



Amir Tsarfati
Steve Yohn

Authors' Corner: The Day Approaching

https://youtu.be/dOZ8M_nZ75g?si=gb-5ZA0UhQYzgXdl



AMIR: Hey, Shalom everyone, I'm Amir Tsarfati from CONNECT here in Galilee, Israel. And once again, I'm with my good friend and the senior writer of Behold Israel, Steve Yohn. Shalom, Steve.

STEVE: How are you doing, my friend?

AMIR: Oh, I'm doing well. The last time we met here, we talked about a book that is about to come out, a book that is so important that we went out of our way to make sure it's coming out, even though it's smaller, thinner, cheaper and very timely. And that is, of course, *The Israel Decree*. Now it's out there and we sure hope that people will go and get it in the major bookstores or buy it online. This is a must, but that's not the book we're going to talk about today. Steve, why don't you start with a prayer, and then we'll dive into our book for this program.

STEVE: Okay. Lord, we are once again grateful to come together and to worship You through communication, through sharing Your Word, through talking about truth. And we thank You for the opportunity that you have given us to communicate Your love, Your perfect plan to the world through the written word. We know that You have given us the ultimate written Word in Your Scriptures, and all we're doing is writing about that truth that You've given to us. So bless our time today. Make this an enjoyable time, a time of remembering the incredible things that You have done in putting together the book that we're talking about today. We pray in the name of our Savior Jesus, amen.

AMIR: Amen. Amen. Amen. So today, there you go.

STEVE: That's it. We are talking about *The Day Approaching* and this book, I want to give you a test Amir. I want to just come out hard here and can you tell me what the original title was for the book that we were putting together that became *The Day Approaching*.

AMIR: The original title, and that's the one that we thought about while we were in San Francisco, yes?

STEVE: That's right. The original title was?

AMIR: What was it? *Any Day Now*? What was it?

STEVE: It was *Between Heaven And Earth*.

AMIR: Oh, that's right.

STEVE: Can you even remember that? Yeah,

I mean, that was our whole focus: *Between Heaven and Earth*, and in San Francisco when we met together, we were talking about between heaven and earth. In fact, when I go into my files on my computer, all of our sessions, all of our notes are in a file entitled "Between Heaven and Earth." And we were so set on that, but then as the book went on, and as we looked at your teachings, as we talked and you emphasized what it is that you wanted to communicate through this book, we saw, boy, that doesn't quite fit. Exactly. And that's how we came to *The Day Approaching*.

AMIR: Maybe because we were in San Francisco, maybe that helped also to... [Laughter]

STEVE: ... I don't know how much you remember about our time there, but it was an interesting time. We saw some fights around there.

AMIR: It's the last time I was there, just so you know.



STEVE: And it's probably a good thing. Probably a good thing. I grew up in the Central Valley. I grew up in Fresno. And my friends and I, we used to drive up to San Francisco just for a day trip on a Saturday, and would drive around. Love the city, beautiful city. But that was a number of decades ago and the city is just not the same anymore. But we had a great time out there.

AMIR: Yes, we did because I remember we sat there and this was the first book we did with Harvest [House publishers], if you remember. And I think it was just... we were walking between places and yet everything we had in our mind is the things that we talked about. I remember we couldn't really... We sensed, first of all, we sensed a very anti-Bible atmosphere there. I mean, when people found out that who we are and what we do there, they were not as nice as they were before. Do you remember that? When we were lost there and we asked that lady? [STEVE: Oh yeah.] But I also remember that we didn't care because we were so mission-oriented and as soon as we got back, we immediately covered another portion. And then we will take a break, go out, walk around, come back. And it was a very fruitful time and sobering time at the same time.

STEVE: Yeah. It was also a time when you and I were continuing to kind of feel out our writing relationship. We had put out *The Last Hour* already, but the plan had been just to write that one book, send it out, see what happened. And now suddenly, after we saw the way that people just took to *The Last Hour*, and grew so much from reading it, suddenly we're thinking, what next? And I don't know if you know this, but sophomore books typically do not do well. So, we're facing not just a great success of *The Last Hour*, but we're facing the potential of this "sophomore slump." [a decline in performance in what follows] So we really focus on what is it that needs to be communicated, that people need to hear and that is what eventually became *The Day Approaching*.

AMIR: Yes, I agree with you. I remember when Pastor David, Dr. David Jeremiah not just endorsed my first book, but also wrote the forward to it. And I was walking on clouds as far as I'm

concerned because it was, I mean, I never expected any of that, but then it became tougher to approach the next one because, you know, what are you going to do now? And I remember we kind of put our trust that, “God, if it’s from You, let it happen, and You lead the way.” We don’t even need names anymore to put on the cover because now I guess people understand who I am and it’ll be obvious that if I wrote a book, I can write another one and it makes sense, and they can get one. And it covered quite a few topics that I had been teaching up until that point. And I was so happy that we were able to bring them to people in such a fun way.

STEVE: Yeah, one of the topics that you taught about that is in this book is this idea of shadows versus substance. And honestly, for me, this was something that was new, even after, you know, pastoring. In fact, I may have still been pastoring at that time, but it’s something that I had never considered looking at the feasts of the Old Testament. And then there’re two chapters in the book that focus on this shadow versus substance, one specifically having to do with the Passover and then one having to do with the rest of the feasts. So can you just talk a moment about the shadows versus substance?

AMIR: Yeah, well, I looked at, of course, the verse from Colossians that speaks about do not judge anyone for food or drinks or for sabbaths or new moons or holidays, because these are the shadow of things to come. But the substance is, of course, of Christ. I realized that the festivals that God prescribed for the people of Israel to keep in Leviticus 23 are important. And this is the calendar that God decided to have. This is something that we should remember and mark every year.

But I also realized that people must remember that these are the shadows of things to come and the substance is, of course, Christ. And I always like to illustrate to people when you walk in the street and you see a shadow cast on the floor, you’re not going to—and let’s say it’s a person—

you're not going to go there and talk to him and try to shake the hand of the shadow. You're going to wait for the substance, for the person to approach and then talk to him. And so, what I did, I took each and every one of the festivals, and I broke them into the shadow and the substance. What the festival ordered you to do, and what the fulfillment in Christ was all about. It was phenomenal. It was amazing. It was exactly what Colossians meant. I mean, when Paul wrote it, Paul was well versed. I mean, as a Pharisee, he was well versed as an Orthodox Jew. As a very religious Jew, he knew exactly what each holiday is all about. And he realized that in the Messiah, everything gets the true meaning.

STEVE: Yes, and some of those were fulfilled when Christ walked the earth the first time and some of those will find their fulfillment when He comes back. So it's the entire gamut of festivals, they are all detailed out in this book in just such a fascinating way. But then we moved on to something which, as I thought about it, particularly with *The Israel Decree* just coming out, you look in this book, you look at it really the end times through the opposite lens. *The Israel Decree* looks at Israel and is focused completely on Israel. But this book looks more at the church, specifically the church starting from the rapture and going all the way through the millennium and into the eternal state. Talk a little bit about that, and why that focus on the church is necessary.

AMIR: Well, the Bible says if indeed you were raised with Christ, then seek those things which are above, and not on things on the earth. And things which are above, where Christ is. It's important for us to remind ourselves that first, this is not our place; this is not our home. God has a home for us. But second, while we're still here, we need to seek those things which are above. And of course, it starts with us being taken above. It goes through what we're going to do there during the tribulation on earth. What is it that we're going to do up there? But then what's going

to happen when we come back with Him, and reign and rule with Him for the millennial kingdom before He makes all things new: new heavens and new earth?

So I think it's a journey that we all need to study and hold on to because that's exactly what it means to seek those things which are above, and not those that are on earth, and to remind ourselves daily. Yes, the days are evil. The world is evil. A lot of evil people are around us, but we are not of this world. We're in the world, but not of the world. And we are to remind ourselves certain things: (a) remind ourselves of the price that was paid for us. Every time we meet, we have to do that in His remembrance, of course, in communion. But then, of course, we have to think about the things which are above, I mean, the place that He has prepared for us, the timing for when we are going to be there. When are we coming back with Him? What are we going to do with Him? These are phenomenal things that we must always remind ourselves of. And you know, Steve, mentioning feasts and shadow and substance, as you said, four festivals have been fulfilled already in a timely manner, in a very beautiful sequence that is exactly how it should be. So we're looking forward to the latter three that will happen when we return to Him to see, and it's amazing.

STEVE: Yeah, yeah. And when you talk about the church in this book, and you relate it to the end times, it's specifically the church in the rapture, and there's a chapter talking about the church in the rapture. It's the church during the tribulation. So there's so many books, and you have written a lot about what's going to take place here on Earth during the tribulation. But this chapter talks about the church during the tribulation, what will be taking place with the church, what's it going to look like.

And then it's about the millennial kingdom. And I remember when we first talked about that millennial chapter, it was just going to be one chapter on the millennium. But as we talked about it, it became two chapters on the millennium. And then we talked more about it, it became

three chapters on the millennium. And the treatment of the millennium in this book, I remember back in seminary, I had a book assigned to me on the millennium, and it was a great book. But other than that one book, I don't know that I've seen such a thorough treatment of the millennium as is found in the book of *The Day Approaching*.

AMIR: And the reason is very simple. One of the main missions of Behold Israel is to disseminate the truths of the Bible to people that are not well-versed with the Bible. And the whole aspect of the millennial kingdom and the book of Revelation is being totally ignored and abused by most part of the church. And I think that if only people knew the amazing things that God has for us, not only when He takes us out of here, and we go through the amazing marriage supper, we have the Bema seat of Christ. But then, of course, starting from us returning on those white horses back to this planet in order to reign and rule with Him. You know, right now, we're only ambassadors, but we're going to come back as rulers, as governors. And that which you will govern over is based on your faithfulness now. I mean, everybody wants to do well in their career and to build their future. For us, our faithfulness in the way we serve the Lord right now is going to build our next major role in God's plan for us for 1,000 years. I mean, look how much people go and study just so they can find a job they can keep for 50 years or 40 years or 30 years or 20 years. Our faithfulness now will determine what we do and how we do it and where we are for the 1,000 years millennial kingdom. Wouldn't you want...

STEVE: ...That's job security. That's good job security. [Laughter]

AMIR: It is job security. Exactly. And again, a lot of people don't even understand that the millennial kingdom is a true kingdom. It is 1,000 years. God... if it wasn't, we wouldn't hear about it so many times in so many different places. And we wouldn't read about the description of how life was going to be in so many different parts of the Bible.

STEVE: But Amir, Peter says 1,000 years are as a day, and a day is 1,000 years. So can we really take 1,000 years literally?

AMIR: Absolutely. Because 1,000 years is 1,000 years and a day is a day. You know, for God, it can be the same, but it is 1,000 years. And when He said that we're going to reign, and rule with Him for 1,000 years, it's 1,000 years.

STEVE: It's 1,000 years.

AMIR: That's it. Now, it may feel fast, it may go fast, but it's still 1,000 years, Steve. Otherwise, He wouldn't say that, and He wouldn't continue and mention that over and over again and again. I mean, let's remember the Word of God, every word is important. And when you look into what He says that He's going to do, let's for a change, take it *seriously* and believe Him. Because look at the track record of God and everything He said that He's going to do and the things He's done already, why wouldn't we trust Him to do [it]? Why would we be okay with the parting of the Red Sea or with the whole River Jordan rolling back, and not be okay with us being raptured, and not be okay with us coming back and reign for 1,000 years? Is it a different God? No. So, you know, these are the promises that God wants us to hold on to, to talk about, to study and to ponder on. And only non-spiritual people will run away from it. And that's why he said, "If indeed you were raised with Christ, then seek those things which are above." You need to be a spiritual being, born-again, spirit-filled in order to now seek those things which are above.

STEVE: Yeah. Yeah. You know, you mentioned this was our first book with Harvest House. And that was a sort of a feeling-out process, especially when it came to the book cover. We had some, I think they were getting to know us and we were getting to know them. So that was a bit of a process. But they came up with an idea, and I don't remember how long after it was, after *The Day*

Approaching was released, that they came back with an idea to make a pocketbook from *The Day Approaching*, from a portion of that. And they did that and they called it...

AMIR: ...And that's the *Any Day Now*. That's the *Any Day Now*.

STEVE: That's the *Any Day Now*. That's right. Yeah. That's the *Any Day Now*. And then I think that went into churches and I think it did pretty well. I'm trying to remember.

AMIR: Yeah, I don't remember numbers, but I know that we gave them like hotcakes. I mean, it was just everywhere. We would give them everywhere. It was just a sample from this book, but it was so important. It kind of entice people to say, "I want to know more about this." And then they wanted to read more and get the full book. And then of course, as we always do, Steve, we always write also a workbook, study guide.

STEVE: That's right.

AMIR: Because we believe that reading a book is good, but we want you to go back to the Bible and go deeper and understand that everything here is based on the Scripture. So, with a study guide, the workbook, is the glue between the book and the Bible. It helps you taking what you've read in the book, and connected with what the Bible says. And it's super important. All of our teaching books, all of them have a workbook study guide and it's important. And we are very...

STEVE: Yeah, this isn't the end goal. I mean, there should be an arrow on this and then holding a Bible next to it because there's old [tee] shirts, "I'm with stupid." This is, "I'm with the Bible." Yeah, and that's what this is pointing to. This is all about the Bible. We put these together so that people have an opportunity to get deeper into the Word and learn more about what Scripture says. So I just realized that I should not even have mentioned the "I'm with stupid" thing when I'm referring to the Bible because we're probably going to get comments about that. So, it was just an illustration, folks. I apologize for that.

AMIR: You know you're going to get comments anyway.

STEVE: I'm going to get comments anyway. [Laughter] It's okay. I'm used to that. Boy, you should see some of the reviews. It was a wonderful experience for a second book. And from that point, we moved on to *Israel And The Church* and then came the fiction books. And that's what's brought us to the place that we are now.

AMIR: Yes, and you know, these are milestones, Steve, in the ministry in general and in the book writing in particular. And it seems like every time we think, "Okay, that's it. We've done it." I mean, "This is everything," and then we see that God opens more doors and there's more opportunities and there's more need that we... just like with *Israel Decree*. I mean, the sense that there is such a need for such an important book in such a time like this. And then you just go to the drawing board and you do what you need to do.

A lot of people don't know, Steve, we don't brag about that and talk about that a lot, but Behold Israel is, at least in two different countries, we're buying the books and then giving the books to hundreds of churches for free. In Romania and in Brazil, we have local publishers that we work with, both are Christians, and we just buy from them. We tell them, "We'll pay you to print 20,000 books," for example, "and we don't want you to charge for that, just print them. We'll pay you and then send it to the churches." [STEVE: Pass them out.] And yeah, we love doing that, Steve, because anyone that cannot afford it should not be deprived of the right to read. And also there's a lot of ministries like prison ministries and other niche ministries that we send them boxes upon boxes of books. We really love to see people grow in their knowledge of the Lord, and knowledge of the Word, and understanding of Israel. And that's an important aspect of the ministry.

STEVE: I'm so glad you brought that up because that is our heart behind writing these books. I know from the very beginning, from the time that we first met in H.T.'s kitchen, that was the heart

that you had for writing books. It was to get truth into the hands of people. And that's what this is all about. That's the whole reason for writing these books, is just to communicate truth. We want more and more people to understand who God is, to know His plan of salvation, to know the prophetic timeline that He has laid out, to know that there is hope in Jesus Christ, and that through a relationship with Him, we can spend an eternity with our Lord. That is the whole reason for why we do what we do.

AMIR: And we're very privileged. I cannot thank God enough for having these platforms where our voice can be heard and the books are making a big difference in the lives of so many people.

STEVE: Yeah.

AMIR: Great. Well, listen, here we are. We covered *The Day Approaching* backstory in a way. And we really want to encourage people not just to get that book because again, this book encompasses so many different aspects of the church, between heaven and earth as you said. We talk about the generation that shall not pass away. We talked about quite a few things. And again, if you want a thorough book about the millennial kingdom and about the shadows and the substance of each and every one of the feasts of Israel as prescribed in Leviticus 23, that's the book for you. And we really hope that you guys have enjoyed this *Authors' Corner*. And we encourage you to get not just *The Day Approaching*, but the book that just came out a couple of weeks ago, *The Israel Decree*, a book that we made it smaller, thinner, cheaper. And we want it to go out and make a huge difference in a day and era where so much hatred, so much misinformation, disinformation and propaganda against Israel, and for the most part against God and God's plan. So again, thank you, Steve, for being with us today. And I want to thank everyone for listening and watching. Please [hit the] like, comment, subscribe and share [buttons]. Thank you.

STEVE: Amen.

AMIR: And God bless you from Galilee and from Parker, Colorado. Thank you and God bless.

Bye bye.

STEVE: Bye.

* Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

For all ways to connect with Behold Israel, including media, updates, videos,
and teaching
or the QR code:

<https://linktr.ee/beholdisrael>

