial love — was turned into a bloody sword.

This has been a major "boulder" on the Jewish people's highway to salvation and back to Israel — their Land of promise. When the influence of the early church's Jewish leaders began to diminish in Rome, Gentile Christian leaders, who were steeped in Greco/Roman translations of Scripture, were led into wrong theology. Many, if not all, were leaders, theologians, and teachers of the Word of God. They were not evil men, and they most likely did not realize the consequences of their errors in interpreting Scripture, particularly with respect to God's irrevocable promises to the Jewish people and the future nation of Israel.

The historic church often embraced replacement theology — the belief that Christ nullified the original promises made by God to the children of Israel, and that Israel is no longer God's chosen covenant people. Thankfully, there has always been a small remnant of people who have loved and blessed the Jewish people, even when it was not popular to do so. The error of replacement theology played a key role in the slaughter of countless Jews during the crusades, inquisitions, pogroms, and even the Holocaust. The cross was the Christians' symbol during the crusades, inquisitions, and the Holocaust, when six million Jews were killed by Nazi's wearing the iron cross. Unfortunately, the majority of Christians remained silent.

How could Christians have become such an instrument of destruction towards the Jewish people? In these last days, the church must have a revelation of the Jewish people's prophetic role in the unfolding, redemptive purposes of God. The Body of Christ must understand and rightly apply the Scriptures relating to God's covenantal plans for the land of Israel and His chosen people.

### IN THESE LAST DAYS, THE CHURCH MUST HAVE A REVELATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE'S PROPHETIC ROLE IN THE UNFOLDING, REDEMPTIVE PURPOSES OF GOD.

Will the church harden its heart and repeat the same mistakes of the past, or will she learn from her errors, recognize her sin, and repent? Only by repenting will the Church experience the healing, restoration, and reconciliation that God desires — for Israel and the Church.



\*Merrill Bolender authored the books [\*When the Cross Became a Sword\*](#) and [\*The Restoration of All Things\*](#).

Copies are available at [OperationExodusUSA.org](http://OperationExodusUSA.org) or by calling (716) 681-6300.

Jesse and Family: "While growing up, being in Israel has always been something we both wanted for ourselves and our eventual kids. I grew up with a close relationship to my grandfather who was born in the land of Israel in the 1930s and fought in 1948 for the establishment of a state. This imbued me with a sense of appreciation and gratitude for what Israel means and has lead us both to want to provide our children with an opportunity to live in a Jewish state!"



# COURAGE TO MAKE ALIYAH

BY SHIRLEY LAWRENSEN, ALIYAH DIRECTOR, OEUSA

*Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*  
Isaiah 41:10 NASB

When our Jewish friends decide to make *Aliyah*, they begin a courageous journey. I often share the words of Isaiah 41:10 with the *Olim* whom we are blessed to assist.

### I OFTEN SHARE THE WORDS OF ISAIAH 41:10 WITH THE OLIM WHOM WE ARE BLESSED TO ASSIST.

This scripture contains the following five promises that the Jewish people can embrace with courage as they start their *Aliyah* process:

- Do not fear because God is with you.
- He is your God, and He has planned your return to Eretz Israel.
- He will strengthen you and give you courage so that you do not have to look around anxiously.
- He will provide divine help throughout the entire process of moving from Hope to Home.
- He will uphold you to keep you from falling.

These words of encouragement bring confidence to the *Olim* as they summon the courage to move home to Eretz Israel. These promises will equip them as they go through the different challenges they will face.

It is a privilege to continue to assist and bring comfort to our Jewish friends by sharing with them the promises that the God of Israel fulfills when they obey His calling to return home to Eretz Israel. The promises stated in Isaiah speak of God's presence with the *Olim* as they choose to follow their dream of making *Aliyah*. They also speak of the strength the *Olim* will receive from God, making them courageous enough to face the many challenges of such a significant move. Their faith will increase, knowing that God is with them.

We have heard many testimonies of how God has gone before them and been with them throughout the entire process of making *Aliyah*. May we continue to stand with all those making *Aliyah* by sharing God's promises so that the *Olim* can embrace them and receive courage to move forward.



#### Promises for Israel

What the Bible teaches about the Jewish people and their return to the Promised Land.

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Rachel: "... I wanted to move to Israel. It always felt like home when I went to visit, and I hoped that one day I would truly make it my home. As I chose my career path when I finished my bachelor's degree, I realized there was a huge lack of behavioral analysts in Israel and wanted to make a change... I hope to do whatever I can to help my country and home!"

Eli: "... October 7th, when something awoke inside of me. I volunteered on an Israeli farm soon after to help with the labor shortages... While there I felt for the first time what it is like to truly be part of the collective... I have absolute confidence that this is the right decision for me."



Clarise & Husband: "Our family is worried about the situation in the USA. We have all decided that Israel is where we all want to live."

Jennifer and Family: "We have been wanting to do this since we got married...at this point, we feel we have done all we can here and that it is time for us to go home to Israel and fulfill a dream we talked about on one of our first few dates."



## ENLARGE YOUR HOUSE

BY QUAY MESSER, NATIONAL PRAYER COORDINATOR, OEUSA

Pressure, pressure, pressure, . . . unrelenting pressure from the world upon Israel. The ultimate goal is to annihilate the nation as a people — to conquer and divide the Land among the nations.

**"Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home and spare no expense!"**

While the world is "putting the squeeze" on Israel, attempting to *diminish* her presence, The Sovereign LORD is engaged in *increasing* His people on the land.<sup>2</sup> That means a strong and steady flow of *Aliyah*. Who do you think will win this grand wrestling match?

Pressure, pressure, pressure, . . . unrelenting pressure upon believers. We know it on a personal level. The ultimate goal is to squeeze out our faith, light, life, love, joy, and effective prayer.

But our Redeemer is strong! He is much stronger than our opponent. Our Redeemer allows our adversary to exert pressure in order to show Himself stronger in and through us.

**"I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart."**<sup>3</sup>

There is no doubt in the Psalmist's mind: "You SHALL enlarge my heart." The Hebrew word for enlarge is "*rachab*", *Strong's #7337*. It is a primary root word that means "to broaden,

make room, make open." God is perfectly capable of enlarging our heart even under tremendous pressure from our foe. Hear this word with faith; even only a mustard seed of faith is enough.

With our own hearts enlarged, we rise up in fervent and effective prayer against the pressures of the world trying to "pin Israel". We are not squeezed out by any of the political lies and accusations lobbied against her; nor are we squeezed into dismay or paralysis by the weapons — economic, kinetic, legal, etc. — formed against her. Our faith is enlarged to comprehend and apprehend His glorious work of *Aliyah* now and going forward.

**OUR FAITH IS ENLARGED TO COMPREHEND AND APPREHEND HIS GLORIOUS WORK OF ALIYAH NOW AND GOING FORWARD.**

*Our heavenly Father, thank You for enlarging our hearts to run the way of Your commandment to carry Your people home. <sup>4</sup> We are exhilarated as You exert Your will at this time. We see and pray for the enlargement of Aliyah, and we give You all the glory. Amen.*

1. Is 54:2-3; NLT 2. Ez 36:37; NLT 3. Ps 119:32; NKJV 4. Is 49:22; NLT

Operation Exodus USA is affiliated with Ebenezer Operation Exodus, a ministry supported by Christians in over fifty-five countries around the world. We have been assisting Jewish people to return to Israel from the former Soviet Union and elsewhere since 1991. To learn more, visit: <https://ebenezer-oe.org/>.



## CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL TRUST

BY BLAKE LORENZ, PASTOR, AUTHOR, INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER

**. . . I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."**

Isaiah 6:1, 3, 8 NLT

The theme of Isaiah is God's command that the Jewish people trust in Him alone. His message was that, if they continued to serve two masters — Yahweh and the false god — they would fall under the judgment of God. The ten tribes refused to submit to the prophet's call to repent for their abominations. Jerusalem, under the leadership of Isaiah and King Hezekiah, eventually repented and put their trust in God alone.

The Name of God is the "Lord of Hosts, the Commander of the Heavenly Armies." Isaiah 6 made it clear that if His people trusted in the Lord of Hosts as their King, God would protect and deliver them from the Assyrian Empire. The Lord of Hosts miraculously saved Jerusalem by destroying the Assyrian army and killing their king. John 12 tells us that the Lord of Hosts — Jesus Christ — is the Messiah. Isaiah saw our Lord in his glorious vision in the temple.

**WILL WE TRUST IN THE LORD OF HOSTS OR COMPROMISE WITH THE WORLD AND ITS FALSE GODS?**

Our challenge today is the same as Isaiah's day. Will we trust in the Lord of Hosts or compromise with the world and its false gods?

Our answer must be to trust in the Lord of Hosts — Jesus Christ. What does this mean for us today? In Matthew 25 Jesus tells us we will be judged as nations and as individuals in how we respect and honor "the least of these" — the Jewish people. We are to be their defenders, not their persecutors. We are to bless them, as stated in Genesis 12. The history of the Bible tells us to bless Israel, for out of the descendants of Abraham will come his Seed, our Savior — the Lord of Hosts.

**THE LORD OF HOSTS IS COMING SOON — IN GOD'S TIME, NOT OURS. WE ARE TO TRUST IN HIM ALONE AND TO BLESS AND DEFEND ISRAEL.**

Yes, we are in the latter days as prophesied by Isaiah. The Lord of Hosts is coming soon — in God's time, not ours. We are to trust in Him alone and to bless and defend Israel. All those who refuse to do so will be judged and condemned to the lake of fire. (Revelation 20)

In the face of all opposition against Israel and the Jewish people, we must trust in the Lord of Hosts alone to protect them. Then we will be honored by Jesus in the halls of heaven forever as He comes to make all things new. Jesus Christ will sit on His throne of glory in Jerusalem, where all the nations will gather to worship our King, just as Isaiah prophesied.

Sarah & Husband: "I am Jewish, (orthodox), from birth ...I have visited over a dozen times since, and it gets harder and harder to leave each time. I am so excited to go and not have to leave. My husband has been to Israel twice, and just felt something so special about being there. He is excited to be able to be immersed in Jewish life and culture and be able to use his talents and be an active part of the Jewish people."



# NO JEW LEFT BEHIND

BY LARRY HERZEKOW, ISRAEL REPRESENTATIVE, OEUSA

*Then my people will know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them away to exile and brought them home again. I will leave none of my people behind.*

Ezekiel 39:28 NLT

**M**y wife and I made *Aliyah* in 1996 with four of our six children — ages 1,3,5, and 14. Our two oldest — ages 18 and 21 — made last-minute decisions to stay stateside for various personal reasons.

We had heard from the Lord, and we knew He was calling us to Israel. Even though the Lord clearly spoke to us, it was not an easy decision. The decision to go would have been almost impossible without the Lord's direction. Herein lies the challenge for the typical Jewish person today contemplating *Aliyah*. Without knowing the Lord, the decision factors come down to finances, safety, and "leaving the comforts of home".

Just a few years prior to moving to Israel, we had absolutely no desire to even visit Israel, let alone move! Satan does not want Jewish people to move to Israel, and he will do whatever it takes to prevent that from happening; the reason: God's promise to bring back the Jewish people from the four corners of the earth (Isaiah 11:12)! Satan is trying his best to destroy God's promises.

All over the United States and around the world, everyone is very concerned about the huge uptick in instances of Jewish hatred, which is at levels never seen before! We believe that *Aliyah* is just one of many ways that God has turned evil

into good. We believe the focus of our prayers needs to be for God to transform the hearts and minds of Jewish people, so they see Israel as the safe haven that God has promised and is providing for them. This will take much prayer and intercession!

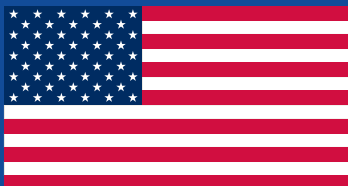
Making *Aliyah* is never an easy move. But it is one that brings transformation! It brings a richness and a depth of faith in God to a level not previously experienced. In 2024, 31,000 people representing 100 countries made *Aliyah*! In Israel we will receive with open arms those who make *Aliyah*! It will not be an easy adjustment, but it will make all of us more resilient and stronger.

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**GENTILES, ESPECIALLY THE CHURCH, HAVE AN ENORMOUS CALLING FROM GOD TO HELP WITH THE ALIYAH PROCESS.**

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Gentiles, especially the Church, have an enormous calling from God to help with the *Aliyah* process. As God's word says in Isaiah 49:22, "**Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.**" (KJV) "No Jew Left Behind" is the title of an Orthodox Jewish song. The title should be our goal. Let's make it happen together!



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