

Israel's proxy war

The monstrous massacres of October 27, 2023, by Hamas terrorists—described by many commentators as the worst inhumane atrocities against Israel since the Nazi regime—and the Iranian-directed rocket salvos fired by Hezbollah from Lebanon demonstrate the goal of Islam, clearly stated and documented for years: the annihilation of the State of Israel, the state whose very name professes allegiance to the God of the Bible.

But Islam's ambitions go far beyond that. It strives for world domination and is therefore extending its violent attacks to American universities and European cities (London, Berlin, Amsterdam, among others). The riots are ultimately a spiritual struggle against Judeo-Christian values, against freedom and human rights .

Israel's fight, which has now lasted over a year, is therefore not only a fight for the survival of its own people, but also a vicarious stand against this threat posed by Iran and its ideological henchmen. It seems that even so-called moderate Arab states hope that the Jewish army will avert the nuclear threat from them.

And so it becomes clear: The people chosen and called forth by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are to be used in a special way in the hands of the LORD. The Holy One of Israel (His name appears over 30 times in the Bible) declared: "Blessed shall you be among all nations" (Deut. 7:14). We read similar things in many passages of the Old Testament. Indeed, over the centuries, and even in our own time, the Jewish people have brought enormous blessing in a wide variety of areas: in the humanitarian field through aid in disaster areas, and in the fields of science and culture. But the world owes the Jews a decisive debt, especially in the spiritual realm: Through them, God passed on to us the books of Moses, the Psalms, and the groundbreaking words of the prophets. And our Savior, Jesus Christ, was born into the Jewish people (something that, unfortunately, many Christians are probably not even aware of). "Salvation comes from the Jews," it says in John 4:22. The Hebrew name for Jesus is Yeshua , and Yeshua means salvation or rescue.

For Israel's blessed ministry, the Lord uses the symbol of dew, which refreshes and enables life even in times of drought. "And the remnant of Jacob will be among many peoples like the dew from the Lord ..." (Micah 5:6). But then we read in the next verse: "And the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, among many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among the flocks of sheep, which, when it passes through, tramples down and tears in pieces, and there is no one to rescue." Dew and lion—how do they fit together? Both aspects belong to the service of the Jewish people—to the service of God.

And so we can also spiritually classify Israel's vicarious war on behalf of the Western world. Almighty God shows on several occasions that He wants to use Israel, so to speak, as His instrument of judgment:

"Behold, I have made you a sharp new threshing sledge, with two edges ; you shall thresh the mountains and break them in pieces, and make the hills like chaff." (Isaiah 41:15) "Arise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion!" (Micah 4:13)

Such words from Almighty God are not for humanists. And people who already have a negative attitude toward Jews will happily seize on these verses as "proof" that Israel is responsible for

conflicts in the world and treats its Arab neighbors disproportionately or even brutally (which, when carefully researched, is absolutely untenable).

We read elsewhere: "I have bent Judah as My bow; I have filled My quiver with Ephraim. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against the mighty warriors of Greece; I will make you like the sword of a mighty man" (Zechariah 9:13).

"And the light of Israel shall be for fire, and his Holy One for flame" (Isaiah 10:17).

"And you shall consume all the nations which the LORD your God gives you" (Deut. 7:16).

"And I will put My vengeance on Edom into the hand of My people Israel, and they shall deal against Edom according to My anger and according to My fury" (Ezek . 25:14).

Israel is placed in God's hand to appease God's wrath. "You are a hammer to Me, a weapon of war; with you I will break in pieces the nations, and with you I will overthrow kingdoms" (Jeremiah 51:20).

The words used to describe this may sound strange, but God's Word is "sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit" (Hebrews 4:12).

The only living God has made an eternal covenant with Israel through a holy oath, thereby linking the holiness of His name to the Jewish people.

It is precisely for the sake of God's glory that "a two-edged sword is in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations and judgments on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgments written" (Ps. 149:8f.).

Can we apply this to Israel's fight against Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran? Indeed, is the judgment "already written"? Because of God's eternal covenant with the Jewish people, it is clear: Israel's enemies are God's enemies (see Psalm 83:3). What a multitude of threats of judgment against Israel's/God's enemies we read in the Holy Scriptures! It will one day be as promised to Israel: "The nation and the kingdom that will not serve you will perish; those nations will be desolate, even desolate" (Isaiah 60:12).

The Jewish state is to be an instrument in the hands of the Holy One of Israel. The Lord of history achieves His purpose essentially through Israel, in Israel, and for Israel.

