

### WHAT IS (NOT) GOING ON IN ISRAEL!?

I flew out of Ben Gurion just hours before the airport was closed due to a general strike. Many have asked me why the massive protests against Netanyahu's administration? Leftist radicals have even mentioned "civil war." Netanyahu fired his Minister of Defense who came out in support of military reservist protesting by refusing to show up for duty. For the first 10 weekends the over 100,000 thronged Tel Aviv in peaceful protest. Once protesters began blocking highways, the Israeli police resorted to using mounted police and water cannons to disperse the crowd.

From the moment it was evident that Netanyahu's election and consolidation of a political majority in the Knesset was dependent upon the extreme ultra-orthodox and their rabbinic laws of purity, "*halacha*," it was obvious to me that Netanyahu would have to walk a tenuous tight rope. Anyone familiar with Israeli secular society knew that a massive resistance was building against Jewish rabbinic law. While the platform that brought the new administration into office included judicial overhaul, the firestorm of resistance to protect the status quo of the liberal elites in the judicial branch, the Hi-tech sector and the labor unions was naively underestimated.

A perfect political storm was created when Israel's President Chaim Herzog and the labor union bosses, including El Al Airline Union's Pilots, along with workers at Ben Gurion airport threatened a complete shutdown of all flights out of Israel. This past week all public sectors shut down. The airport was closed for a few hours but reopened. This is called a "Balagan", a Big Mess. This is like the moment when all traffic in Bethlehem is gridlocked and the tensions erupt in Arabic shouts: "SHOFUNI" by frustrated drivers, signaling; "I'll show you."

Israel's liberal media has fueled the flames of protest, now into its 12th week, to protect the extreme secular liberalism of the afore mentioned sectors. This has brought Prime Minister Netanyahu's administration to its knees. He announced on Wednesday that he would put a freeze on this judicial legislation until summer. It had already passed two preliminary votes and was scheduled to be voted into law soon. He received assurances from two key Parliamentary Ministers of the Knesset, Ben Gvir and Smotrich, the two right wing horns of his dilemma, that they will not abandon his coalition. Paying the piper to those two whose support got him a majority will cost him more political capital than he is willing to pay. This will not stop the protests but will be seen as affirmation they are right and that Netanyahu blinked first.

At a campaign stop in Raleigh NC, POTUS Biden cast shade on the Netanyahu's Administration Judicial Reform by saying, "**Israel can't continue this way.**" When asked if Netanyahu would be invited to White House, Biden answered "**not in the near term.**" Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later told US President Joe Biden that "**Israel is an independent country and doesn't answer to outside pressure.**"

The biblical spiritual reality that seems to be meaningless to the US Administration who seemingly is inept in our own domestic policies and is even accused of weaponizing the DOJ to take out a political opponent is that **PRESIDENT BIDEN BEST NOT CONTINUE DOWN THIS ROAD** when we can't get our own house in order. **What gives any country the right to tell Israel what they can and cannot do!?** US financial military aid to Israel is always used as leverage against Israel. It is just as Jesus prophesied, "**Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles (Americans), until the times of the Gentiles (American's) be fulfilled.**" Luke 21:24 Sadly as long as we are a world leader we will trample on Israel's national sovereignty to our own detriment. Trampling Jerusalem, Israel's governing capitol underfoot is dangerous ground eliciting the curse of Genesis 12:1-3. **WOE TO THE U.S.!**

**When will God say enough to the gentiles who trample on Israel?** Certainly during the Tribulation but maybe even before. "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. 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.**" Jeremiah 30:7,8,14,21 "All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not." I will punish all that oppress them...And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; in the latter days ye shall consider it."

**Jerusalem Post: It is extremely unusual for a US president to so blatantly rebuke Israel and refuse to host an Israeli leader.** Netanyahu attempted to downplay the comment and tweeted a response: "I have known President Biden for over 40 years, and I appreciate his longstanding commitment to Israel. The alliance between Israel and the United States is unbreakable and always overcomes the occasional differences between us." He defended his judicial reform program, which critics warn is weakening Israeli democracy. **"Israel is a sovereign country which makes its decisions by the will of its people and not based on pressures from abroad, including from the best of friends,"** he added.

Several right-wing politicians argued that Biden had been misinformed and led to incorrectly believe that the overhaul plan was harming Israeli democracy instead of saving it. Culture and Sport Minister Miki Zohar (Likud) tweeted: "It breaks my heart to see how much damage has been done to Israel from all the fake news that has been spread in connection with our justified legal reform." In a letter to the US Congress, Likud MK Dan Illouz said **Biden's words were a "blatant intervention in Israel's democratic process," which "crossed a red line in the relationship between our two great countries."**

**The misinformation of the radical left narrative has redefined the issue in their favor.**

In Israel **"Half the people are convinced** that the will of the majority as expressed in the legislative and executive branch has been in many ways obstructed by an all-powerful judiciary that dominates them and does not let the public will be expressed. **"The other half of the people are concerned** (fearmongering) that... if any curtailment of judiciary power is enacted, this would impair and obstruct civil liberties," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu replied, **"We have to make sure that as we shift the pendulum so that the courts are transformed from an ever-powerful judiciary to an independent judiciary that the need to strengthen the executive and the legislative is executed in a way that protects individual rights."** Netanyahu said he backed the suspension of legislation. **There is a "historic opportunity to strengthen democracy" and restore the balance between the three branches of government, while "enshrining civil rights with an agreed national consensus."**

**"Israel is not a star on America's Flag.":** The United States needs to understand that Israel is an independent country and "not another star on the US flag," National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said on Wednesday morning in response to US President Joe Biden's comments on judicial reform. "It breaks my heart to see how much damage has been done to Israel from all the fake news that has been spread in connection to our justified legal reform. "Culture and Sport Minister Miki Zohar said, **"I say, if anything, America is lucky to be one splinter on the pole that supports Israel's flag."**

**Anti—Evangelism Bill proposed in the Knesset:** Attempts to convert Jews to Christianity touch a nerve in Israel. For centuries, hundreds of thousands of Jews in Europe were subject to forced conversions by the Catholic Church — and Orthodox churches to a lesser extent — on penalty of expulsion or death.

The proposal, submitted by United Torah Judaism's Moshe Gafni and Yaakov Asher, claims that "missionary groups, mainly Christians," have stepped up efforts to convert people in Israel. **The language of the bill would make soliciting an adult to change his faith punishable by one year in jail. The penalty would increase to two years if the individual being solicited was a minor.** A Times of Israel article called attention to a United Torah Judaism Party who sponsored a bill, which has been submitted at the start of every Knesset for years, is not meant to become law, says spokesman. (What makes this different now is that since Netanyahu was reelected, for the first time UTJ is now in the Majority Coalition of Netanyahu's party.)

The Trinity Broadcasting Network's Joel Rosenberg, a Messianic Jew, first broke the story regarding this potential law last week. It was then picked up Tuesday by Newsmax, a right-wing American outlet that reaches tens of millions of viewers. On Wednesday morning, the Foreign Ministry began receiving calls from heads of parliamentary friendship groups, diplomats, Christian Zionist leaders, and Jewish leaders around the world. **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu got involved late Wednesday, tweeting in Hebrew and in English: "We will not advance any law against the Christian community."**

### Rising stress

Christian Zionists living in Israel said that the bill would not shake their support for the country, or their openness about their faith. "As Christians who work to bridge between Jews and Muslims, we find that once our neighbors understand that we support them unconditionally, **we are free to be ourselves, which includes expressing our faith openly,**" said Jonathan Miles, founder of Shevet Achim, a Christian organization that brings children from neighboring Arab countries to Israel for medical treatment.

### Increasing Jewish persecution of Historic Christian Clergy and followers in Jerusalem is on the rise.

#### **TIMES OF ISRAEL REPORTS: As attacks on Christians become more frequent, a crisis looms for Israel.**

"If you are a Christian in the Middle East, there's only one place where you are safe," asserted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking to Christian Zionists in Rio de Janeiro in December 2018. "There's only one place where the Christian community is growing, thriving, prospering. That's in the State of Israel." The picture of safe coexistence painted by Israeli officials is starkly at odds with the experiences Jerusalem's Christian leaders themselves describe. Church leaders point to an inhospitable political atmosphere as they lock compounds at night. Christian clergy in the Old City tell of an atmosphere of harassment, and a growing fear that incidents of spitting and vandalism could turn into something far darker. 50% of the Friday Armenian processions are interrupted by spitting or cursing.

**Much of the blame on the "Zilbermans," members of a 300-family-strong Lithuanian ultra-Orthodox community in the Old City that distinguishes itself from other Haredi communities.** All of them are following the situation with great concern." But there isn't much optimism among Christian clergy in Jerusalem that the situation is going to get better anytime soon. "Nothing is going to change," predicted Father Matthew ominously, "until someone gets killed."

Matthew 10:16 – 25 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against *their* parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *shall they call* them of his household?