

# NEWSBYTES

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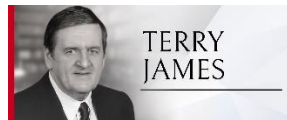
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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above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

## Stoking Fears Of An All-Out Nuclear Conflict — Is The Threat Credible?

By **Terry James** March 14, 2023



Ukrainians. Thus, more and more people are becoming nervous that we are headed for World War III.

The worry—the threat—has always been that, once a nuclear weapon has been used, things will escalate until all-out atomic war results. All the big nukes on all the tips of the ICBMs and other delivery systems will be unleashed. Planet earth will be turned into a cinder—or at the very least, it will be made inhabitable.

Russian President/dictator Vladimir Putin, among wanting more control and power in his region of hegemony, wants to secure the wheat and other grains of Ukraine to add to Russia’s considerable grain possession. In this way, he will control the food of the world—at least to a considerable extent.

It is said that, even now, Putin and his top adjutants are hunkered in underground facilities for protection from the nuclear exchanges that are to come. Of course, a lot of things are said these days about a lot of things.

In fact, a lot has been said about a lot of things for a long time. We have heard that economic collapse is coming within days for—literally—years, even decades.

We have been told that the polar ice is melting at a rate that would bring the edges of New York harbor to downtown Manhattan and up to the first or second floor of the Empire State building within anywhere from twenty to forty years. Actually, the levels in New York Harbor haven't changed significantly since the warnings were issued.

All of that is not to say nuclear exchanges couldn't happen. I believe, as do many who believe in God's Word, that at least one city of the world is going to experience perhaps a nuclear strike. I'm referring, of course, to Damascus, Syria, which will become a heap of rubble within a very short time.

This doesn't mean necessarily that it will be a nuclear weapon that does the destruction. It might be a meteorite, or even possibly one of the planet's greatest earthquakes ever.

But Damascus is going to cease being a city, and in a very short moment of time. God's prophetic Word has said so. It will happen, according to the prophecy in Isaiah chapter 17.

And God's prophetic Word is the only reliable source to depend upon when it comes to future events. Everything else is just guesswork. The guesswork might be based upon strong evidence, but it's still guesswork.

God's prophetic utterances are 100 percent reliable. And it is for this reason that we can examine the nuclear neurosis going around these days under God's stethoscope in order to get a 100 percent accurate prophetic prognosis about whether all-out nuclear conflict will occur in the days just ahead.

First, we look at a news item from a less-than-reliable source the majority of Americans still go to for news:

*Vladimir Putin has been ignoring those in his inner circle who warn of economic ruin if his invasion of Ukraine continues, it has been claimed.*

*Kremlin officials are becoming "increasingly" worried Vladimir Putin could use limited nuclear weapons as part of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.*

*Officials at high levels of government spoke to Bloomberg, claiming they believed the invasion was a "catastrophic" mistake which will set Russia back years.*

*Speaking on condition of anonymity, the Kremlin sources said there is no sign Putin will change his mind and faces no direct challenge within the walls of the Kremlin.*

*He has also repeatedly ignored those who have attempted to warn him of the crushing effects his war could have on Russia's economic and political future, destroying two decades of growth...*

*Some said they share fears voiced by the US that Putin will turn to a limited nuclear war, in which two nuclear superpowers engage in a direct confrontation which does not end in either a surrender or massive destruction.*

*However, US officials have clarified there is “no practical evidence” nuclear weapons will be used imminently.*

*The CIA said Putin could turn to using a tactical or low-yield nuclear weapon out of “potential desperation” to claim a small victory. (“Putin officials ‘increasingly worried’ he could unleash limited nuclear weapon,” News Yahoo.com UK)*

The gist of the news story, in my view, has a specific purpose: to ramp up fear of a nuclear conflict to divert the attention of voters from other issues of political importance to the globalist power brokers. But that is a story for another time. The thing to look at here is that God is completely in control—not the power brokers who can, and will eventually (during the Tribulation), unleash war...of the nuclear sort.

So, looking at the matter of the nuclear neurosis through the heavenly stethoscope, we come to Jesus’ words I’ve brought to our attention many times. They speak directly to our day. Jesus’ words do not equivocate on the condition of the world when He will next make His presence known to all on the earth. It will be the Rapture that will occur in times exactly like they were in the time of Lot in Sodom.

There is no indication whatsoever, prior to the catastrophic intervention by Christ, of nuclear war that devastates the planet.

**Luke 17: 28–30 KJV** – *“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”*

## United In Hatred: UN Chooses To Commemorate Israel’s Founding As A ‘Catastrophe’

By **Hal Lindsey** March 20, 2023



Photo: CommonSpace Image

Late last year the United Nations passed a resolution mocking and condemning the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Their action derided the Old and New Testaments, including the clear teaching of Jesus. How did they do this? In a 90 to 30 vote with 47 abstentions, they passed a resolution calling the founding of modern Israel a “catastrophe.”

Let that soak in. God kept His promise. A nation was born in a day. He brought His people back into the land that He gave them so long ago. And the UN now chooses to commemorate that miracle as a “catastrophe.”

The Israeli news service i24News reported, “Palestinians consider the establishment of Israel and its existence to this day as the ‘Nakba’ (catastrophe in Arabic) and the world body decided to acknowledge the Palestinian version of events with the resolution.”

In 2023, Israel celebrates its 75th anniversary. By the Gregorian calendar, Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948. The official celebration in Israel will follow the Jewish calendar and go from sundown April 25th to sundown April 26th. That means we can celebrate twice — with Israel in April, then according to our calendar on May 14th.

But the United Nations has decided that it will make the next day, May 15th, a day of lament and of calls for vengeance against Jews. That’s what happens every Nakba. That’s what Nakba is. They say that the rebirth of Israel was a “catastrophe” primarily because of what happened to the Palestinian people who left that land during those days.

They don’t mention that Israel was founded in accordance with UN resolutions. They don’t mention that tragedies such as the holocaust made it obvious that the Jews needed their own homeland. Great Britain, the holder of that land, agreed to give it Israel. They don’t mention that Arab nations fooled masses of people into going to “Palestine” just prior to 1948 by promising them land and prosperity. Neither do they say that these people were declared “refugees” even though they had not been in the land long enough to qualify for refugee status according to previous UN rules.

Today, we almost never hear that the new Israeli government pleaded with so-called “Palestinians” to stay. Those people left at the request of Arab armies that promised the refugees they could return after those armies quickly annihilated Israel — something that obviously never happened. I say “so-called Palestinians” because never in world history was there a nation of Palestine. Meanwhile, in Arab countries, Jews were being kicked out — their lands and properties were being stolen. Happily, those newly disenfranchised Jews did have one place left in the world where they could go — the new Jewish state of Israel.

Israel asked the Palestinians to stay and welcomed Jewish refugees. Muslim countries threw out the Jews and threw Palestinian refugees into massive camps, almost like prisons. They had to keep them there because to let them assimilate into their societies would be to lose the political leverage they represent. When the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) was organized in 1950, there were only 750,000 such refugees. Today that number has grown to over 5.9 million according to UNRWA. Such a number precludes any ability for a small country such as Israel to guarantee a “right of return.”

I can’t cover this subject adequately in a short article. However, in my book, *The Everlasting Hatred*, you will find the astonishing details.

The real catastrophe of modern Israel's founding is that so many Muslims could not relinquish their ancient hatred of the Jews. And on this May 15th, the United Nations will officially join them in that hatred.

## Two Knesset Members Propose Legislation to Outlaw Sharing the Gospel in Israel and Send Violators to Prison



**Joel Rosenberg**

United Torah Judaism Knesset Members Moshe Gafni (L) and Yaakov Asher seen in the plenum hall of the Israeli parliament, Feb. 11, 2013. (Photo: Miriam Alster/Flash90)

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL – Is it possible that the Israeli government this year could pass legislation making it illegal for people to share the Gospel message in the very land where Jesus was born, raised, preached, died, buried and rose from the dead?

Unfortunately, yes.

As Palm Sunday and Easter approach – the two most sacred days on the calendar for those who follow Jesus as both God and Messiah – two members of the Knesset (Israel's parliament) introduced a bill last week that would ban any and all efforts to tell people about Jesus.

The bill would send violators to prison.

Should it begin to gain traction inside the Knesset and begin moving towards passage, the bill could create a major new headache for Netanyahu's government by sparking a serious clash with Evangelical Christians in the United States and around the world who are among the biggest supporters of the State of Israel.

In the United States alone, there are some 60 million Evangelicals.

Globally, there are an estimated 600 million, according to the World Evangelical Alliance.

The bill could also draw sharp criticism from both Republicans and Democrats in Congress, in the executive branch, among U.S. governors and others who love Israel and have always stood with the Jewish state, but would fiercely oppose efforts to silence followers of Jesus in the Holy Land.

Former U.S. Ambassador of International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback – who served during the Trump-Pence administration – is the first American leader to publicly warn that this new bill poses a massive threat to free speech, human rights and religious freedom.

On Friday, ALL ISRAEL NEWS emailed Brownback – a long-time and consistent friend and supporter of Israel – a professional translation of the bill in English, which was originally written in Hebrew, of course.

Surprised and concerned, the ambassador replied with the following statement:

“Free and democratic countries simply do not outlaw the free exchange of ideas and that includes religious beliefs and convictions. Article 18 of the Universal Charter of Human Rights – which Israel has signed onto – guarantees freedom of religion, including the right to decide your own faith beliefs.”

### **WHAT DOES THE NEW BILL ACTUALLY SAY?**

The proposed legislation would outlaw all efforts by people of one faith who, in any way, want to discuss or try to persuade people of other faiths to consider changing their current religious beliefs.

The punishment for doing so would be “one year imprisonment.”

If the conversation is with minor – someone under the age of 18 – the punishment would be “two years imprisonment.”

This bill would apply to people having spiritual conversations with Israelis of any religion.

However, in their official explanation of the bill, the two Israeli legislators specifically emphasized the warning to stop Christians, in particular.

The bill’s primary objective, therefore, appears to be making it illegal for followers of Jesus (“Yeshua” in Hebrew) to explain why they believe that Jesus is both Messiah and God with the hope that Israelis might consider following Him.

The bill does not only make a simple personal conversation about Jesus with another individual a crime.

It would also make it illegal for “someone who solicits a person – directly, digitally, by mail or online – in order to convert his religion.”

Thus, producing and publishing online videos explaining the Gospel to Jewish or Muslim people in Israel – and to those of any other religious faiths – would suddenly become illegal.

Publishing books, other printed literature, online articles, podcasts, or other forms of media that explains the life and ministry of Jesus and His message found in the New Testament would also become illegal.

So would discussing the Gospel message via email, text messages, written letters and/or on social media, including answering questions initiated by people who don’t follow Jesus.

It is already a crime in Israel to try to proselytize minors or bribe people of any age with money or material goods to change their religious views.

But this new legislation seeks to go much further.

“At times these attempts do not involve monetary promises or material gains and are therefore not illegal according to the current law,” the bill notes, “but the many negative repercussions, including psychological damages, warrant the intervention of the legislature.”

“Therefore, it is proposed that, alongside the prohibition of giving favors as an incentive to convert religion, also prohibited will be the act of solicitation to convert religion, when it is done directly to a person,” whether that be face-to-face or via any other means of communication.

The authors of this legislation, **Moshe Gafni** and **Yaakov Asher**, are ultra-Orthodox Jewish members of Knesset.



Both are members of United Torah Judaism (UTJ), a Haredi (highly religious) political party holding a total of seven out of 120 seats in the current Knesset.

And both are influential voices – and important votes – inside the 64-seat governing coalition led by Netanyahu.

Gafni is 70 years old. He was first elected to the Knesset in 1988 and has served almost continuously since then. Today, he serves as the chairperson of the Knesset's powerful Finance Committee, as well as a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the Joint Committee for the Defense Budget.

Asher, age 57, was first elected to parliament in 2013. Today, he serves as chairperson of the Knesset's Internal Affairs and Environment Protection Committee

Gafni has a long history of opposing followers of Jesus.

He first introduced legislation to impose a legal ban on evangelism in Israel back in 1999.

His bill went nowhere, but Gafni has repeatedly re-introduced versions of his legislation ever since.

To his credit, Netanyahu has never allowed such legislation to advance or be approved in the past.

Nor has his center-right Likud party.

Why?

Because Netanyahu and most, if not all, members of the Likud party have always demonstrated that they are adamant about preserving and protecting the Jewish state as a liberal democracy.

They have always believed that even unpopular views must be allowed to be held and voiced in Israel, and that the rights of religious and ethnic minorities must be protected under the rule of law.

Netanyahu and Likud have, therefore, rejected such explicit breaches of freedom of speech, blatant violations of religious freedom and aggressive assaults on fundamental human rights.

What's more, Netanyahu has proven himself as a great friend of Evangelical Christians over the past three decades.

While he does not agree theologically with Evangelicals about who Jesus is, Netanyahu has long viewed the Evangelical community as a true blessing and a strategic asset to the State of Israel and to the Jewish people worldwide.

That's why for three decades Netanyahu has actively and consistently courted and cultivated strong support for Israel among Evangelical Christians, of which there are some 60 million in the United States and some 600 million worldwide.

Netanyahu meets regularly with Christian leaders from a wide range of denominations, and often speaks at Christian conferences and forums, including at the "Christian Media Summit," organized by Israel's Government Press Office each year in Jerusalem.

Just last year, I brought a delegation of Evangelical business and media leaders to meet with Netanyahu at the Knesset.

During his book tour several months ago, Netanyahu also spoke on numerous Christian TV networks, including TBN and CBN, the two most viewed Evangelical networks in the United States.

## **WHY COULD THIS YEAR BE DIFFERENT?**

That said, Evangelical and Messianic Jewish leaders who have spoken to ALL ISRAEL NEWS in recent days say they are concerned that in the present political environment the legislation introduced by Gafni and Asher could actually become law.

They note that out of the 120-seat Knesset, the current government coalition is comprised of a large number of Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox members.

These members are far more aggressive in this legislative session than ever before in pushing for legislations to be passed that advance their theological worldview.

And these members appear to believe that Netanyahu cannot afford to lose their votes if he hopes to remain prime minister and hopes to advance his other important policy priorities, including stopping the Iranian regime from building nuclear weapons, making peace with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, strengthening and expanding the Israeli economy (especially as the U.S. economy slows), and passing sweeping judicial reforms.

Indeed, the current judicial reform movement raises further concerns for Evangelical and Messianic Jewish leaders.

Many believe reforms are, in fact, needed to improve Israel's flawed legal system.

However, they worry that if the Knesset passes an extreme version of an "override clause" – one of the most controversial and hotly-debated of the proposed reforms which would allow the Knesset to override Israeli Supreme Court decisions with a simple majority vote of just 61 out of 120 Members – this could severely endanger the human rights and civil liberties of all minorities in the country, including religious minorities, such as followers of Jesus.

It would be a different matter if the "override clause" required a supermajority of, say, 90 seats in the Knesset to pass legislation previously struck down by the Supreme Court.

Even a compromise on the "override clause" issue could be both positive and acceptable, where the final legislation requires less than 90 votes but far more than 61 to overturn a Supreme Court decision.

But legislation that would allow a simple majority to overrule the High Court, they believe, poses a serious threat for a number of reasons.

For example, if the Gafni-Asher bill becomes law, the Supreme Court would likely strike it down as a violation of free speech, basic human rights and freedom of religion.

However, if the currently-proposed version of the "override clause" also becomes law, then a simple majority of just 61 Knesset members would be able to cancel the High Court's decision.

That would enable the current Knesset to go forward with banning all forms of evangelism in Israel and would provide no legal recourse whatsoever to Jewish and Gentile people – Israelis or foreigners – who love Jesus and want to tell others about Him.