**Must Israel go it Alone?**

**USA still Aligned but no longer in lock step**

*The survivors who remain of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward. For a remnant will go forth from Jerusalem, and [a band of] survivors from Mount Zion. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.* 2 Kings 19:30-31(AMP)

With 2021 has come the transition between federal administrations in the United States, specifically in the executive branch. The President has pre-eminence in setting foreign and defense policy objectives for the nation. A change of direction in some policies regarding Israel and the Middle East has been anticipated and as we approach spring, Israel will have to make some adjustments. I will review a few of the major subject matters that are indicative of this change.

**Policy Shift from Judeo-Christian to Secular Humanist assumptions?**

Under the Trump Administration, there was not much difference between the view Israel and the United States had of Iran’s malevolent intentions toward Israel, intentions to have nuclear weaponry and its general support of various radical terrorist entities in multiple nations in the Middle East. The Biden administration has given indications that it will have a more multi-lateral approach (i.e. with E.U. and N.A.T.O allies) to its interaction diplomatically with Iran. The U.S. and Iran are going back and forth about who should make the first gesture in any new negotiation, specifically regarding the J.C.P.O.A nuclear agreement of 2015, abandoned during the Trump administration. Merely the consideration of returning to any type of deal with Iran by the western allies has caused Israel’s government leaders, the Prime Minister, the Defense Minister and the Head of Intelligence to all make clear in recent days that Israel in no way, shape or form would allow Iran to possess nuclear weapons capability.Previously, Israel could have expected tacit approval if not outright participation from the US regarding this matter. Now, not so much.

Another issue of concern for Israel is the Biden administration’s desire to re-engage with the Palestinian Authority on a more cordial and diplomatic level, as it moves back towards the ‘two state solution’ assumptions that were the basis of the Oslo Accords almost 30 years ago. This includes restoration of funding, that Israeli intelligence states is either being diverted toward use in terrorist activities to include anti-Israel propaganda, weapons or rewarding monetarily families of those who have committed violent acts against Israel’s civilian population and have been deemed heroic martyrs within the Palestinian society. Again, Israel believes autonomously it will have to be more vigilant regarding emboldened activities from Hamas or Islamic Jihad and are even considering moving forward on establishing more sovereignty and building in Judean and Samarian areas (West Bank region), as these actions would be considered antagonistic to re-starting the peace process. For Israel these actions would be seen as existential statements to the region and the international community that the exchange of “land for peace” is no longer on Israel’s diplomatic table. Recent activity indirectly related to the Palestinian issue is the decision made in the International Criminal Court at The Hague that it has jurisdiction to determine whether war crimes occurred during the 2014 conflict between IDF and Hamas. This is despite Israel not being a treaty participant of the Rome statute in 1998 and “Palestine” not being or ever having been a nation-state. Although the United States and other nations have rejected the jurisdiction claim by the ICC regarding this matter, there will likely be some responses Israel will have to consider, legally or diplomatically in either ignoring these charges or a marshalling a vehement defense against them. This bias has sometimes been reflected in the UN general assembly votes regarding Israel and there is some concern that with the appointment of a new American UN ambassador, with a personal history of supporting BDS activity, that some of the favourable US recent voting history in that assembly may become a thing of the past.

***For behold, Your enemies are in tumult,
And those who hate You have raised their heads [in hatred of You].
They concoct crafty schemes against Your people,
And conspire together against Your hidden and precious ones.***

**Psalm 83: 2-3 (AMP)**

**Christians should process these developments in what way?**

We recognize that most of our readership operate from a place of faith in Christ which is connected to common Jewish scriptures and spiritual connectivity to the patriarchs of Israel, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In real time, for believers in the west there can be some dismay at the thought that the foreign policy of the United States might treat the nation of Israel in less than favourable terms. There are promises in the word about those who bless Israel will be blessed and it can be disconcerting for some that our nation would intentionally move away from that position. On the other hand it appears in scripture that as the age comes to a conclusion, all nations will come against Israel (Zechariah 12:3) and that there may be a war preceding that, described in detail in Ezekiel 38 and 39 where there is no mention of any allies coming alongside Israel in defense of her land militarily prior to a miraculous intervention by the Lord; Which leaves no doubt in Israel (Ezekiel 39:22) and in the earth (Ezekiel 38:23) who is the Sovereign of the planet and who ultimately dictates terms of and to mankind. Those who believe in the God of Israel will be able to take comfort in the progression of history which makes that truth obvious to His chosen nation and to His entire creation, and that part of the progression means Israel must appear to stand alone, as in the days of Joshua when it entered the land to possess what belongs to it.



Mr. Kim Brunson

CFI Insights Correspondent