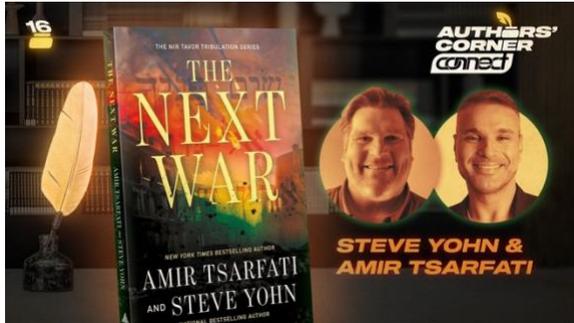


Amir Tsarfati
Authors' Corner with Steve Yohn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKSzSbvy8cs>



AMIR: Hey Shalom everyone, I'm Amir Tsarfati here from CONNECT in Galilee, in Jezreel Valley in Israel. And together with me once again, my good friend, the senior writer and editor of Behold Israel, Steve Yohn for another chapter of *Authors'*

Corner. Shalom, Steve.

STEVE: Amir, it's great to see you, great to be with you again. I'm excited about what we're going to talk about today.

AMIR: Yes, it's super exciting because, you know, we have completed together the first series of our fiction books of Nir Tavor, Mossad series. And a lot of people wrote us that they're very sad, they wish they had more of that. But little did they know that something big is in the magazine

STEVE: That's what planned all along [Steve wrings hands together]

AMIR: There you go, there you go. So let's put it this way, we're going to talk today about a project, about a fiction book, a thriller, a novel, but this is something that is thrilling and exciting. But before we talk about that, Steve, would you do us the honor and start with a prayer?

STEVE: Yes. Our God, we are so grateful to have this opportunity to write these books, to be able to communicate in this manner. We know there's all sorts of ways to communicate through the spoken word and just through being close to one another and talking with one another in small groups and large groups. But we also know that the written word, that's the way You chose to communicate to us. You chose to communicate through Your prophets, but also through Your written Word. So we know that that is an avenue that You've given us to be able to teach Your

Word also. So we thank You for this and we want to spotlight today the opportunities, the ideas, the methods that You have given to us to share who You are, to share Your incredible plan for this world. And Lord, we give this time to You, and ask that You lead us, and that You bless us as we celebrate You in our conversation today. We pray in the name of our Savior Jesus. Amen.

AMIR: Amen, Amen. So, Steve, a little bit more than five and a half years ago, I shared with you first before we actually even went further because that's your specialty, fiction. And I shared with you what was on my heart when it comes to the idea of bringing Bible prophecy and current events into a new format of a series of thrillers that will be actually based on real events. And I remember seeing your eyes with that, "Poof!", because by then you've written a few thrillers, but none of them was actually based on true events. It was, to the best of my knowledge, fiction from A to Z, wasn't it?

STEVE: Yes, very much so. It was a football-based special-ops kind of series written with Jason Elam, the former kicker for the Denver Broncos. And so we had a lot of shoot-'em-up. We had God in there. I thought it was a great



series, but there was nothing that was tied to real events other than football games and the sport and that sort of thing. So when you presented this idea of actually bringing in Mossad stories, which, again, just talking about the Mossad, I think for anyone who has read fiction or anyone who understands the way this world works right now, there's something about that word *Mossad* that kind of sends a shiver up the spine. There's an excitement. There's a mystery there. So when you brought this idea of the Mossad, boy, I was all in. I was excited about that.

AMIR: The idea was to literally cause people who will never walk into a Christian bookstore to have a chance to understand current events and connect it with the Bible. And I've been teaching about Ezekiel, the days of Ezekiel, the war of Ezekiel for many, many years and I thought maybe this is the best way to present to Christians and non-Christians alike the behind-the-scenes story of each one of the players in the Ezekiel War, and the things that we know that happened there and are happening right now there. Walk us through, please, the four books that we already wrote together, and which one is talking about which player?

STEVE: Right. Well, we started with *Operation Joktan* and that was sort of an introduction to the whole story, to the whole series and an introduction to the Middle East. And it was centered in the United Arab Emirates, and it really brought out the whole idea of the Abraham Accords and the changing dynamics that are taking place in the Middle East. But then we moved on from there to *By Way of Deception*, and *By Way of Deception* was really focused on Iran and what's taking place there, that Islamic regime. So we brought out those elements, but we know the key player in the Ezekiel War is Russia. And that's where we went to next with *Out of the Far North*, a title taken right from the prophecies of Ezekiel. So, we talked about Russia, brought them into this, and then finally with *Sick Man's Rage*. For years, Turkey has been known as the sick man of Europe. And that's what we tied in this title to, is this sick man and he is frustrated, he is angry. The once great Ottoman Empire is just an embarrassment now and we see Turkey today frustrated, angry, wanting their return to their glory. And that's what we brought out in *Sick Man's Rage*, which now brings us to this next book.

AMIR: Exactly, and the next book that once we concluded this whole thing of preparation to that war, and talking about the different players, and explaining the geopolitical situation with, of course, the personal spiritual journey of two people, one a Gentile and one a Jewish Israeli. While

we did all of that, we knew that at a certain point we're going to get to that war. I mean, we talked about everything that led to it, all the players that now have some open account with Israel that has to be somehow settled. And now that's the money time. And that brings me now to our coming book, which is different than anything we've done before. Tell us more about it. We decided to call it *The Next War*.

STEVE: Yes, because it is really *The Next War* on God's prophetic timeline. It's the big one that everyone who studies Bible prophecy, it's what everyone is looking for. And it's also, as we look at the world around us, we see everything coming together for that. We see this axis of evil that's formed now in real life between Russia and Turkey and Iran and the relationships that are there. And then you also bring in Sudan, you bring in Libya, and it's all just coming together, boom, boom, boom, boom, piece by piece by piece. And that's what leads us now to *The Next War*. And in *The Next War*, we see the time has finally come when these nations are going to come down to Israel with the intention of invading and destroying Israel. And each nation has its own reason for wanting to carry out this invasion. Russia wants the energy, Turkey wants respect, especially among the Muslim communities, and then Iran, Iran just wants revenge. Because as you well know, Israel has just bopped them one time after another, after another, after another, because of their whole network of proxy militias. So we see in *The Next War* these armies coming down, we see the hopelessness that the people of Israel realize in their situation, because there's no way to practically defeat an army this size. And again, that ties right in with Ezekiel 38 and 39.

AMIR: Exactly, and the timing is very interesting, Steve, because I'm releasing in this season, *Exploring Ezekiel*, which is a thorough walk through the entire book of Ezekiel from chapter 1 to chapter 48. We're talking about the whole book. So I mean, I am teaching on that war, but there's

a big difference between teaching on that war and experiencing that war firsthand with your protagonist. So how do you define the difference between the two?

STEVE: Well, that's what I love about these fiction books, because [there're] different ways that people learn. Some people learn just from hearing and from absorbing the facts, and other people they learn through story, they learn through experience. And what we're doing is giving people opportunities to learn both ways. And *Exploring Ezekiel*, I love what you've done with that book, in that it is such a clear, detailed walk through the book of Ezekiel, and you emphasize so strongly that idea of, "Then they will know that I am the LORD." So it's a fabulous book, but I know that there are people out there who look at nonfiction books and say, "I don't know that I could read something like that. I want to get involved, I want to get deep, I want the senses, I want the smells, the sights, I want to hear what's taking place." And that's what we now offer with *The Next War*. For those people who want to see what is it like to be in Israel as you see these armies coming down, and you know, you absolutely know that there is nothing that your nation can do militarily to stop the tsunami that's about to break on your country.

AMIR: Absolutely, and with all the emphasis that we put on the Mossad operations, the IDF, Israel as a state, I think that this is the first time we actually expose the vulnerability of a nation that even when it has a very strong military, great intelligence, when it comes to standing up against such a coalition led by such a powerful nation, this is actually where things get more exciting because we're seeing a new dimension different than any other that we've seen in the former four books. I mean, earlier we talked about heroic Mossad operations, great things, great suspense, but let's face it, God was on a much lower volume than this one.

STEVE: And you look at Israel, just the history of Israel from the War of Independence in 1948 through the next wars all the way up through 1973, it was always a bit of a sketchy proposition for

Israel; Israel's military kept growing, but it was always two strong foes coming against each other. But once 1973 passed, Israel really came into its own militarily. And I don't know that there has been a time since that Yom Kippur War that Israel said, "Oh man, this is really scary, I don't know how we're going to come through this," because of the strength of the IDF. But now suddenly it all changes, and that great power, that great military of Israel has nothing; nothing that they can do to defeat an army that's coming because it's just such a massive size. They can lob missiles, they can lob whatever they want at this army that's coming, but it turns into a war of attrition, and you've got so many people in Turkey, you've got the massive army in Russia, you've got Iran and all of its proxy militias, and they're all coming to the borders, and then you've got the navy and you've got the air force of these Axis powers. What does Israel do? There's nothing they can do.

AMIR: Yeah, and it's interesting because we all know as we teach the book of Ezekiel that there's a missing component there. Israel is facing a huge coalition of very powerful countries, and yet physical help, military help from another ally is not there. It's completely missing and—So I think that this is also where this book could be very interesting to anyone who lives in a country that is considered an ally of Israel because you can clearly see the absence thereof, and you wonder what could possibly cause that country to not be there for Israel. Am I right?

STEVE: Yeah, exactly, exactly, because we know that the best friend of Israel is the United States, and the whole reason why you will not see Russia and Turkey and Iran coming against Israel now is because of the United States. But what happens when the United States isn't there to protect their ally anymore? And that's the scenario that's laid out. And what I love about *The Next War* is that it has the exact same theme as *Exploring Ezekiel*, and that is, "Then they will know that I am the LORD." And that is the truth that will come, that will resonate with everyone when they come to the end of this thriller.

AMIR: Exactly. Another unique thing about this coming book is the fact that it is right there in between a pre-Ezekiel, pre-rapture reality—and I'm talking about everything we already went through—and the next series or the continuation, the next books will actually take us into the tribulation, post-rapture tribulation. So, this book is a very unique one because it is right there in the gap between a world as we know and a world that you and I will not know or will not be here to see. So tell us more about that.

STEVE: Yeah, well, we're moving into a new series, we're moving into a Nir Tavor-tribulation series that's going to take us through the time of Jacob's trouble and eventually to the second coming, the return of Christ. But as we look at Ezekiel War, it's almost like a prequel to the tribulation. So it's set there as the first book of this series, but in a sense it's not quite part of the series. We had to find a place to put it, so we put it there at the beginning, but we know it is the launch pad to what's about to come. And what's about to come is a walk through the tribulation, seen through the eyes of a Jew in Israel, seeing the rise of the Antichrist, seeing the rebuilding of the temple, seeing after the three and a half years the collapse and what all takes place after that. That's the direction that these books are going next, and I've got to tell you, Amir, I cannot wait. I cannot wait as we walk through what's to come in the coming books.

AMIR: Exactly, and I think that although you and I do not have an appointment with God's wrath and we have no plans on being here, the Bible has revealed a lot regarding what the world is going to go through. And I think if people refuse to read the book of Revelation or 2 Thessalonians and refuse to read the biblical account, they're going to have another account of what exactly we know the world is going to go through during those seven years.

Now, Steve, another thing is, so we established that we're talking about the main protagonist is obviously a Sabra, an Israeli-born Jewish person, and his relationship throughout

the first four books with a Gentile woman that is no longer with him towards the very end of the last book. I don't think we need to tell people why; people should read it. But what we see now is someone who maybe put together all the pieces of everything she



told him and everything he witnessed earlier and now it seems like his mission is not just military or intelligence, his mission is also in his mind to understand what spiritually and biblically is next, and to figure things out on his own. And I think that it's one thing to talk about the Antichrist when you're a Gentile somewhere in Europe. It's another thing to talk about the Antichrist when you're a Jew living in Israel because you know exactly... So, I think that this is a very unique perspective of the events that are leading towards and describing the time of the tribulation, a time that was prophesied by Daniel, a time that was prophesied by Jeremiah, and a time that was detailed carefully in the book of Revelation.

STEVE: Yeah, I agree. And I think that's a lot of what the next war is, is our protagonist, Nir Tavor, putting the pieces together, all the things that Nicole had told him over the years. And suddenly all those things that seemed so outlandish are happening, exactly as she said they would happen. And now he's having to put two-plus-two and realizing, "Oh my goodness, it really does equal four exactly like she said." And then what does he do with that? So, it's a real look into the soul of this man as he processes his traditions of being the Sabra and then growing up as a Jew and the reality of what this Gentile Christian has told him is going to happen. How does he meld that together in his life?

AMIR: Yeah, so *The Next War*, our next thriller, which basically begins with a post-rapture-pre-tribulation Israel and the world, basically, leading towards the big war of Ezekiel. But give us more about what the coming books are going to be, because they're going to cover quite a few things.

STEVE: Yeah, well, it's exactly what was laid out in really in *Revealing Revelation*. You want to know an idea of what the rest of the series is going to look like. That's a good place to look, because it's walking through these next seven years as the Antichrist comes to the fore. And he steps in after this huge battle and this huge defeat for many of the big-name-Eurasian powers. Then this man steps forward and says, "Okay, enough war. There's been enough war. Let's get some peace going." And so everyone will be yearning for that peace. So they'll look to him, and that's what begins this journey as he comes and not only brings peace to many of the nations, he brings peace to the Middle East, and that peace is demonstrated by actually being able to build that temple in Jerusalem.

AMIR: Yeah, and I think that a lot of people may not understand, but the time of the tribulation is not all that too violent. The very beginning is a bit more on the deceptive side, on the side of false perception of peace and prosperity and messianic aspirations. And that will shortly after that crash on the ground when the true identity of the Antichrist will be revealed. But we're definitely, throughout this coming series, we're going to take you through the rise of the Antichrist, the deal that he will cut with Israel that will allow the third temple to be built. And then we'll take you, of course, through the events of the seals, the trumpets, the bowls. And of course, all of that in a very unique perspective of a Jew who is on his spiritual journey to find out, basically, that his girlfriend, whom he was hoping to one day marry and live forever and ever happily married... she talked about those things. She hinted, she gave him her opinion, and now when she's gone, all he wants is to somehow maybe one day, see her again. Will he see her again?

STEVE: I will say, well, no, I take it back, I won't say. [Tease; Laughter]

AMIR: Yeah, I don't think you should. I don't think you should say anything. It was a test for you.

STEVE: I almost failed the test, but I got it.

AMIR: My gun is right under the table right here. [Laughing] But truly, we're talking about the protagonist, we're talking about Nir and Nicole, we're talking about Israel. But bottom line, we want people to read it and ask themselves, "Where am I in this whole thing? Where will I be when all of this is about to happen?" Isn't that the most important thing that we want people to take from this book?

STEVE: As with all of the Nir Tavor books, the gospel in *The Next War*, is clearly presented. Someone cannot finish this book without knowing what it means to receive Christ as their Savior and how to do it. Because ultimately, that's the purpose. It's not just to teach facts, but it's to show people how their life can change through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

AMIR: Yeah, and this is ultimately the goal of our ministry, of even what we do here at CONNECT. We connect, it's to connect people with our Bible, with our God, with the Messiah; to connect reality of Israel today with the promises of God to Israel in the Bible; to connect people to the Bible in a way that it refers to their decision today. Not just going to church on Sunday and hearing some Bible stories. No, no, today is the day of salvation. And our prayer is that people not only will read and enjoy, but also will ask themselves the billion-dollar question, "Am I saved? Do I know my Redeemer? And do I have a personal relationship with Him?"

STEVE: Amen.

AMIR: Yeah, well, Steve, time was just cruising so fast. We just talked about *The Next War*, our upcoming fiction thriller of Nir Tavor, a new series, the "Nir Tavor Tribulation Series." And exciting, amazing, especially in light of *Exploring Ezekiel*, which is a walk through the entire book of Ezekiel. *The Next War* is concentrating on the two amazing chapters of 38 and 39. And it's

going to be awesome; I'm looking forward to it. Steve, I can't wait for our next Authors' Corner, where we're going to discuss another quite an amazing book that we worked on.

So, thank you, Steve, and thank you, everyone, for watching. Please remember to go to our website to find out more about the books that I've written. Also, please remember, if you want to attend any of our upcoming events in Israel or abroad, you will find all the information there. And if you want to support the work of this ministry, beholdisrael.org is the right place to do it. Until then, thank you and God bless you and Shalom from Galilee and from Colorado.

For all ways to connect with Behold Israel, including media, updates, videos, and teachings: <https://linktr.ee/beholdisrael> or the QR code:

