

## Events vs Relationship

The challenge with our world today is we wait for events to move us. When the horrible things started happening like in the Ukraine some of us were upset and that lasted for a little while. Now, even though the same events are still happening in the Ukraine, it is just part of life, and we move on. But when the same things happen in Israel, we think it is all different because we know the Israelites are God's people. We are afraid that the end of the world will come soon, so we all jump up in roar to defend them.

The misunderstanding about being a Christian is, it was never established based on events; it was established based on what Jesus Christ did for us, who died on the Cross. Every movement that is based on events shows the lack of a real relationship with God through Jesus Christ. In this setting, we must realize that people who function this way have to say their roots in God are like the seed planted among the thorns as recorded in Luke 8:14 NLT which says, "The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life." Satan loves for us to make a big thing about what is happening in Israel because it makes us believe we are in good standing with God. Christianity based upon events, shows us we are far from the truth. The only thing that makes you in right standing with God is a real relationship with God through Jesus Christ. So, events no longer move us because we are already close to God and can trust Him that whatever comes we will be safe. Do not get me wrong, it is right to pray for God to bring justice, just like we see David did all through his reign and stop those who are evil.

What is happening in Israel has made many people fearful, because we know in Revelations it shows the rath of God will be unleashed on those that are not in a right relationship with God. Even though we may not be able to quote the verses by heart we know the meaning of the passage that is in the back of every person's mind that knows even a little about the bible. That passage is Matthew 7:21-23 NIV which says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name,

and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evil doers!’”

The real enemy is FEAR that is attacking us from two different directions. The first is the events of the times make us fearful because we have our eyes focused on Jesus coming back based on the signs of the times. The Second Coming will not happen based on a moment in time or event that will determine when Jesus returns. If that were the case, there have been many times, like the holocaust for example, where God could have said “that is enough” and release the end times. 2 Peter 3:9 NLT says, “The Lord is not really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” What is holding back the Second Coming of Christ is, God is working hard trying to reach everyone possible before the horn blows.

It is critical that we have our relationship right with God through Jesus Christ, and the signs of the times reminds us of the urgency of making that relationship right as soon as possible. However, the bible scholars who tell us we should fear because the end times are coming soon causes us the second challenge. Anytime a person comes to God through Jesus Christ **based on fear** their salvation will never last. **The only correct way for a person to come to God should be based on us realizing our need for God in our lives and we experience the real love that comes from our Father in Heaven.** This is the only way to be planted firmly in God through Jesus Christ. Then you will be able to say, “It is well with my soul”. Jesus said it best in John 14:27 NLT which says, “**I am leaving you with a gift- peace of mind and heart. And this peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So do not be troubled or afraid.**” Jesus came so we would not have to fear but walk in peace, knowing God really loves us. So, we need to be praying for Israel and Ukraine but at the same time we need to be praying for those who are attacking these people to come to repentance and be changed with a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Jesus summarized it best when He said, “**But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies!** Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.” Luke 7:27-28 NLT.

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