

WHY JEWISH / ISRAEL AWARENESS IS ESSENTIAL

By Bill Bjoraker

Vortex – Definition: “A...*flow involving rotation around an axis: a whirlpool, a whirlwind*” (American Heritage Dictionary). The Jewish people have always been and remain today at the vortex of history. America has declared the “War on Terrorism”. Israel has been at this war for a long time, and remains America’s truest ally in the Middle East. Israel will be a key player in the outworking of God’s purposes in history. If you would have your fingers on the pulse of history, knowledge of Israel and the Jewish people is vital.

Vital- Definition: “*Of or characteristic of life; ...Necessary to the continuation of life; life-sustaining.*” (American Heritage Dictionary). Christians confess allegiance to the God of Israel, and the Messiah of Israel. The Bible is a Jewish book. Thus, all Christians implicitly or explicitly adopt some posture toward Jewish people. What is your posture? The church’s significant loss of connection to her Hebraic roots negatively effect aspects of her faith and life. For the sake of her own integrity and destiny, it is vital that the church recover her biblical and existential connection to Israel. To truly understand Jesus, we must understand His people and context. This quest is part of our life voyage.

Voyage- Definition: “*A long journey, usually to a foreign or distant land.*” (American Heritage Dictionary). Out of the mass ancient humanity, God called Abram the Hebrew to a journey that would permanently change human history. This journey marked the birth of time, as we know it in the West, and the Western worldview themes of progress and destiny. Those who follow the faith of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, King David, and his Greater Son, are on a voyage of hope to God’s bright future. To fully understand this voyage of destiny, we must understand Israel and our Hebraic heritage. And this voyage is the virtual experience of our final destination.

Virtual- Definition: “*Existing or resulting in essence or effect, though not in actual... form... .*” (American Heritage Dictionary). The unifying theme of the whole Bible is the Kingdom of God. Israel, as an example people, and the Church exist as virtual embodiments and signs to the world, in their “already-but-not-yet” form, of the full and final glorious coming of the Kingdom of God to Earth. For this, all Creation yearns. This is the overarching vector of human history.

Vector- Definition: “*A quantity completely specified by a magnitude and direction.*” . . . broadly, *any force or influence.*” (American Heritage Dictionary). All history has a flow, a trajectory in a certain direction, though there are ebbs and flows and detours. God is directing the forces of history toward His intended glorious End. However, the great Cosmic War between Good and Evil will continue to rage until that End. There will continue to be casualties. God is waging the war through His people. The climax of the vectors of history will be staged in the Middle East, at places called Har Megiddo (Armageddon) and Jerusalem. The broad confluences of historical forces are bound up with Israel and the Jewish people. Those who would be wise, and would be where that action is, will harmonize their lives with the magnitude of this vector.

