

Newsbytes

The First Watch

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Long Road to Ruin

Monday, June 06, 2016

Pete Garcia

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Acts 20:29-30

With the passing of Jan Crouch last week, it brought to mind what we as Christians believe about ourselves in regards to what we consider doing God's good work here on the earth. Moreover, what the world has come to think about the Americanized version of Christianity they see all over the television.

It used to be that the West sent out missionaries all over the world to the jungles and unchurched folk throughout the 18th-20th centuries in an attempt to preach the gospel and keep the mandate of making disciples of all nations. Nowadays, the modern missionary has a three piece suit, fancy cars, mansions, and a wife who probably spends more on makeup in a month, than what most people around the world make in a year.

The late Jan and Paul Crouch founded a televangelism empire with the Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN). If we were to measure what the late Jan Crouch and her late husband Paul were able to accomplish in regards to earthly standards, they should be a resounding success. This empire operated successfully for decades and fiscally speaking, dealt in a realm of hundreds of millions of dollars. Operating successfully for 43 years and owning and operating six broadcasting networks. Their audience reach hits around 95% of American households who own a television. Not too shabby.

Yet, the bulk of televangelism isn't built around preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because let's face it, telling people that they're destined for hell unless they repent isn't all that popular a message, or even just theologically sound doctrine, because solid doctrine points you back to my first point. No, televangelism is usually built around the age old, time tested, snake-oil salesmanship. Televangelism is a multi-billion dollar industry that primarily feeds on the failed hopes and dreams of the poor, building up the emotional needs of the spiritually ignorant, and a stop-gap for the mostly churchless.

The hook is to make the view believe that if they sow their "seeds" of faith' (seeds = money), that this somehow taps into the divine realm where God is forced to either meet their need, or give them a tenfold (as a minimum) return on their spiritual/financial investment. Presumably, since the Crouches' and many, many others were able to tap into this desperation and make a comfortable living, what does that say about the state of biblical Christianity here in the West?

Assessment

These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Jude 1:12-13

The whole seed-faith doctrine began with men like William M. Branham and Oral Roberts in the 1950's. With them, and the clowns dancing around the stages today proclaiming 'blessings' on people and "healings", it seems to me at least, that they didn't start out intending to become an apostate intentionally. Most in the ministry start out with good intentions. Even Judas Iscariot at the beginning, probably believed he was doing the right thing.

But two things are abundantly clear, the first is the road to ruin is always built with good intentions, and, because it is inherent in our DNA to seek after self, which is a result of our sin nature. (Romans 3:10) Even so, I imagine at the outset the Crouches' didn't intend on ending up as they did, but success has a way of corrupting us. Now, not to give him too much credit, and while Satan isn't omnipotent or omnipresent, he is a quick study on the nature of man, and knows that if he can't destroy the Church, he is dang sure intent on corrupting it. And the same can be said for nations.

The United States was an experiment that took the best forms and practices of governance from many other nations and combined them into a constitutional republic that was protected by a divided government and a Bill of Rights. This allowed for the unprecedented economic explosion by unleashing the potential of the American worker to make his or her own fortunes. Along that same vein, early televangelists were simply entrepreneurs taking those same economic principles that had worked for many in the corporate world and applied it to the realm of mainstream Christianity, where the pickings were ripe for the taking.

Unfortunately, the "Greatest Generation" which came out of the horrors of World War II entered into a period of economic prosperity the likes of which the world had ever seen. This newfound abundance had a detrimental effect on orthodox Christianity by making it mainstream. Living the "American Dream" was as much a right as it was a destination, and belonging to a church or denomination became only slightly more important than it was to join the Masons or the Rotary Club. American church goers were lulled into the concept of being fed spiritually rather than feeding themselves and we got complacent. In our complacency, we grew spiritually lazy and content with where we were. It became more important to look the part than to be the part.

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

The same could be said for Christianity. We don't pass the salvific and finished work of Christ on to our children genetically, neither can it be obtained by our money. We might pass our denominational leanings on to our children, but never eternal salvation. Salvation has to be understood and believed by the individual. That means then that where biblical Christianity and government meet, is not with the former should rule over the latter because we as fallen (yet forgiven) humans would only offer up empty, bureaucratic religion. Rather, that the latter, should provide the open forum, where Christianity could compete on equal footing in the arena of ideas.

Christianity went toe to toe with polytheistic Rome and eventually won. But consider if the world were all like North Korea or all under Islamic rule. True, Christianity spreads under tyranny, but it doesn't mature because most Christians in those circumstances are purely in survival mode, sticking to the basics since there isn't time nor energy devoted to deep diving on non-salvific doctrines due to the sheer amount of wickedness forced upon them. Thus, while freedom allows for extended pursuits into the deeper things of God, it does allow for the wickedness of man to be exploited.

And while our Founders had the right intentions and all came out of the Judeo-Christian mindset, I'm sure they couldn't even fathom religious cornucopia that would be available these days. Had they known or had the foresight, they probably would devoted more wording and energy to preserving the very religious system that even allows for a Bill of Rights to even function. (I'm pretty sure they didn't imagine a future US President one day promoting Sharia Law over Christianity). That same freedom of religion we as Christians enjoyed for two hundred years, would eventually become an albatross around the neck of true biblical Christianity as today. Every quack pot religious idea is given equal weight to that of Christianity. (Think Jediism, Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, Satanism, etc.)

But since this world is currently under the temporary control of Satan, (Luke 4:5-6) he has done everything in his power to thwart the spreading of the Gospel. Unfortunately for him, when he persecuted the Church it only caused it to spread like wild fire. Since the 3rd century, he has found a much more effective tool against biblical Christianity, which is to corrupt the churches from within Christendom.

It began in Europe, and by the middle of the 19th century, the European mainline churches led the way into embracing liberalism. Liberalism led to heresy, apostasy, and eventually, the death of those churches. That luke-warmness spread from the European seminaries across the Atlantic to the American ones, and the disease continued to multiply amongst many learned theologians of influence. The freedom we had been afforded, had allowed for one of the most comprehensive hermeneutical pursuits Christianity had ever seen from the likes of Dispensational theology. But without true persecution and adversity, American Christianity began turning soft and by the mid-twentieth century and began producing a generation of theological light-weights. That might sound harsh, but how many churches today would tolerate the preachings of a Billy Sunday, and/or Charles Spurgeon?

Conclusion

One of the greatest lies Satan ever told the world was “you don’t need to make a decision about Christ right now, you have all the time in the world”. Complacency wrought about by economic prosperity had been extremely effective in transitioning the American church from being the spiritual head of their homes, to being zombie-esque pew warmers at church. The talent pool of shepherds coming out of the increasingly liberal seminaries became increasingly estranged in their theological teachings, while latching on to all sorts of unbiblical doctrines and practices because they could and none would be the wiser. Add to that a society in decline and you had all the necessary ingredients for a nation bound for apostasy.

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. Matthew 24:3-5

At the time of Christ’s ministry, the Roman Empire was at its height of empirical and militaristic power. Rome also happened to be polytheistic in their religion, not really caring who people worshipped, so long as they paid homage to Caesar as well. Jesus, a Jewish Man from a backwater province of the Roman empire, along with 12 other rag-tag Jews that none of the Romans (save Pontius Pilate) had ever even heard of, made the audacious claim that one day at the end of the age, ‘many would come in His name, pretending to be Him’. He didn’t say that there would be many different gods coming forth, but that many false prophets would come and pretend to be Him.

And this is why the world moved away from the Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Greek, and Roman gods...because you can’t counterfeit something that isn’t real. Satan seized on what makes Christianity...Christian, and he twisted it. This is why for the past 200 years up until today we have had an explosion of pseudo Christian groups along with heretical movements primarily coming out of the United States and spreading around the world. From the social justice gospel to the word-faith movement (name it/claim it), the emergent church, Hebrew Roots, liberal theology, replacement theology, Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, universalism, and many, many more have been flowing out like a counterfeit missionary movement.

And not to pick on TBN that much, but they took the concept of multiple gods, seemed to the Roman pantheon with their gods TBN and the like may not openly promote the ‘god of thunder’ or the polytheistic Mormonism, but they tend to present many different ‘Jesus’s’, who presumably can’t function divinely without our money...er, I mean ‘seeds of faith’. The constant barraging for money, along with the negative press these ‘wolves’ in suits bring about when their caught buying their jets and mansions, has left a bitter taste in the mouths of those who are watching from without. They aren’t alone.

To the church at Laodicea Jesus said;

‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—Revelation 3:14-17

Even so, MARANATHA!

Sweden leads the race to become cashless society

6.4.16

theguardian.uk

Swedes are blazing a trail in Europe, with banks, buses, street vendors and even churches expecting plastic or electronic payments.

In 1661, Stockholms Banco, the precursor to the Swedish central bank, issued Europe's first banknotes, on thick watermarked paper bearing the bank's seal and eight handwritten signatures.

Last year – as Britain did last week – Sweden launched a new series of notes, cheery affairs featuring 20th-century Swedish cultural giants such as Astrid Lindgren, the creator of Pippi Longstocking, Greta Garbo and filmmaker Ingmar Bergman. But like its Nordic neighbours Norway, Denmark and Finland, Sweden is fast becoming an almost entirely cashless society.

"I don't use cash any more, for anything," said Louise Henriksson, 26, a teaching assistant. "You just don't need it. Shops don't want it; lots of banks don't even have it. Even for a candy bar or a paper, you use a card or phone."

Swedish buses have not taken cash for years, it is impossible to buy a ticket on the Stockholm metro with cash, retailers are legally entitled to refuse coins and notes, and street vendors – and even churches – increasingly prefer card or phone payments.

According to central bank the Riksbank, cash transactions made up barely 2% of the value of all payments made in Sweden last year – a figure some see dropping to 0.5% by 2020. In shops, cash is now used for barely 20% of transactions, half the number five years ago, and way below the global average of 75%.

And astonishingly, about 900 of Sweden's 1,600 bank branches no longer keep cash on hand or take cash deposits – and many, especially in rural areas, no longer have ATMs. Circulation of Swedish krona has fallen from around 106bn in 2009 to 80bn last year.

"I think, in practice, Sweden will pretty much be a cashless society within about five years," said Niklas Arvidsson, an associate professor specialising in payment systems innovation at Stockholm's Royal Institute of Technology (KTH).

Arvidsson argues that the country's head start in the field began in the 1960s, when banks persuaded employers and workers to use digital bank transfers for wages as a matter of course, with credit and debit cards receiving a boost in the 1990s when Sweden's banks started charging for cheques.

Cards are now the main form of payment: according to Visa, Swedes use them more than three times as often as the average European, making an average of 207 payments per card in 2015.

More recently, mobile phone apps have also taken off in spectacular fashion. Swish, a hugely popular app developed jointly with the major banks including Nordea, Handelsbanken, SEB, Danske Bank and Swedbank, uses phone numbers to allow anyone with a smartphone to transfer money from one bank account to another in real time.

"Swish has pretty much killed cash for most people, as far as person-to-person payments are concerned," said Arvidsson. "It has the same features as a cash payment – real-time clearing, the same as handing over a banknote. And it's now making inroads into payments to businesses, too."

Adopted by nearly half the Swedish population, Swish is now used to make more than 9 million payments a month. (A similar Danish app, MobilePay, was used by over 3 million Danes – in a country of 5.6 million – to make some 90 million transactions last year.)

Stockholm's Metro does not accept cash payments.

Street salesmen, from hotdog vendors to homeless magazine sellers, have enthusiastically adopted iZettle, a

cheap and easy Swedish system designed to allow sole traders and small businesses take card payments via an app and mini card-reader plugged into their phones, with many reporting sales increases of up to 30%.

Even Swedish churches have adapted, displaying their phone numbers at the end of each service and asking parishioners to use Swish to drop their contribution into the virtual Sunday collection. One Stockholm church said last year only 15% of its donations were in cash; the remainder were all by phone.

There are, obviously, concerns: cases of electronic fraud have more than doubled in the past decade and several critics – including the inventor of iZettle, Jacob de Greer – have asked whether an entirely electronic system in which every single payment is recorded is not a threat to privacy.

Old people's organisations also fear that those who prefer cash, out of a reluctance to use new technology or simply because they find it easier to keep track of their spending, will be disadvantaged, while educators worry that young people will be tempted to spend money they do not have.

For these and other social reasons, Arvidsson said, cash is not dead quite yet. "Even if, in the next few years, Swedes use almost no cash at all, going 100% cashless needs a political decision," he said. "The idea of cash, even in Sweden, remains very strong."

Obama's November Surprise for Israel?

JUNE 6, 2016

Shmuley Boteach

Word is going around diplomatic circles that the Obama administration is planning a November surprise for Israel.

Here's what is said to be going on:

The Paris peace conference last Friday, to which Israel and the Palestinians were not even invited, will end up exerting enormous pressure on Israel to create a Palestinian state. This renewed pressure will come despite evidence that a Palestinian state in the West Bank will quickly be dominated by genocidal Hamas, which is a threat to Israel and a disaster for the Palestinians.

This will lead, in all likelihood, to a United Nations Security Council Resolution either condemning Israel for not creating that state or for not withdrawing from Judea and Samaria in the West Bank, despite the fact that it would irreversibly compromise Israel's security.

Now, here is where it gets interesting. Israeli officials and Jewish communal leaders have told me that they expect the Obama administration will not veto the resolution at the UNSC — that Samantha Power, the US Ambassador to the UN, will not exercise the American veto. This would mean that the resolution/condemnation goes through. President Obama will not worry about how this will affect Hillary Clinton, because the UN resolution will be brought after the November election.

And that's how the Obama administration will wrap up, with a UN vote against Israel and the United States, for almost the first time, not vetoing a harmful resolution against Israel. Israel will be powerless to stop it.

What gives credence to this speculation, first and foremost, is the Paris conference itself. If it were a serious conference about the prospects for peace, why on earth were the Israelis and Palestinians not invited? Israel has insisted on direct, bilateral talks without preconditions. The Paris talks, therefore, seem to be a complete waste of time, unless their purpose was to lead to a resolution at the UN, regardless of Israeli objections.

What further gives this credence is the fact that last June, in a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Power would not commit to exercising an American veto at the UN for a resolution condemning Israel. "I really am going to resist making blanket declarations on hypothetical resolutions. Our position, again, I think has been very clear for some time. I have said, again, we would oppose anything that was designed to punish Israel or undermine Israel's security. But I think, again, it's perilous. There's no resolution in front of us."

Now, if a UN Security Council Resolution authorizing a timetable for the unilateral creation of a Palestinian state is resisted by Israel and not vetoed by the United States, there exists the possibility of economic sanctions being levied against the Jewish state, especially by the European Union.

This is far more serious than BDS, which essentially involves non-binding student-council resolutions against the Jewish state.

Don't get me wrong. BDS, undeniably antisemitic, must be fought and resisted. It delegitimizes Israel on campus, demonizes Israel and Jews, creates a spirit of intimidation against Jewish students on campus, and often whitewashes organizations that can advocate violence and terrorism.

Still, actual economic sanctions imposed by governments are even more serious.

At her Senate confirmation hearings, which I attended at Powers' invitation, she promised that at the United Nations, she would "stand up for Israel and work tirelessly to defend it."

At the AIPAC Annual Policy Conference in Washington, DC, last March, she said, "It is a false choice to tell Israel that it has to choose between peace on the one hand, and security on the other. The United Nations would not ask any other country to make that choice, and it should not ask it of Israel."

Security is the foundation of any sustainable peace framework in the Middle East. The United States has long stood for justice and served as an essential check against overreach, antisemitism, and double standards by Arab and European nations at the UN against Israel.

The Palestinian Authority leadership has repeatedly proven itself incapable of adhering to basic democratic principles, transparency and rule of law. The PA's history of graft, support of terrorism and lack of accountability is staggering.

Long before Power became ambassador, she was a highly regarded academic studying human rights at Harvard's Kennedy School. It was there that she wrote the Pulitzer-winning book that launched her career into orbit — *A Problem from Hell*, the stirring and essential indictment of the inability of the United States to act against genocide over the past 100 years. It remains one of the most important books I have ever read.

But as her star rose in the Obama administration, many began paying attention to other early statements and writings, including specific ones that raised concerns about her attitude toward Israel and her understanding of the conflict. These might have gone unnoticed for any ordinary academic speaking loosely early in her career, but Power was no ordinary academic. Due to those earlier statements, she wasn't implicitly trusted by members of the Jewish community when she took her role in the National Security Council. After writing an op-ed in which I encouraged her to clarify her statements, she did just that.

We met in the White House, and spoke candidly — and even quite emotionally — about Israel, the challenges in the region and the real concerns that some had about her earlier statements. Her passion and support of Israel was persuasive. I became intent on transforming the Jewish community's opinion of her, working side-by-side to persuade others that she was someone whose judgment and understanding of the conflict could be trusted when it came to issues related to Israel.

Ultimately, when the time came for her nomination to serve as US ambassador to the UN, the Jewish American community registered strong, widespread support.

Now, with the possibility of a serious anti-Israel resolution making its way through the UN, which could do long-term harm to the Jewish state, Power will be confronted with the stark choice of standing firm and acting on her commitment to Israel and the Jewish community and her loyalty to the president and his administration in its last days.

With antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment growing worldwide, we rely on Power not only to honor her pledge of support for the Jewish state, but to stand squarely against Hamas and its genocidal pledge, stated clearly in its covenant, to annihilate the Jewish people wherever they may be found.

I am confident that the Samantha Power I know will stand with Israel. Her legacy and the security of the Jewish state depends on it.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach whom The Washington Post calls "the most famous rabbi in America" is the founder of The World Values Network and is the international best-selling author of 30 books, including his just-published, "The Israel Warrior: Fighting Back for the Jewish State from Campus to Street Corner." Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

The Six Day War Remembered

frontpagemag.com

June 7, 2016 Joseph Puder

This May, Israel celebrated its 68th year of independent statehood. On June 5th, Israel commemorated the 49th anniversary of the Six Day War, in which it liberated the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old city, including the Western Wall. The Etzion Bloc, Jewish property seized by Jordan's Arab Legion and held for 19 years was also liberated.

The proverbial Israeli "David" of the pre-1967 years has been transformed by the international press and western academia into the post-1967 "Goliath." In the process, Israel has been labeled "occupier." As a witness to this chapter of history (the Six Day War and its aftermath), this reporter can clearly testify that as of June 4th, 1967, the people of Israel were fearing another Holocaust of sorts. Surrounded by violent Arab enemies, and betrayed by France's President Charles De Gaulle, who imposed an embargo on weapons sales to the besieged Jewish state, Israel was in a somber mood. The authorities in Israel prepared massive gravesites for what they expected to be a genocidal war waged by the Arab's as promised by Egypt's dictator Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Nasser announced in a speech to the world on March 8, 1965, "We shall not enter Palestine with its soil covered in sand, we shall enter it with its soil saturated in blood." On May 17, 1967, Cairo radio declared, "All Egypt is now prepared to plunge into total war which will put an end to Israel." Syrian president Nureddin al-Attasi spoke to the Syrian troops on May 22, 1967, declaring, "We want a full scale, popular war of liberation to destroy the Zionist enemy"

During Israel's Independence Day on May 15, 1967, Egyptian troops moved into the Sinai, concentrating along the border with Israel. Nasser ordered the UN Emergency Force, stationed in the Sinai since 1957, to withdraw on May 16, without bringing the matter before the UN General Assembly. UN Secretary-General U Thant immediately complied with Nasser's demand. Two days later the Syrians put their troops in the Golan on high alert, ready for battle.

The Voice of the Arabs radio (Sawt al-Arab) in Cairo proclaimed on May 18, 1967: "As of today, there no longer exists an international emergency force to protect Israel. We shall exercise patience no more. We shall not complain any more to the UN about Israel. The sole method we shall apply against Israel is total war, which will result in the extermination of the Zionist existence." Simultaneously, Syria's Defense Minister Hafez Assad declared: "Our forces are now entirely ready, not only to repulse aggression, but to initiate the act of liberation itself, and to explode the Zionist presence in the Arab homeland. The Syrian army, with its finger on the trigger, is united...I, as a military man, believe that the time has come to enter into a battle of annihilation."

Nasser announced on May 23, 1967, the closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli navigation, blockading Israel's southern port of Eilat, her only outlet to the Red Sea. Israel's PM Eshkol called it "an aggressive act against Israel," and called on the UN and the major Maritime powers to restore free navigation through the Straits as promised by the US and the Maritime powers as a condition for Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai back in 1957.

On May 30, 1967, Nasser gave a speech in which he said, "The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are poised on the borders of Israel... (Nasser usual term to identify Israel was the "Zionist entity.") to face the challenge, while standing behind us are the armies of Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan and the whole Arab nation. This act will astound the world. Today they will know that the Arabs are arranged for battle, the critical hour has arrived. We have reached the stage of serious action and not of more declarations."

Prior to June, 1967, Israel did not occupy any Arab land nor did it seek to expand its territory by war, yet, it

endured Palestinian terror throughout the 1950's and 1960's from Egyptian trained Palestinian Fedayeen based in Gaza. The Palestinian (PLO charter) idea was to "liberate" Palestine by eliminating the Jews of Israel. In other words, all of Israel within the Green Line was "occupied Palestine." Moreover, the Palestinians before June, 1967, did not call for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank then occupied by Jordan, or Gaza occupied by Egypt.

Had Israel lost the war in 1967, neither Egypt, Jordan or Syria would have volunteered to establish a Palestinian state. One can further bet that the Palestinians would have remained merely Arabs who belonged to the Arab nation, worshipping the pan-Arab high priest and prophet, Gamal Abdul Nasser.

While Israeli emissaries appealed to King Hussein of Jordan to stay out of the war, King Hussein decided to sign a defense pact with Egypt on May 30, 1967. On Monday, June 5th, 1967, King Hussein ignored Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's request that Jordan stay out of the war that had that morning broken out between Israel and the UAR (United Arab Republic that combined Egypt and Syria). Professor Uriel Dann, in his book "King Hussein and the Challenge of Arab Radicalism," pointed out that "Two days later he (Hussein) accepted the ceasefire call issued by the UN. By then, the West Bank was lost and his field army shattered."

It is worth considering that had King Hussein accepted Eshkol's request "to stay out of the war," the West Bank would have remained in Jordanian hands, and there would have been no so-called "occupation." Instead, this writer recalls Jordanian artillery shells pounding his airbase inside Israel on June 5th, 1967.

Before the Six Day War, Syria was in control of the Golan Heights, which tower 3,000 feet above the Galilee. The Syrians used their height advantage to shell Israeli Kibbutz farms and villages. The shelling increased to daily barrages in 1965-1966. On April 7, 1967, Israel retaliated, and during a dog-fight in the air, Israeli French-made Mirages shot down six Soviet-made Syrian Mig fighters. The Soviet Union, which was the provider of military and economic aid to both Syria and Egypt, deliberately misinformed Damascus, alleging that a massive Israeli military buildup was underway, in preparation of an Israeli attack. Israel explicitly denied the Soviet claims, but Syria nevertheless rushed to invoke its defense treaty with Egypt.

On June 4, 1967, Iraq joined the military alliance with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. The President of Iraq, Abdul Rahman Aref, added to the chorus of Arab threats in warning that, "The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This opportunity to wipe out the ignominy which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is clear - to wipe Israel off the map."

For Israel, the war that broke out on June 5th 1967 was an existential war, fought with dire odds. The Arabs amassed 309,000 men against Israel's 210,000 (almost 10% of its population). The Arabs possessed 2,337 battle tanks against only 1,000 that Israel had. Arab combat aircrafts numbered 682 against Israel's 286. Israel had 203 artillery pieces against the Arabs 962. According to the LA Times, in the Six Day War, Egypt lost an estimated 11,500 killed and 10,000 taken prisoners, including nine generals. Syrian casualties were 1,000 killed, and Jordan lost 6,094 killed and wounded. Israel's casualties were 777 killed and 2,811 wounded.

When it was over, on June 10, 1967, the Six Day War was not only seen as a glorious victory, but as a miracle that restored and unified Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital. The Arabs suffered a humiliating defeat as did the lure of pan-Arabism, and Israel prevailed against all odds.