



Amir Tsarfati
Q&A with Pastors Barry Stagner & Mike Golay
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AMIR: Shalom everyone and good evening from CONNECT here in Galilee. I'm Amir Tsarfati and we are together with Pastor Barry Stagner and Mike Golay. We are going to have our regular weekly Q&A program. We haven't done that for quite a

few weeks since I had to travel to the Philippines for private reasons. But it's always good to be back. I mean, I left Israel when it was still a phase of ongoing war here and we could feel it everywhere. But thankfully while I was in the Philippines, the ceasefire agreement has entered into effect and we are more or less back to normal life right now which is why I do not need to warn you that there is a chance that I will have to evacuate to a bomb shelter during this program. Shalom, Pastor Barry and Shalom, Pastor Mike. How are you guys?

BARRY: Doing good, Shalom Amir.

AMIR: Yes, good to see you. I just want to remind you all, folks, tomorrow at the same exact time, there will be a special *Mideast Update* on "Damascus Has Fallen." We are going to tell you everything you need to know about what happened in Syria in the last couple days. And we're going to explain who is who, what is what, and solve this whole mess of rebels and different groups. And of course, we're going to talk about what's next and what even the Bible says. So tune in tomorrow at 6 p.m. Israel time, 8 a.m. Pacific time for a special *Mideast Update* on "Damascus Has Fallen". And, by the way, you may not be able to hear it, but nonstop flights of F-16s [are] in the skies of the Galilee right now. Ever since day and a half ago, Israel is obliterating Syria, and

we're destroying the entire military capabilities that used to be part of the Syrian army. And now we don't want them to fall into the hands of the jihadist rebels. So without further ado, we're going to start with our Q&A. This is all about Bible and also current events. Pastor Barry, would you do us the honor and start with a prayer? And then we'll dive into our Q&A session.

BARRY: I'd love to. Lord, we thank You that



You haven't given us a spirit of fear, but a power, love and a sound mind. And Lord, we can have that stability even in perilous times and watching things unravel around the world and events unfolding right before our eyes. Lord, we thank You that You've told us all things pertaining to life and godliness in advance, so we know where all this is headed. And we thank You, Lord, that You are the one who neither sleeps nor slumbers, but always watches over Israel and You watch over us as well. So we're thankful for that. We pray You direct the questions and the answers today by Your Spirit. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

AMIR: Amen.

MIKE: Amen.

AMIR: So Pastor Mike, the lead is yours.

MIKE: All right. So here's the process for those of you who are new. All you do is you put your first name and put it into the chat and what your question is. And then we have a team looking at those questions and then we will try to get to as many as possible. But please understand with all of the questions coming and the limited time, we can't answer all of them.

So our first question is directed to you, Amir. And that is from Thomas: “Will the dramatic change in Syria bring peace or more turmoil? And do you see any ripple effects for a change in Iran and Lebanon as well?”

AMIR: Oh, it’s a good question. First of all, I’m not a prophet. I come from a nonprofit organization, as you all know. So when it comes to a ripple effect and changes in Iran and Lebanon, time will tell. But what we know biblically, Mike, is that Iran may have suffered a blow right now. And that’s definitely we see the crumbling of the Iranian Shiite axis that meant to strengthen Hezbollah. And now Hezbollah is beaten, and it’s wounded, and it’s almost completely annihilated. And the chances of Hezbollah to actually rearm, regroup and recover are slim because its main pipe of oxygen was from Syria, and now it may not exist anymore.

But I will tell you, Mike, that I do believe that we will see a ripple effect once President Trump enters into office when it comes to peace with other countries, and [will] expand the Abraham Accords to maybe Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and other countries that are eagerly expecting that. But they expect that more than ever now when they see a weak Iran and a much stronger Israel. When it comes to peace, look, let’s make no mistake. Assad may be gone, but jihadist Al Qaeda’s branch is now replacing him. It’s not like we have a Zionist movement that wants to support and love and hug us. These are just people that hate us as much, maybe even more. It’s just that right now in this vacuum between a country that used to be governed by a government with military and recognized in the UN and all that, and now a country that will be ruled by a group of ex-ISIS, ex-Al Qaeda people, I think that Israel is taking advantage of the situation right now in order to redefine the map and redefine the borders and also take care of our own interests. We don’t trust anyone anymore around us and we do what is right for us.

And so I believe that in the long run, Israel is coming out of this war stronger than ever, probably. And that will lead for peace because peace comes from strength. And I believe that you could hear President Trump saying that. You could hear even others are saying that Israel is one of the main reasons Assad's regime has fallen. Because we managed to weaken Hezbollah, weaken Iran, and that's when the rebels decided that it's the right time to make a move and topple the regime. So, I do see peace in the horizon. I'm not sure if Lebanon is going to be bold enough to kick Hezbollah, and then sign peace with us; that I'm not sure. But I will tell you Lebanon is not mentioned in the future war against Israel. So Lebanon might be either at peace with us, or at least passive and neutral, and not choose to join any war against us.

MIKE: Amir, do any of these wars with these different Islamic groups serve the purpose for Israel in any way? I mean...

AMIR: ... Look, first of all, the Islamic world is no longer focusing on Israel. Now they focus back on killing each other, which is good news for us. I mean, we don't want to see any death, of course, but if they kill, at least let them kill each other and not us. I mean, that's our philosophy. And let them fight in their territory or not in ours. So that's it. So in that term, yes, it serves our interest. But we live in the Middle East and we know exactly who we're surrounded by. And we're not going to trust anyone. And Israel is seeking for some solutions that might make our lives easier here, such as convincing the Kurds and the Druze to form their own autonomous areas where we can at least have them on our border and not the Al-Qaeda/ISIS/Jabhat al-Nusra/Hayat Tahrir, al-Sham, all of this. It's the same thing, ideology, same thing, same jihadist.

MIKE: So there's no friends Israel has in any of these groups. They just infight and that's just better for Israel that they do that rather than fight against them. But at the end of the day, they all hate Israel. Is that what you're saying?

AMIR: If you want to kill someone, at least just kill each other and don't kill us.

MIKE: Fair enough. Okay. Yeah. Okay.

Well, this one's for you, Pastor Barry. Janet, we will put her question up there. We've kind of had this in the past, but maybe not as specific. And also, I want to add to this question because I think it's very, very critical. "Can the event since October 7th possibly be part of an Ezekiel 38 reinterpretation? Bless you both for all you're doing." Pastor Barry, let's not look at reinterpretation. Let's look at interpretation and the relevance of this event and what's led up to where we're at now. What is the relationship between Ezekiel 38 and 39 to the events right now?

BARRY: Oh, Mike, I think that if mesh these first two questions together, we can see not only has there been the removal of the Assad regime, but we have to remember there's a military presence of three of the five nations named in the Ezekiel War scenario that are present in every region of the world. This is the primary access point into northern Israel. It is the point from which the hook will be put in the jaw of these invading nations as God draws them down from the north to finish off their efforts as He leaves five-sixths of them, according to the King James Version, of the armies' dead on the mountains of Israel. So absolutely, I think we can see that there are possible ripples in the water from this.

But Mike, I think we have to understand as far as the question goes that we're given very specific details. We have nations that are named under the table of nations back in Genesis chapter 10. We can identify geographic regions of the world. There's no way to allegorize that or there's no reason to reinterpret that. But we do see that Turkey and Russia and the Iranians do have that military presence right now in the very area where Israel is taking out all of these defense mechanisms as well as some of the military hardware that could be used against them. It should have fallen into the hands of Al-Qaeda and ISIS and others.

But it's interesting, Mike, one of the things I think Amir reported this this morning that there was a chemical weapons cache that was struck outside of Damascus. And this is one of the interesting things about what's happening there is I think that, as I think Amir and I would agree, as we've talked about this before, that the potential chronology would be the destruction of Damascus, which would lead to the boldness to engage in the Ezekiel War scenario. So I think with Damascus and the news every day, I think the possible chronology is now maybe advancing as we see the destruction of Damascus, which is a literal event. Isaiah 17:1 says it will cease from being a city. And that doesn't mean there'll be a diplomatic collapse. That means that city is not going to exist anymore. And so, you know, things like this chemical weapons cache that was blown up, could that be magnified? Could Iran try and sneak a nuclear device in, and Israel takes it out, blows up the city, becomes uninhabitable, like Isaiah 17:1 says? I mean, there's numerous scenarios, but I think that [for] one, I don't think we have any reason to reinterpret it. These five nations are going to be drawn down from the north into Israeli territory. God is going to take them out Himself, with flooding rain and earthquake and the hail stones, fire and brimstone. So, I mean, that's what the Bible says, and that's exactly what's going to happen.

MIKE: So let me push back a little bit from some people that say that Damascus has been destroyed and rebuilt in history, therefore it's irrelevant for the end times. What would you say to somebody like that? Of course, that's not what I believe, but that's, you know, the guys that push back always ask that question, Pastor Barry. Has it ever been destroyed to the level of standard that we see in Scripture that you're talking about?

BARRY: It would become uninhabitable. That's never happened. Damascus exists today, so I think the existence of Damascus is the rebuttal to that statement. You know, people want to point back to 689 [BC] and Sennacherib and all these other things. And yes, you know, there are cities

throughout the course of history. I mean, look at Babylon, rise and fall, rise and fall. You've got other cities that have done the same thing, but Damascus will cease from being a city. It will no longer be an inhabitable place. And so that has never happened, and the presence of Damascus right now is proof that it is yet future, and maybe the not-too-distant future.

MIKE: Right. Okay, excellent.

So we come back to you, Amir, from Heinrich. Heinrich is asking this, "Could the current Israeli..." ...where they live and I think that's what you mean, Heinrich, that they "...occupy the Golan Heights?" That's Israeli territory. Okay? Can you talk about that region, its importance? He would like to learn: What is the Golan Heights? Why is it important? Is it an occupation there? What is that?

AMIR: First of all, throughout history, this was part of the half-tribe of Manasseh. Okay, let's make it very clear. It's part of the tribal allotment of the Israelite tribes. We have found there, I mean, we found there tons of synagogues and Jewish villages to testify of Jewish presence there throughout the years. It's just that the Sykes-Picot agreement towards the end of World War I, I mean, the British and the French foreign ministers decided to carve out the remains of the Ottoman Empire and divide them between themselves. And they just took a ruler and a pen and just divided it. So it left the Golan Heights as part of the future state of Syria that the French will help govern until it's ready for independence. And so in a way, it was artificially given to Syria, but it has rich Jewish heritage there.

Now we never tried to take it. It's the Syrians that actually kept attacking us down by the Sea of Galilee every day while they were there. And that is why in 1967, Israel ended up taking it to stop the harassment and aggressions that were coming from that area. And in 1980 and '81, the Prime Minister Menachem Begin basically declared the Golan Heights to be Israeli territory. We

annexed it and the Israeli law is now being enforced there and that's it. We have multiple civilian settlements and towns and villages throughout that area. And if I'm not mistaken, throughout the first term of President Trump, he recognized the Golan Heights as Israeli territory. So it's no longer anything occupied, but it's actually Israeli territory. It has been recognized by America. It has been annexed by Israel, and it has a rich Jewish heritage. And it is also biblically part of the tribe of Manasseh.

So, I mean, all of that, all of the above can tell you that we have no plan to ever, you know, give it to anyone. Now you can imagine if Israel would have *ever* given the Golan Heights back to Syria, we would be finding Al-Qaeda and ISIS right now on the other side of Sea of Galilee right now. And that would have been the reality once Assad fell. So thankfully, the Israeli leadership got back to its senses and we are governing there. We're ruling there, we settle there, we live there. It's part of our territory.

And by the way, as a reward to President Trump's recognition, there is a new village on the Golan Heights that is called Trump's Heights. So, I mean, this is it. It's an Israeli territory and it is part of the state of Israel. I know on the maps of the Arabs, it's still called occupied Golan. But you know, for them, the entire country of Israel is occupied by us. [BARRY: Right] I mean, for them, this is not even ours. So, I, you know, especially after October 7th we don't care what they say anymore. I mean, you know, as far as they're concerned, we should be out of here. And as far as we're concerned, we are not moving anywhere.

MIKE: Yeah, is there a strategic advantage of having the Golan Heights?

AMIR: Absolutely.

MIKE: Is there a topographical land that gives an advantage to either Syria or Israel based on its geography? Is there any?

AMIR: Yes. The Golan Heights is a high plateau. And on top of the Golan Heights, there are several volcanoes, non-active volcanoes that are. So, from the Golan Heights plateau, you can actually overlook the Sea of Galilee when you look down towards the west, but from the Golan Heights volcanoes, you can actually look towards the east and see Damascus and the plains of Syria over there. So it's strategically super important. And this is it, Mike. It's our place and we'll keep it.

MIKE: Thank you for that question, Heinrich.

Coming back to you, Pastor Barry. Darlene, let's put your question up there. This one, I don't think it's enough treatment. And it becomes a puzzle for people to figure out. And it's a lot of people don't know how to think about this: "Why must there still be sin and death in the Millennial Kingdom?" And I think what Darlene's really asking here is, "If Jesus comes as the ruling king, shouldn't there kind of be a heavenly, everybody has perfect bodies, end of the age?" Why a millennium and why sin, Pastor?

BARRY: Well, Mike, I think we have to remember that there are unglorified human beings that enter into the millennial reign of Christ on earth. And yes, at the initial point of entry, so to speak, everybody's going to be a believer. The dividing of the sheep and the goats will have happened. And everyone who enters into the millennium, including those who are still in a normal unglorified human body, will go into the millennium, have children. And everybody has to make a conscious decision for Christ. And some of those, as you can tell, the heart of man is deceitful and exceedingly wicked because of what happens at the end of the millennial reign of Christ, where the world is ruled in perfect righteousness and fair judgment for a thousand years. And at first opportunity, when Satan is released for a short time, he deceives a multitude that's like the sands of the sea in number, and they rebel against God and the Lord and in very severe finality destroys

him. And then we have the great white throne judgment. I think anytime you have unglorified human beings who are not experiencing what 1 John 3:2 says, that when we see Him, we'll be like Him, we shall see Him as He is. Anytime you have unglorified human beings, you're going to have sin, you're going to have death. And I think one of the things we need to recognize, I like to describe it as the world returning to an Eden-like condition because we're told the animosity between the animal and the human kingdom is going to come to an end. The child will play on the viper's hole and a child shall lead these predatory animals. And lots of descriptive phrases telling us that things are going to be, as God, at least to a degree, initially intended in the beginning with the exception of there being death because of the presence of sin.

But Mike, I think the whole millennium thing kind of rounds out the package from the perspective of God. And in a sense, it justifies great white throne judgment. Because here you have Jesus ruling and reigning. Everything is going to be fair. There'll be no judicial activism or politicizing. It will just be fairness and righteousness by the Creator of the universe Himself ruling on the earth. And yet men will choose the devil in the end. And therefore, God has come at humankind from every direction. He gave them one ordinance in the garden, "Stay away from the tree." They ate of the tree. He gave them, called out a specific people, gave them 613 ordinances and commands. And they violated God's law.

And then, here you've got this age of grace and what happens? Well, things return to the way they were in the days of Noah. And God has done everything He can to reach humanity. And humanity once and time again have shown that they'd rather do their own thing and reject the goodness of God. So, the answer to the question, "Why sin and death?" There are human beings, and they are not in a glorified state. And that's why there'll be sin. And the wages of sin is still death.

MIKE: So they have a perfect government with imperfect people and even that, what I heard you say, after a thousand years of a perfect government and ruler, many still choose Satan at the very end. Isn't that amazing? It shows you how strong the sinful nature is, even without the devil. And then once you reintroduce the devil at the end, it's amazing how people run to evil.

AMIR: In fact, the largest rebellion against God will be at the end of the millennial kingdom. I mean, you would imagine... And that's the thing, God has never created robots, Mike. Either you're saved and have a glorified body and then you're not sinning anymore, or you're just a human being that is capable of sin and, of course, the wages thereof. But robots are not part of God's creation. They're man's invention.

MIKE: Wow, yeah, that's so true. So true. All right, Amir, are you ready for this one? Sue, "Why did the Syrian president go to Russia?" Ah, you know, why did he go? Why didn't he stay like the Ukrainian president? What's he doing there? I mean...

AMIR: Well, Mike, Russia obviously is hosting Assad because Russia has interests in Syria. I mean, as you know, Russia has a major airbase and a major port. And Russia also wants fat contracts to rebuild Syria. And Russia wants influence. And above all, Russia wants a stake in the [natural] gas and the oil in the region as well. So all of that to say that Russia doesn't want to lose its influence. Assad needed help; Russia came to help him. And for that, Assad allowed the Russians to do simply and literally whatever they wanted in Syria. And you know, that's it. Now Assad's wife is undergoing medical treatments for her cancer in Moscow anyway. So, they just... And that's why they said they accepted him for humanitarian reasons. That's what they said. He received asylum for humanitarian reasons. That's what he says.

MIKE: So what you're saying is that Assad is good friends with Russia. And that happens to be part of these whole prophetic things. So Russia is involved in Syria and the whole region, very much so is what I'm hearing you say.

AMIR: Way into the civil war when Assad was almost toppled, he needed help, and help came from Russia, and later on Iran as well. And so in exchange, he allowed them to have influence and basically almost to do whatever they want. So Russia wanted, of course, to keep its airbase and seaport and wait for the fat contracts to rebuild Syria. While the Iranians had something else in mind. They wanted to create a whole axis, a whole... we call it the crescent that will lead weapons from Iran via Iraq, via Syria into Lebanon to arm Hezbollah. And so for Iran, it was a perfect thing. For Russia, it was perfect. And for Assad, they kept him in power. But now Russia is busy in Ukraine, Iran's crown jewel Hezbollah is almost gone. And so that's why nobody came to help him, and he had to flee, and his regime fell.

MIKE: Wow, excellent, excellent information.

Pastor Barry, this is actually Ray's question. But Ginger, sorry, this is I chose to go with Ray's approach to this. Ginger was asking how close are we to the rapture and Ray is asking what's next in the eschatological events. So with Ray's, I think we can expand a little bit. Pastor Barry, prophetic timeline, where are we at and what is the next thing to happen? We talked about Damascus, the Ezekiel War, where's the rapture fit in all of this puzzle? Can you shed light on any of this for what's next in the prophetic eschatological event, any event coming we could expect?

BARRY: Well, I think we need to preface any answer with this is maybe a calculated speculation. We don't know the timing of the rapture of the church. But I think there is a potential, and please hear me say "potential" chronology of events. I think that we can see the destruction of Damascus. I think that this could be the fuse lit to the powder keg of the Middle East and see the Ezekiel War

invasion. I do not think that we will be here for the end of the Ezekiel War because it is divine wrath, it brings it to an end, which is specific to the tribulation period. And I think in between the start of the Ezekiel War and the wrath of God bringing that war to an end, which I believe, would open the door for the lawless one to allow for the third temple to be rebuilt. I think somewhere in there you could see the rapture of the church.

Now, we could see the rapture of the church before the end of this program. So I don't want to say anything definitive, but I think that's a potential chronological order of how things are going to unfold eschatologically. And I think the best part about that is that someday there's going to be an event that we're all longing for that happens in a moment and a twinkling of an eye, and we're going to be out of here. And then everything is going to unfold in whatever order God has ordained. But I think just looking at things culturally and the things we've watched develop of late, it is possible that the church could still be here when Damascus is destroyed. The church could still be here when the Ezekiel War starts. But as I said, because of how the Ezekiel War ends, I think we have to be taken out of the way by then. And that will allow for the lawless one to be revealed, and he will rise up from the geographic area, the Pax Romana, the Roman Peace, Rome, and at its zenith, and he will come out with a plan. Revelation 6:2 shows him with a covenant in his hand in order to bring about this pseudo-peace and allow for the Jews to rebuild their temple. And, you know, the rest of the events that unfold there, including the midpoint where he commits the abomination of desolation, declares that he is god. And at that point in time, the Jews are told to run. Don't go back in the house, get out. God is a place prepared for them where He's going to watch over them. But I think as it pertains to the church, we can go home at any moment in time. But it's possible that the chronology I laid out could happen. Maybe not. I don't know. But I think it is a possibility.

MIKE: Yeah. Thank you for being honest and not trying to smokescreen and appear to be the know-it-all. We appreciate that about you. And there are many mysteries of Scripture that we simply just do not have definitive answers.

There is one that there is an anonymous question for you, Amir. This is a very good question. A lot of people are fascinated. “What does the movement of Messianic Judaism look like in Israel now? And did it change through this war?” How has the war impacted the Messianic Jews? The Jewish believers is the way we probably would refer to them otherwise.

AMIR: Well, first of all, the war affected everyone. Any person that is a citizen of Israel, and especially if he’s a Jew, and we’ve been targeted here, all of us went through the same thing. So I wouldn’t say that the local congregations in Israel had it different than the rest of the people of Israel. But the good thing is that we do have faith and hope. And we know the end of the book, okay? But to tell you that the Messianic body here had a different experience, I will not tell you that. We’re still human beings. We still go through the same things everybody else goes [through], the same anxieties and the same stress and the same, sometimes, even fear. I mean, when rockets are flying over you and explode all around you, it doesn’t matter to what congregation you belong to or if you are an Orthodox Jew or a Messianic Jew. I mean, it is scary. I do believe, Mike, that there is a greater openness among Israelis for spiritual things. I do believe that.

MIKE: Right.

AMIR: But I’m not convinced though that it’s all channeled towards a search for the Messiah in the right places. If anything, I can see great exodus from secularism towards Orthodox Judaism. Because they’re now, if you’re attacking me for being a Jew, I might as well be a Jew and for them being a Jew or acting like a Jew or living like a Jew is Orthodox Judaism. They don’t know anything better than that. But Mike, God is still working in amazing ways. And we see His hand.

The miracles that we are experiencing here in the last year and two months are *unbelievable*. Combining, all the countries/the areas that attacked us, I mean, more than 50,000 rockets and drones were flying towards Israel. And we're still standing, I mean, stronger than ever, the strongest economy ever, victorious and restored our deterrence. And it's miracles, Mike, miracles upon miracles. Now, do we bury soldiers? We do. Do we have incidents where even civilians are getting hit? Yes. But if you take the potential death that could have come with everything that they launched towards us and what we actually did have, it's one of the greatest miracles of the last, I don't know, 1,000 years or so. It's unbelievable. And so we also...

MIKE: ... Yeah. Has this deepened people's faith? Is there a growth in the congregations because of this? Do you see any of that?

AMIR: Well, no... I don't know. I don't have reports of whether the congregations are growing. But I do know that it is something that the locals noticed. And they definitely... But remember, Mike, whenever Israel sees miracles and eventually there is a divine victory, many times we fall into the search for messianic aspirations and there is a movement towards God, but they choose the religious path.

And that's why I believe that even in the Ezekiel War, which is going to be a much more terrible war, it's not Hamas and Hezbollah, it's Russia, it's Turkey, it's Iran, it's huge. Even then when God is going to win, I believe that it eventually will result with messianic aspirations that will cause them to choose the Antichrist. Because again, the blindness and the search for a figure that brings peace and stability, and security and prosperity will be channeled to the wrong place. So we continue to pray, just like in 2 Corinthians when he talks about when one turns to Christ, the veil is taken and removed. But until then, every one that does so, it's a miracle by itself. So I

don't see a huge revival right now if you're asking, that's the question. But one at a time, Mike, and God is good.

MIKE: Yeah, thank you. That's very, very, very good information.

Also, Pastor Barry, this is another one with no name, but I think it's a really good question. Can you talk to us about this? "Is it possible that the Iranian people will have a chance to raise up against the regime for their freedom?" Can you talk to us about the difference between the Iranian government and the Iranian people and what each of them wants and how we should be paying attention to that?

BARRY: Yeah, Mike, we've seen efforts in the past for this to happen, and we've seen the strong hand of the Iranian regime turn against their own people. As we see with many administrations around the world, their primary goal is not the care of the people, but to remain in power. And as we watch, especially some of these movements where some of the women in Iran are protesting the forced wearing of the-hijab, the modesty police enforcing the wearing of the veil over the head, and they're not showing you the hair and these other things. We've seen the oppression that these people are experiencing. And Mike, I don't know that there's enough strength among the people to rise up. But what I do know is the Iranian people, just a general everyday citizen, wants to live life just like everybody else. The unemployment rate amongst young people between, I think it's 20 and 45, is something like 35%. And so, there are no jobs, there's no work, and they're [the Iranian government is] funneling money off to places like Hamas and Hezbollah and leaving their own people destitute. So it really exposes what those in power in the Iranian regime are all about. They're all about maintaining their position, couldn't care less about the people, and I don't know that the people have within themselves, not necessarily the resolve, but the ability to overthrow this regime. We've got the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, I think, that is willing to turn on

their own people. And this, I can't think of her name, Amini, I think was her first name, this 22-year-old gal that was beaten.

AMIR: Mahsa Amini.

BARRY: Yes, yes, that was beaten to death by those in places of power, the modesty police, because she showed her hair, wasn't wearing her hijab properly. So, you know, you've got really just evil to a degree—that I don't think we understand in Western culture—oppressing of people who are somewhat helpless. And, you know, that's been some of the efforts of the U.S. is to stir up a revolution amongst the people in order to overthrow this regime. But I don't know that there's the wherewithal within the people to do that, because they're so limited in what they can do now. But this we do know that they are going to be destroyed in the Ezekiel War scenario. No question about that. So, you know, right now, I don't know.

MIKE: Do you think that if Iranians were armed with guns, kind of like the Second Amendment for the United States, do you think that would make any difference? Would that reveal the resolve of the people, or do you think they would just accept the government and live under its tyranny?

BARRY: No. I think that would change things in a lot of countries, not just Iran. But basically, that's step number one when you've got an oppressive regime is to disarm the people. And you've got these—And that's kind of my point is the people are helpless in that sense unless it's just some kind of covert op to take weapons from the Revolutionary Guard Corps. You know they have no access to it. It's not like you can go down to the gun store and purchase weapons like you can in this country. So, I think it would make a huge difference because people are... if you look back to, you know, pre-Revolution times and look at some of the footage of the streets of Iran and Syria for that matter in that same timeframe, it looks like Los Angeles.

AMIR: And Lebanon.

BARRY: Yeah, very modern dress. It looks like Westernized culture. Well, Turkey was the same too back before Erdogan came to the power. [MIKE: Interesting] You know, the people are largely beyond oppressed. They're prisoners in their own country in a very real sense.

MIKE: Wow. Yeah, appreciate that. Amir, we're going to move to...

AMIR: ... Yeah, I just want to say that as in the last 24 hours, the rebels in Syria managed to— The first thing they do, they run and open prisons and prison cells and release all of the prisoners. And one of the most infamous prisons is in the outskirts of Damascus. They found people that have not seen daylight in 40 years. I mean, you can imagine...

MIKE: ... 40 years, wow.

AMIR: Women's prison with children, they have not seen daylight. And my point is that they are not as strong to fight other countries. But they're strong enough to oppress their own people.

MIKE: So evil, huh?

AMIR: And that's very evil. Yes, yeah.

MIKE: So evil. Yeah, speaking of evil, Josie has a question. "According to Ezekiel 38 verses 1 through 6, Magog, Russia, will need help acquiring the land of Israel and will form a confederation of nations—which we've talked about—Iran, Turkey, Libya and Sudan: what's the role of European nations, Amir, in the Ezekiel War? And can you expand that to include Sheba and Dedan?"

AMIR: Yeah, "Sheba and Dedan" is the Saudi Arabian Peninsula. It's not Europe. If anything, it's the merchants of Tarshish that might be indicating more of the European. And then the young lions of Tarshish, which again, there are speculations of that being UK or US. But the one thing is for sure, Mike, the Antichrist is going to rise from Western Europe. Which means that the Ezekiel War will be conducted by an evil coalition that wants to annihilate Israel while Western Europe

will produce the man of peace but yet it's the son of perdition to bring about an end to that war and pseudo-peace that will come after that one. So I mean, Europe has its role in producing something super evil.

But as far as the war is concerned, I'm of the opinion that it's not exactly going to be a European attack on Israel rather than just Russia leading Muslim countries against Israel and by doing so, bringing an end to radical Islam. And again, the Europeans will introduce a new world leader with a new world religion that will gladly accept all those confused and embarrassed moderate Muslims that are all around. So again, I don't think Europe is part of the attacking coalition against Israel, but it's definitely going to observe, protest and later on produce the Antichrist.

MIKE: But yeah, so you believe the Antichrist then obviously is coming from somewhere in Europe, any specific country or region?

AMIR: No, I believe that this is the old, you know, the old new Roman Empire, which is as Pastor Barry says, the Pax Romana. And so it's Western Europe. And that's enough for me. Look, Mike, we don't know every detail. And thankfully, when it comes to the rise of the Antichrist, we really don't need to know because we're not going to be here to see him rising. Because his rise marks the beginning of the tribulation, which is not for us anyway. So, you know, all I know is that we know specifically which nations will be part of the coalition of Ezekiel 38. And we also know that there's a good chance that if the merchants of Tarshish are Western Europe, then of course, they will protest this invasion into Israel and war and not be part of it.

MIKE: Well, you just answered Amber's question embedded within Josie. So that was a two-for-one on that one. Pastor Barry, Lisa has a question about the rapture and glorified bodies. "When

we get raptured and get glorified bodies, will children still be children or what age will we be?”
It’s a very interesting question.

BARRY: It is, Mike, and I can answer that definitively: I don’t know.

MIKE: I appreciate the honesty.

BARRY: I don’t know what age they are going to be. What age was Adam when he was created? I don’t know. But you know, what seems to be implied is that we are going to, because we are going to rule and reign with Christ, that we are going to be of an age, probably in our 30s or so, somewhere around there. And we will be ageless is one thing that will be for certain. But I think we have to be mature enough to take the responsibilities of ruling and reigning with Christ. So I think we’ll be adults. And yeah, that’s a really interesting question. And I don’t know. It doesn’t seem to make sense that, you know, if you got saved at 10 years old, when you get raptured, you’re going to be 10 years old for all of eternity. And it seems more logical that there will be... we’ll all be probably the same age or thereabouts, at least in physical appearance. But again, we will be immortally incorruptible, and we’ll live forever from that point in time and forever be with the Lord.

AMIR: With hair.

BARRY: So just like likely it would be at an adult age.

AMIR: We’re going to have hair.

BARRY: Yeah, with hair. Absolutely! I’ve got my order placed already. [Laughing]

MIKE: So basically, if we’re all honest, even as adults, there’s so much we don’t know so much growth. And I guess you could pick anybody at any age and to be in the presence of God in a perfect body is a massive upgrade for anybody, whether it’s maturity or literal biological body. I think that’s a good answer. I think I appreciate that. And I believe that that really settles it.

Amir, and we only will see how much time we have left. We're coming up on the hour, gentlemen. Isaiah 53, Kate is asking—and by the way, this is one of the, this is the book that really triggered you to come to faith, Amir. “What is the best way to put Isaiah 53 into view? The Orthodox skip over this, but many have come to Messiah, including you, that read it.” And can you expand on this, too, in terms of how the Jews interpret it as being the people of Israel as the suffering servant, as opposed to *the* suffering servant as the Messiah that gives His life for the people. Can you unpack that at all for us?

AMIR: First of all, even if they skip that chapter it is still in the Bible. I mean, you can skip as much, whatever you want, but it's in the Bible. It's not like it's not in the Bible. So anyone that reads the Bible, anyone that reads the book of Isaiah will eventually make it to Isaiah 53 and read it for himself. I mean, the entire chapter is speaking of a suffering Messiah, a suffering servant of the Lord, that will die for not for things that He did, but for the sake of the atonement and the healing of everyone else. Okay? I don't think Israel has died for the sake of the sins of everyone else. If anything, the writer Isaiah says all of us have gone astray. In other words, he counts himself as those that Messiah had to die for. Obviously, we're not talking about Israel dying, but the Messiah dying *for* the sins of Israel and the whole world. So, you have to understand that people have a hard time with the concept of a suffering Messiah. Because in the mind of the Jewish people, the Messiah has to come and rule and reign. He has to come as a king, riding a horse, all of that. Whereas in reality, the Bible says that the first coming He will be riding a donkey and will come as a suffering servant. And He will not come for judging, but for actually atoning sins. And that's it. The second coming is a different story. Now there's another aspect of Isaiah 53's prophecy. We like to think that Jesus was a Swedish hippie, you know, long blonde hair and blue eyes and he was handsome.

MIKE: Yeah, sure.

AMIR: You know, whereas in reality, if you read Isaiah very well in 53rd chapter, it says that we did not esteem Him and His looks we did not even desire. He did not even have a desired look. Nothing in Jesus was attractive in the flesh and in the worldly sense. Okay? And the problem is that the world doesn't understand how to interpret attraction to someone like that. So the default is always to paint Him as an attractive person physically. But again, He came riding a donkey. He actually wept when He saw Jerusalem, if you remember. And I don't think His looks were half as what most artists would depict. And remember, He came to die, not to reign in His first coming. Die, of course, and resurrect. But the point, Mike, is that all of that is foreign to the Jewish mindset because we've been told only the other half, which is of His second coming as if that's the only coming. And the problem is, you know, when you reach Isaiah 53, then you have to ask yourself, "Wait a minute. What is this?" And you start scratching your head. And then you start scrambling and coming up with some other interpretation that don't really make sense.

So, if you have to be honest with [yourself] and read it the way Isaiah wrote it, you understand there's actually a suffering Messiah that first came to provide atonement and the solution for sin. And then one day He will return as the reigning King. And He will come to judge the world, not to die and bring a solution for the sin. So, it's all here in the Old Testament. You know, Mike, I came to faith without even reading a single verse in the New Testament. It's there. He is in here. He's through from Genesis all the way, you know, through the Law and the writings and the Prophets, and in the Psalms. He's everywhere, Mike. And we just have to read. We just have to believe.

MIKE: Read the full Scriptures. And we have literally two minutes left. I need...

BARRY: Can I just come in, Mike, really quick?

AMIR: Yes, please.

MIKE: Yeah.

BARRY: You know, it's interesting that you mentioned this, as we often hear it referred to as a forbidden chapter. You know, Israel throughout Scripture is referred to in the feminine, the woman. And we see that even in Revelation, the woman and the 12 stars and all that. But if you read through Isaiah 53, the pronouns are all male, masculine. It's He, Him, He, Him, He.

MIKE: Interesting.

BARRY: So to come to this interpretation that this is national Israel, it doesn't fit the rest of the Bible. So I think maybe the enemy has inspired some rabbis down through the ages to say, just skip that chapter. Because when you get into it, and I'm sure many people have seen some of these man on the street videos. There's one guy in particular who reads it to Jews on the streets in Israel in Hebrew, and then asks in English, who is this talking about? And it's interesting how many of them say, "Well, I don't know, but it sounds like that's what happened to Yeshua." And they mentioned Jesus.

MIKE: Isn't that amazing?

BARRY: So again, you know, you really have to not want it to say what it says to ignore the content there because it will lead to Yeshua.

AMIR: I just want to remind everyone that Pastor Barry and myself answered many, many more questions. And we compiled them in a book called *Bible Prophecy, the Essentials*. So you can have this QR code and you can order it if you want. It's literally covering, I don't know, 80, 70 questions that are...

BARRY: 70 questions.

AMIR: 70 questions in different categories, different topics. Highly recommended.

Thank you, guys. It was amazing as always, I want to remind everyone that tomorrow, exactly at the same time, there will be a special *Mideast Update* on “Damascus Has Fallen.” You really want to be there. You really want to watch and maybe even share so you can understand what exactly is going on in Syria and here in the Middle East. Until then, I want to thank you, Pastor Mike, for moderating this. Thank you, Pastor Barry, for being with us today. I want to thank everyone for watching our Q&A. Please not only watch it, but share. It’s one click on one button and you will make many people happy by sharing the Word, sharing answers to questions that people have. Thank you again. God bless you. And Shalom from Galilee.

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

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