



Amir Tsarfati

Let's Connect: Pastor Bob and Becky Kopeny

<https://youtu.be/4YMDSe5NLAo>



AMIR: Shalom everyone and welcome to *Let's Connect*. Today we have some very, very dear friends that I've gotten to know since actually 28 years ago. It was the year 1998, I think, and it was winter in Jerusalem and I was a substitute tour

guide at the time that happened to find himself stuck in a hotel while it snowed in Jerusalem. And the group couldn't leave the perimeter of that hotel and I was asked to speak to the group. And on that very group, which was a group of pastors of Calvary Chapel from all across the United States, on that group I met Pastor Bob and Becky Kopney. Shalom Pastor Bob, Shalom Becky.

BOB: Shalom. Good to be here with you.

AMIR: Thank you. And we look the same. I mean, literally 28 years and it's like time has stopped.

[Laughter]

BOB: For you.

AMIR: Actually, I think you even look better. [Laughter] For me, I'm not sure, but well, trust me. I always tell people, "Put your picture from 20, 30 years ago next to you and you'll know that you're dying." But in our case, it's different.

BOB: Yeah.

AMIR: Of course. Anyway, so you're in Israel, obviously, you're here in Galilee, beautiful view. So what are you doing here? I mean, it's in the middle of a war. You're in Israel, have you lost something or what?

BOB: Yeah, we did not get to come for three years, well, it's been three years since we were last here. And our people at our church had been begging to go. So this is something we wish we could do every year and never have to take a break. If you guys stop all the messing around with the other countries, we'd be here every year. But we're grateful to be back.



AMIR: And but you know that it's been like that for almost forever. I mean, Israel since 1948 is used to rounds and wars and all of that. But obviously, we all feel like this one is different.

BOB: Wow, let's pray that it is—You know, for us, we look forward to coming because every time we get to bring a new group of people, the vast majority of people on this tour have never been here. They've dreamed about it, they've prayed about it, they've saved for it and now they're about to come in today and I can't wait to see their faces.

AMIR: And you guys are from Anaheim, California and tell me a little bit about the church.

BOB: So the church started in my home, in our home in 1985. I was a police officer and Pastor Chuck invited us to start a Calvary Chapel in Placentia, which is a suburb of Anaheim. And so we continued to do that on Sunday nights. The church started to grow, and I left law enforcement to go full time. So it's been 40 years since the church began and we've been in Anaheim for the last 20 some.

AMIR: Wow, 40 years for you.

BECKY: Yeah.

AMIR: Were you born there in Southern California? Are you originally from there?

BECKY: I was actually born in Brazil.

AMIR: Really?

BECKY: Yeah.

AMIR: Okay. And what led you to...

BECKY: My parents were with Mission Aviation Fellowship. My dad was a bush pilot in Brazil.

AMIR: Wow.

BECKY: So I was born there. But they...

AMIR: ... What part of Brazil were you born?

BECKY: Cuiaba, Mato Grosso. It's right in the middle of South America. If you put your finger right in the middle. So, but then he was called to be in the administrative staff of MAF in Fullerton.

So I grew up in West Anaheim from the time I was two and a half.

AMIR: And how did you guys meet?

BOB: Okay, that's the...

AMIR: Is there an agreed version of the...

BECKY: ...Is there a short version? I don't know.

BOB: We actually met at the church that I had gotten saved at and her parents were attending in Placentia called Calvary Church of Placentia, old church built in 1926, and a solid Bible teaching church. And I had grown up in the faith there. My parents didn't attend but my friend who led me come to the Lord was there. And so we were attending. And I met her. I was involved in a college ministry. She was college age. And my job was to try to have a net by the door to get college age kids to stay. And so that's how we first...

AMIR: So you caught her in your net.

BOB: Sort of. Sort of, not really. We just said hi. And three years then passed. And a very interesting story but the Lord put on my heart her out of the blue. I was attending Biola at the time,

Talbot (School of Theology) actually. And I was on my way there and I remembered her name and I remembered that she worked at the local library. I was in my car. It had been three years. And I hardly met her that day. But I thought, I wonder if she's still working at the little library here, went in, and sure enough she was. And that's how we reconnected.

AMIR: Wow. Amazing. And been inseparable since.

BOB: Yeah, the Lord did an amazing work then to show us that He wanted us together. It was a miracle story.

AMIR: And you have how many kids?

BOB: Well ...

BECKY: Three boys.

AMIR: Okay.

BECKY: All grown. 42, 40, and 36.

AMIR: Wow. And grandchildren?

BECKY: Six.

AMIR: Six grandchildren.

BECKY: Six grandkids. Yeah.

AMIR: Now, you know, for me, you're the ultimate optimistic people. I mean, regardless of what's going on with the world in general, with your life in more particular, you're always keeping yourself with that hope and with that smile. And you don't let people really see it on you. What's your secret? How do you do that? Because I'm a Middle Eastern, I'm Israeli, I'm very emotional. You can never go wrong, looking at my face, you know if I'm angry, if I'm going through something. But it's amazing how you guys were always, for me, and I've known you for almost 30 years, you've always been like an island of sanity and peace. And what is it? Obviously, we

can always say it's the Lord, and of course, but more so, how do you— is that just your character, or do you also find yourself in a place where it's hard?

BOB: Absolutely do. Yeah, the last thing in the world I believe in for myself in any way is wanting to be fake about, “Oh, I’m not affected by my circumstances, or I don’t hurt, or I don’t worry.” I’m human, I have all those emotions. And it’s not that I hide them, but the Lord does give grace, I do believe, for every believer to go through whatever He allows. And there is—I don’t know how to explain it, but I have noticed, we have gone through some pretty heavy stuff as a church and as a family. But God has given grace to believe He’s got an answer for it, and every time He has shown us a way through it. So I do give Him credit for being my rock. It’s not me, and it’s not that I want to pretend to be okay when I’m not. I really do believe that— yeah, I don’t know how to answer it exactly why my personality is that way. But I have— I’ve had other people say that too, and I want to trust if there’s something healthy in that, it’s the Lord. But the last thing I want to pretend is we don’t have problems, or we don’t have struggles. We have just as many as anybody does.

AMIR: But every time, even when you go through stuff and when, as a friend, you share with me, I still see you showing up. And it does not affect your, and both of you, your worship and time with the flock and with the Lord.

BOB: I have to say this, those times for me drive me deeper. I sense when things are tough, and they have been, as you know, and many people who know us know, when you go through those really deep valleys, that’s when worship takes on a whole new meaning. That’s when prayer becomes so rich. That’s when my faith really— I like the old story of the guy one man said was friendly, said, “I’ve gone through such a hard time, it’s enough for a man to *lose* his faith.” And the other one said, “No, it’s enough for a man to *use* his faith.” And if anything, the Lord has

shown Himself so strong in those times. I love what Jon Corson used to say that when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in the fiery furnace, Jesus shows up to where they didn't even want to leave. There's something about suffering, there's something about difficulties that if you're trusting the Lord, you find Him there. And it's not that you prefer the hard times, but you discover Him in them in ways that are unique, I think. [BECKY: For sure.]

AMIR: Often time, I'm reminded of the fact that God said that the best time He had with Israel was actually in the desert. And literally, that's when they were totally depending on Him, and He loved it the most. That's the betrothal time. [BOB: Sure, yeah.] And so, I mean, I exactly feel the same, but let's get back to why you're here. I want to land... and we'll go more later on on what it means to be a pastor nowadays in this day and age, what is it that you guys think about America nowadays? It's a different country than what it was 40 years ago. And we will also try and encourage people to look at the things that are available for us today and take them and use them for the glory of God.

So, we'll do that, but let's go now to you're in a war zone, basically. I mean, right here, right behind you, a rocket fell just, I don't know, a year ago. We witnessed from this balcony behind you interceptors fired from our side towards Hezbollah rockets and Iranian rockets and Houthi rockets. And this was a very active war zone up until not long ago. And yet there's a special connection that you guys have with this country that brings you back here. What is the connection that you feel that you have, and how do you explain it?

BOB: So of course, there's that pastor's attitude that says, "So much of the Bible happened here, and I want to know more about what happened here firsthand so I can better be able to explain my Bible." And there's that part that says, "I want other people to have the Holy Land experience." That was my first interest and experience in coming.

But over the years, it's become so much different. My future in God's economy is here. I tell people this all the time, they think I'm joking. I don't go to Israel just to see where my Bible happened. I go to Israel to see where my Bible is happening right now. So many Christians don't know what's happened in their lifetime here. And I want to educate them about that. But I tell them this, it's where our future is. I'm 68. I don't know how many years I'll get in this body. But I'm going to live with the Lord ruling in Jerusalem for a thousand years. So I tell people, "I go to where I'm going to live. This is my future and it's not just some mystical thing. This is really what I believe." There's a relationship between the church and Israel that is beautiful, that is God-ordained. We need to understand it. We need to appreciate it. We need to learn from it. We need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the salvation of God's people. He calls us to do that. It's a privilege. And so to me, there's something very authentic and empowering about a Christian coming here to understand our spiritual roots, our spiritual present, and our spiritual future.

AMIR: And you brought your children along the way. And when was it, the last time that one of them came? Was it your youngest?

BECKY: Yes.

AMIR: And I think he even was with his fiancé here before he even got married.

BECKY: Yes, in 2020.

AMIR: In 2020.

BECKY: Yeah, we came to Israel in 2020.

AMIR: Yeah, I remember. Was that the last time?

BOB: No, we were here in 2023.

BECKY: Yes, that's when.

AMIR: You were here in 2023. Actually, you were one of the last tours. 2023?

BECKY: Yes.

AMIR: Okay. Okay, so that's the year the war started.

BOB: That's right.

AMIR: Yeah. And I remember also you were one of the last tours before COVID hit.

BOB: We were. We barely got home and COVID had not quite spread there, but we went through Paris, and they were already marching in the streets because the museum was shut down, the Louvre—anyway, it was just breaking out at the time.

AMIR: I mean, I'm thinking back at the last six years, literally, exactly, six years back and we've gone through a lot. This whole world has gone through a lot.

BOB: It has.

AMIR: Amazing. And in our lifetime, we, I mean, our age group, we've gone through three different revolutions when it comes to technology. The first one was the dot-com. Websites started popping up because there's an Internet now that can provide you with your own identity. You know, CalvaryChapel.com, BobKopeny.com, BeckyKopeny, whatever it is. And then people started having their own presence out there in the World Wide Web. And then came the social media and made it even more personalized and even more, I guess, gotten all the way to your personal life, rather than just where you work or your church you attend. And so social media got things even more deeper. And again, you have bad websites, and you have the horrible effect of social media in so many different ways and forms.

And then over the last few months, we're exposed to the newest, and that's the AI revolution that literally revolutionized everything we do, and people don't even know that. I don't think they're there yet to understand it is. And yet of the three, it is the most villainized and the most demonized. Because many people attach the AI thing to the Antichrist, to the world system,

to, you know, the last days, this is it. I know that, at least in your case, you actually benefit a lot from AI, and you took it and turned it around into something that revolutionized your ministry. Can you share a little bit about that?

BOB: Sure. So, I'm convinced, as you and I have spoken for many years about technology, that this is an opportunity for us to ask the question, as those in the ministry, "Lord, what do You want me to do with it?" And, I think of the parable of the talents, the man that got one talent and he hid it, he said, "It's worthless." I often preached about, "You get one vote in our country." And people say, "Ah, it doesn't matter. It's not going to affect anything." And I say, "No, you're going to give an account for what you did with that one vote. It's not about winning an election. It's about, will you faithful to use it?" I feel that way about everything that God gives us. In this case, technology, someday I'll stand before the Lord and I'll be judged, not for my salvation, but for what I did with what God gave me. Technology is one of those things God is giving, not just to me as a pastor or to you, to all of us. And the question is, are we even thinking that somehow we could use this for the glory of God? So my feeling has always been, my philosophy is, we need to exploit technology for the glory of God and the kingdom of God. Can we use this to share the gospel? Can we use this to disciple people? Can we use this to spread, like you're doing here, communication of what God's doing prophetically? You are doing exactly what I think every believer should say, within the sphere of my influence, what could I do?

AMIR: So give me an example of how AI revolutionized your particular ministry.

BOB: In our case, AI can take and search 40 years of my sermons and answer questions as to what does Pastor Bob teach on this topic? I know what I believe, but for me to find that piece of information that I shared about 35 years ago in a sermon would be hard even for me. But it can instantly find it, synthesize it, and share what I teach without making it up or changing it at all. It's

not some external alien; it's just a tool to get at that information, and to share it quickly. So people that would like to research, and we have an *Ask Pastor Bob* podcast of our own, people writing questions, but this is something they could use 24 hours a day. So for that kind of use, it's handy, it's helpful. Beyond that, I'm looking at ways to help train people to share their faith by having an AI persona that might be an atheist, or a skeptic, or a backslidden Christian. You can create, very simply, a persona. It might be somebody that your boss or your mother-in-law...

AMIR: ...Based on them. I'm sure you're not going to name them after them.

BOB: You can do whatever you want to put the name. But the bottom line is you can create and then have an opportunity to share your faith with somebody that you're maybe not sure what you would want to say or you feel like, "I don't even want to have a conversation. I'd be afraid to have that with that intelligent professor at school." And have the chance with AI to dialogue and discover ways to share your faith better, and have it improve your ability to do that, all within the freedom of your own home and the privacy of your own phone. I want to help people give an answer for the hope that lies within them. That's what we're told to do in Peter. Always be ready. Well, this is just one more tool to help sharpen people. Look, we used to do classes on how to share your faith, and we'd have people match up, one of you pretending you're the non-Christian, and then witness to them. Well, this is just a way to do that with technology. And I think it's crazy not to use it for every possible way to help us do a better job of sharing our faith and understanding our faith.

AMIR: Wow. For me, you know, it started by somebody told me about AI and—because English is not my mother tongue, I began using it just to fix my grammar. You know, I do have the Telegram channel, and I want to make sure that the English that I type is good enough. So, I would go to AI, whether it's chat GPT or Grok or Gemini and all that. And I will just put my text and say,

“Grammar check,” and it’ll fix it. That was just six months ago. And I did it once. I do it now about 15 times a day. I mean, my dependency on AI, not just grammar... It was grammar. Now I do, “How do I write the name of this general? What is it exactly that that person said?” I don’t want to say something that is exaggerating. You know, I want to make sure that everything I say is based on—So give me the link to that speech. Everything is so much easier when you use it for those type of things. And I’m like, “Wow, I can’t believe that so many times a day now I’m actually using that tool.” And for—I’m a little older than 18, but let’s say for the last 18 years, I never even thought about anything like that. So that’s amazing.

Let’s move now to America of 2026. Do you agree with me, Becky, that it’s not the same country?

BECKY: Oh, for sure. There’s so much division and hate. And in social media, people can kind of not be seen as themselves and say mean things to other people, without actually being connected to it. So much division.

AMIR: Yeah. And nowadays, by the way, with I guess that’s the bad part of AI, they can actually make up videos that it’s not even you.

BOB: That’s right.

AMIR: And it’s called Deepfake. I found a video of myself asking money from people.

BECKY: ...Oh, wow. Oh, my goodness.

AMIR: Yep. And it wasn’t me. Obviously, it was me. But I...

BOB: ...Wait, that wasn’t you that said sent the money to? Oh... [Laughter]

AMIR: So, a lady sent that to us, and she was convinced that I’m the one who asked for it. Well, of course, they took a clip from something I said, and they changed the words and the lips. So it uses my voice. It is my face. But I didn’t say those things.

BOB: Yes.

AMIR: And it was obvious, anyone that is tech savvy can immediately see that. But that was an older lady that innocently thought that I am personally talking to her about sending this or giving that.

BOB: See you have the two sides of it. One of the AI services that churches can subscribe to in the United States was showing me what one of the things they do. We're not doing it yet as a church, but I think it's amazing. They take their pastor; he's preaching a message. They change it to where he is preaching in another language. The lips and the words match perfectly. And they have audiences now in different countries that can hear and understand perfectly. No words underneath. It is just being... So that's the other flip side of it. It's being used for that. Where I have a doctor friend, he says he uses it nearly with every patient when there's a question about the symptoms trying to match up what disease it would be. He gets a ton of help from AI to diagnose patients more accurately when there's a question mark.

AMIR: Let's talk about America post-Charlie Kirk's assassination. Is it a different country? Is that event marking some sort of a line that had been crossed? Or do you think the writing was on the wall?

BOB: So for me, Charlie Kirk, his assassination has become a rallying point for conservatives and for Christians to have an emboldened stance. And we needed that. You know, this idea that Satan has snuffed out a candle and he's lit an inferno, I think was the description. I think that's pretty accurate. I think it continues to this day. How far and how long that will go remains to be seen. There is—and maybe it's about Charlie Kirk, maybe it's completely separate—there's a new move among young people at our church and in many churches...

AMIR: Really?

BOB: Oh yes, the youth are rising up and there seems to be a wave of a youth revival going on in the church in the United States. And it's not just...

AMIR: ...I did not know that.

BOB: Yes, and I'm with other Calvary Chapel pastors all over Southern California and they're saying the same thing. So it's an exciting time for us. And I believe it's...

AMIR: ...Why youth, by the way?

BOB: Well, why has it ever been youth? You know, the youth seem to be the ones who catch on to, just as they did in our day back in the 70s, to looking for meaning, looking for hope and not finding it in the culture, right? Both in the 60s and 70s, that whole time, similarly, I think that we are parallel to that now in the days and age we're living in. The young people are not seeing it on the conservative side or on the liberal side as far as answers to what they want. And they're pulling back from accepting the answers that politics is giving. And the divisiveness of politics is so—it's never been so significant. You can't watch the news except it's editorial on one side or the other. There is no objective of reporting anymore. And it sickens people to feel like that's—You have to choose sides. You have to be on a side instead of this paradigm shift of God has a kingdom that changed people from the inside. That is so attractive. The message of Jesus: Repent. The kingdom of heaven is at hand, is powerful and it's personal. And I believe our young people are waking up to it in a fresh way and I'm thrilled.

AMIR: I am blessed to hear that. Because to be honest, for someone who lives thousands of miles away from America and to see all the chaos in the streets of Antifa and others and to see the promiscuousness of things such as you saw in the halftime of the Super Bowl... and not only that, that's nothing compared to the amazing popularity of people like Candace Owens and Tucker

Carlson and others that are spreading horrific, anti-biblical things in the guise of “conservative” and even “Christian.”

BOB: I think it gives us—I think it’s horrible and wonderful. Obviously, I disagree with their views. But it’s wonderful in that it’s a catalyst to give people like yourself a voice and myself a voice because people are saying, “What is the answer to their objections?” That, you know, this seems very reasonable, and they have a huge audience that a lot of people listen to. ..

AMIR: Millions are watching.

BOB: But praise God, because there is an answer and I love the answer, the chance to share that with our congregation, with Christians, to arm them with—I don’t care how popular the person is, you need to evaluate what they’re saying with the truth.

AMIR: Do you have a—Do you feel a backlash against those type of things when you bring them up at church?

BOB: Not in our congregation, but they have people in their families and in their lives that they’re trying to minister to. They want answers for, “Well, what do you say about this?” Because it seems like they’re so tidy, their views, and so accurate. And of course, Reformed Theology and Replacement Theology is nothing new. It’s just a new expression of popularism within what appears to be evangelical Christianity, which has not been typically where you saw it before. So it’s amazing and concerning. To be honest with you, I think it is perhaps an omen of things to come from the United States. I think the anti-Semitism that we see all around the world, that after October 7th we saw proliferating in the streets of every major city, all over Europe—everywhere—I believe anti-Semitism is not being created by things that are happening, it’s being revealed by things that are happening...

AMIR: I believe so too.

BOB: ... and I believe as we look at last-time scenarios, the entire world is going to be gathered against Israel. That includes my country. But I believe it's going to be a different country when the church is gone.

AMIR: And you said you can hardly recognize your country right now. And it looks like it's getting...

BECKY: ...I couldn't believe the anti-Semitism that showed up. But like you said, it just revealed. And I was shocked. I thought America loved the Jewish people. And to see the hatred come out was just...

AMIR: ...And to see how fast they buy those stories and fabrications because they were ready. As you said, it revealed. It's something that was there already and, "Give me whatever you can to confirm what I already think or feel or want to believe in and hold on."

BOB: Well Amir, my question is, I mean, for you living here and watching your parents and after World War II, everything that happened, I grew up thinking and believing the attitude toward the nation of Israel by America, and by many countries was just so markedly different than what happened in the 20th century before I was born, in the 1940s, in Germany. And I was very surprised actually to see that so quickly there could be this rise of hatred toward the nation of Israel as a people, and a support of the Palestinian state and Palestinian people that it was almost like, how did that all come about? These people don't even seem to know their history about the land of Israel, the people of Israel. They don't know the politics about it at all. But it just seems to be so attractive to them to take the side of that, the underdog in their mind, and the people that are oppressed.

BECKY: ... because it's satanic.

BOB: It is. It's a lie. And I feel like it is so prevalent. To me, it reminds me of how racism in the United States also, we think, "Oh, there's not much racism in the United States." And then after the George Floyd incident, it's there. It just took that spark to come to the surface. And we saw all that that did in our country. I feel like that's happened with anti-Semitism after October 7th. And I just feel like it's just waiting for the dynamics of what the Bible describes will happen in the end. I'm not going to be surprised that the things of the Bible will happen in the near future. Because I feel like all the seeds are there socially, even for the West, even for my own country to embrace that kind of mentality toward God's people.

AMIR: That's very sad. I'm very thankful that currently we have an administration that is still on Israel's side. In fact, your president said numerous times, that he's been the best friend of Israel, and he intends to stay like that.

BOB: Thank God.

AMIR: But we know he's not going to stay president forever. And we know that unfortunately, your political system is—not only on the Democratic side, but also on the conservative side—it has more and more people that are turning on Israel and believe that Israel is a problem rather than the friend and the ally.

BOB: That's true.

AMIR: It's very interesting, sobering, and at the same time prophetic. And because of that, it's encouraging.

BOB: When you see these things, ...

AMIR: Look up...

BOB: ... right? I mean, it's not that what you're seeing is encouraging, but it is foretold, lest we fear.

AMIR: So knowing the future gives you hope?

BECKY: Oh, sure. Yes.

AMIR: Because you know what's coming.

BECKY: Yes.

AMIR: That's why personally, I'm more drawn to teach Bible prophecy because I honestly believe that it is what connects the dots between the Word of God and the events of the day. And brings people back to the plan of God that has been already prescribed. I remember Jesus on the road to Emmaus, there's one thing He rebuked His disciples about was the fact that they did not believe what the prophets have said or written. I mean, "Here I am, the resurrected Lord, and look at you, you're sad. Look at you, you're walking away from Jerusalem. You're running, you're defeated. And all of that because you never truly believed what the prophets have said." And He literally told them, "If you only believed, you would have understood. And you wouldn't be walking away from Jerusalem, but actually staying in Jerusalem and be more excited about things."

What is your view on teaching Bible prophecy?

BOB: So we just finished the book of Revelation last Sunday for the second or third time in my ministry. And I love teaching through the book. I know some people don't, not at our church, but other churches don't touch it. Even Bible-teaching churches sometimes say, "Well, you know, it's too hard to understand or there's too much debate about what it means." And I am really convinced, as I know you are too, that God didn't give us a book that can't be understood. "I'll trick them. I'll give them something that will make no sense and divide them." No, and [there are] blessings specifically in that book. But I am so convinced that the Lord wants us to know the future. Not everything about the future. I'd love to know a lot more about heaven than I get a glimpse of in the book of Revelation. He says the hidden things belong to Him, but the things that have been

revealed, Deuteronomy 29:29, belong to us that we might obey the... In other words, He's given us...

AMIR: ...To us and our children...

BOB: ... to us and our children that we might obey. So He's given us enough information about the future. It's not just a little sneak peek, it's to encourage us when things are terrible and going on. We know who's going to win, we know that the Lord's coming back. We don't know when, but these things are to affect the way we live now. Hence, you know, I can't wait for the cruise, but how shall we then live? This is where I live as a pastor. I'm excited about your work. It helps me to be more aware of what's happening in the cutting... at the moment.

But my heart as a pastor is to equip people for the work of the ministry in our lives right there in America. And part of that is knowing what God has said about the future, where we live in the times now and get excited as we should about the things that we're seeing. To me, missing out on that is not just a shame, it's a danger. Jesus said in that parable, if that servant says, "My master's a long way, he's delaying his time," he begins to beat his fellow slaves. He gets drunk with the drunkards, and his master will come when he's not prepared. The Lord is saying, "Being ready for My coming is essential." It's not an option. And so to me, to leave out prophetic truth, it'd be a giant mistake for a pastor if he wants to equip his people to live in the days that we're living in.

AMIR: Let's go now down to the more personal level. How many times a day do you want to quit the ministry? I can tell you—You don't have to answer. I'm just saying, for example, for me, living here with all that we go through, and then all the "experts" all around the world that know exactly how wrong you are, and how things should be and all of that. And they know exactly where you belong and you never belong to where you really belong, but you belong to where they think

you belong. And all of that, obviously, in the flesh, probably 15 times a day you want to walk away. Is that the same thing in the “flesh” for people in ministry of being pastors and pastors’ wives?

BOB: How often do you want to quit, Becky?

AMIR: In the flesh. Of course, when we walk by the Spirit and we are Spirit-led and that’s why we still do what we do. But people need to understand it’s a battle. Do you have that battle?

BECKY: I do, but the Lord has blessed us with a fellowship. I feel so much love from them, so much unity. I am just blessed beyond words with our congregation and the love that I feel among us. So, yes, it’s hard work and personally, there’s challenges in our family. But the Lord gives me strength. I know that anything He allows in my life is He’s allowed it. It’s not a mistake; it’s not a surprise to Him. And it’s His plan for me, so He will give me what I need to get through, and He does.

AMIR: And the Bible commands us to pray for our spiritual leaders, for pastors, not for nothing. They’re up there in the front line. Oftentimes, I think that churchgoers forget that the pastor and his wife, they’re also sons and daughters. They’re also husbands and wives. They’re also fathers and mothers. They’re also grandfathers and grandparents. They’re also brothers and sisters to their own siblings. And oftentimes, they don’t understand that when the lights are switched off and every car left already the church parking lot, you guys go home and you have your own challenges. And tell me a little bit about that.

BOB: Yeah, so, I mean, in answer to your first question, no, I don’t feel like quitting ever because I feel like I have the best job, I don’t even call it a job, the best privilege in the world. And it is a joy and always has been. So...

AMIR: That’s why I’m not a pastor, I guess.

BOB: Many, many years ago when I was going through a very tough time, I remember, I felt like, “Lord, what’s going to happen with this situation?” And I remember Him speaking to me through a passage of Scripture where Elijah felt like quitting, right? You remember the story, God calls him up, “Let’s have a word at My house.” I believe God’s message to Elijah was not to answer all of his questions as to what was going to happen with his life, and all the ways people had failed the Lord because that’s what Elijah was complaining about, “I’m alone,” you know the story. And basically, I think God just said, “Go back to work. Go, anoint that guy. You have a job to do. You’re not done.” And I feel like the Lord spoke to me many years ago during a really hard time and He said, “Bob, you prepare to preach on Sunday. I’ll take care of that lawsuit. I’ll take care of that problem over here. You aren’t going to fix it. You can’t. I don’t want you to. I want you to stop. Just do what I’ve called you to do.” And so many, many years ago, the Lord gave me that and it’s been a big help to me all along the way. When things go crazy, because they go crazy in our lives and our churches, the Lord has just said, “Remember what I told you. As long as you have strength and energy, you go preach the Word of God and you minister to the people. Let Me take care of the things you can’t handle.” Which is just about everything, right? But as far as my whole life, we happen to have my eldest son lives with us and four of our six grandchildren live with us. We went from being empty nesters to a full house. And for the last...

AMIR: ...Full house, empty nest, full house.

BOB: Yeah, which is true for a lot of grandparents. You know, the kids come back and they live with you while they’re trying to save enough money to buy a house, or whatever. And our kids all did that too, but this was different because almost two years ago, my eldest son was paralyzed, and he is paralyzed from the chest.

AMIR: An accident.

BOB: Yes, he was severely injured. And so that's been life-changing obviously for him, for his children and for us. And yet, I have to tell you already, while it has been in some ways horrific, impossible to know how we could still be in the ministry and live our lives the way we were before—and we couldn't live it quite the way we did before because we became primary caretakers for him—the Lord has showed up in a way that I didn't know was possible. And although he has not regained any capacities, God has given him grace to accept his condition and want to do all that he can do. And it's been a family affair for us, but it has dominated our family. And of course, our grandchildren now are like, they're not our children, but they're there and we're there for them. So it's been a gift to us. I know nobody would want it. And my son would not want it in a minute if he could change it. But embracing and accepting what God has allowed for him, while it's difficult, has been one of the greatest gifts. I've watched God work in his life and in our family. So, yeah, it's a tough go. It's a hard thing to watch. It breaks my heart at times, what he goes through. And yet, the Lord has met us in that tragedy or in that difficulty in a way that I wouldn't give back. Amir, He's changed my relationship with my son and my grandkids as a result.

BECKY: I think we're closer to our son than we've ever been.

BOB: Absolutely.

BECKY: For sure.

AMIR: Wow.

BECKY: You know, it's hard. You have all the laundry and the cleaning and the doctor's appointments and dentist's appointments for four kids and all your ministry that you had before as well. And we always kind of ask the Lord, "Lord, is this saying, is this event You telling us that it's time for us to step down and wrestle with that? You know, maybe we need to for this time." But God made it clear that He'll provide.

AMIR: I guess the answer is clear, no.

BOB: Not yet.

BECKY: Yeah, and—So with God’s strength and help, He’s been good. And although our son, short of a miracle, will not walk again, he has made super big strides. I mean, when he was first injured, he couldn’t even hold a fork. They said he was a quadriplegic. But he’s gained [strength]. He drives. He can pull himself out of the bed into a wheelchair and go down the stairs on a stair lift and get himself into his car and drive and take his kids places.

BOB: He goes out to his children’s games and plays. And he’s a functioning parent in some ways. He’s more involved with them than he could have been, would have been had this not happened. So literally seeing the blessings that are there, they are there. It’s not always very easy to see them, but they are there.

BECKY: I mean, really, in a way, in a big way, this is answers to our prayers of many years for our son and for his children.

AMIR: And God, in His own way and plan, designed it, or at least allowed it to be so. And yet He gets the glory.

BOB: Amen.

BECKY: He does.

BOB: For sure.

AMIR: And that’s the thing about you guys, and I started this whole program with this amazing positive demeanor that you always have. Every time we talk, every time we meet, every time I go to your church, it’s like one would think that everything is perfect. And yet I know it’s not. And I know what you go through, and it just, it challenges me to say, “Hey, no matter what you go

through, this is where you need to [be]; once you step in, worship the Lord. And remember, He has it. He's got it."

BOB: Yeah, and I have to admit, I don't believe our church is unique on the planet. But for us, for these 40 years, God has brought us the most incredible leaders, elders, people around us. You know, Pastor Chuck said to us as young pastors, "Make your church the best-fed, best-loved church in town." Right? In other words, love your people, minister the Word of God, and God will do the growing. You don't have to worry about trying to make it grow. Just you do your job, and I'll do the rest." But the Lord has also brought us people who have loved us for who we are with our imperfections and our struggles. I don't hide any of the things we go through with our elders or our leaders, and even much of our congregation. You know, I try to respect the privacy of my children and grandchildren, and not, I do sometimes use my grandchildren as illustrations. People love that. My grandson thinks he's famous. [Laughter] He's eight years old.

AMIR: Wait until he gets older and then watch those videos.

BOB: But it's fun, and our congregation, they are so caring of us. God has brought us people who are making us the best-loved pastors in town, meaning they are very, very kind and helpful. I wouldn't want to be in any other church anywhere, so it's been a blessing.

AMIR: Yeah. And here we are sitting in the Jezreel Valley, and we're hearing F-16s coming back from a mission, landing at the Ramat David Airbase. And that brings us down to the ground, the reality of the world that we live in today, a country that is engaged in a seven-front war right now, a country that every single minute of every single hour of every single day, people are plotting to destroy and kill. And not for nothing, it's because the enemy hates that which is of God. And here we are, we're still—I don't know if the sound people can pick up the sound of the F-16, but it's a—That's one of the reasons we love this location because it always brings us down to the ground

of no matter what, this is a real battle, a physical, not just spiritual, and the enemy is real. And he wants to destroy the real people because of the real God and the real plan and the real Word. It's not just news, it's reality here. And I just want to thank you for being here. Being here physically means so much for the people of Israel because—It's one thing to kiss from afar, it's another thing to cling onto us and to say, "Your God is our God, your people are my people." And I think two-thirds of the way to the heart of a Jew is when you are physically there with him, not just by words, but by actions.

And so I want to thank you for your unwavering support in Israel. And again, you're not doing that because you're political people. It's not about politics. It's about the Word of God, the plan of God, the ways of God, the character of God, who He is, what He's all about. And I'm reminded that right there in the burning bush, when Moses tried to ask Him, "Okay, so what's Your name? What will I tell them?" First of all, He says, "I am who I Am." But then He said, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Tell them that." This is it. He is not a different God. The God of the New Testament is not a different God of the Old Testament. It's the same God. And it's the same character and He never changes. His name is the same. His Word is the same. And so you being here is a blessing to the people, a blessing to me. Thank you for allowing us to have a sneak peek at your life as people, as in the ministry, as Americans now in 2026, but also as friends of Israel that bring a nice sized group to the land to tour around in times where a lot of people are staying away from us.

BOB: Well, can I just say this? On behalf of my family and our church, the group that's here and every group that's ever come, that thank you really, I mean, I know this sounds like we're patting each other on the back, but I've known you a long time. What you have done for the church, and not just for our church, for the church worldwide to provide, especially when COVID came and

God forced you indoors, was one of the greatest gifts to the church because God started something that the church needs and is going to need as years go on, a voice calling the church to understand what the Scriptures have to say about Israel. You know, even the name, Behold Israel, to me, obviously it's biblical, but we want people to see Israel through God's eyes. And the attack on that is severe and it's going to get worse for the everyday Christian. And I believe God has uniquely called you and me, but you in a bigger way, to be helping Christians to understand what does the Bible say about Israel? Why should we not just support Israel politically, financially, militarily, but spiritually? We have every reason to thank God for what He has done in spite of Israel's unbelief, in light of Israel's unbelief, as Paul says in the New Testament, and to realize that regardless of their unbelief and rejection of their Messiah, it hasn't changed one bit the promise that He made toward her. That's the God that we worship. That's the faithful God that we can trust in. And you know this better than most, that Christians need to see what God is still doing in this day, what He's doing miraculously for Israel, fulfilling His Word, though they are not believing yet in Him, preparing for them to come, many of them have come, many more will come. But we are living in the most exciting times. And remember what Jesus said to His disciples, so many generations of people wish they had lived to see what you guys are seeing. Messiah is here. I feel like that should be said to every Christian nowadays. Every Christian would have loved to have seen Israel become a nation again, the mountains being blessed, the trees being grown, the fruit... I mean the things that have happened that are happening, and still so many Christians are oblivious to it, they're blind to it. You'd have to be blind to it to think that God's not still committed to Israel. **AMIR:** Or you have to be someone who is just Christian by name, and you don't truly understand, you don't even read the Word, study the Word. And I always tell people [that] going to church doesn't make you a Christian as much as standing in the parking lot doesn't turn you into a car.

And so, I mean, you have to have a relationship, a personal relationship with the God of Israel can never turn you into an anti-Semite, can never bring hatred towards Israel. He's the God of Israel. He's the keeper of Israel. He's the one that neither slumbers nor sleeps. He's the one that calls them the apple of My eye. There is no way the God of Israel will cause anyone, anywhere around the world to hate His own people. And the same goes with the Messiah, the Deliverer, He's the King of the Jews. He will come back to reign from Jerusalem, He will come back to Jerusalem. People will come up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. They go to a temple, not to a church or a mosque. It's going to be—He cannot... I get too excited, I'm sorry, but it makes me a little bit angry sometimes that people speak in the name of Christianity without knowing anything because they don't read the Bible, they don't believe in the Bible, they just watch YouTubes and they know that it's written Christian on their birth certificate and that's enough and they don't understand what it means.

BOB: Paul said that God will send strong delusion on them because they refuse to believe the truth. And I feel like what you're doing is a voice in the wilderness in many ways, speaking the truth from God's Word to correctly interpret the Word of God to undermine those lies, whether people will listen to it or not. I am so grateful and I mean this with all my heart, I'm so grateful for what God is—He's given you a bigger megaphone in the years, in the past and a future one, no doubt too. And so whatever time we have left, Amir, may God continue to bless Behold Israel, your family and your ministry.

AMIR: And I hope that we don't have too long, to stay here, I mean, I'm ready.

BOB: Good, let's go.

AMIR: Yeah, there you go. So, we had a wonderful time of not only trying to understand what it means to be in a ministry in 2026, [but also] how do we reconcile technology with our world today,

with our faith today. How do we live in America of 2026. And of course, what it means to be in the front line and yet still have family go through challenges, but yet continue to place our hope and our trust in the Lord.

So I want to thank Pastor Bob and Becky for being here, our guests today. And I pray that this program blessed you and I want to remind you to subscribe to our YouTube channel. Like, share, and comment so the algorithm will bring this video to as many people as we can and bless them in a way that only the Word of God can do. So, we thank you for watching and God bless from Galilee.

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