



PASTOR JOE IS THE SENIOR PASTOR AT SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH IN RENO, NEVADA • FEBRUARY 25, 2024 • EXPANDED SECTION D
 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

Brief Review:

1. Esau sold his birthright then hated his brother Isaac for it. This compromise started an avalanche of hatred toward the nation of Israel.
2. “Two nations will come from your womb,” said the Lord in Gen. 25:23. Obadiah prophesied that these two nations—one was Israel and the other would carry on Esau’s hate-filled legacy of violence against Israel.
3. Abraham was promised by God that he’d become “the father of many.” He compromised by taking Hagar and bearing a child with her. It began two separate nations that exist to this day—Jews and Arabs.
4. I believe the reason for the current conflict in the Middle East is the compromise of godly men over many millennia.
5. I believe the ONLY hope for the Middle East—and for the world, for that matter—is found ONLY in Holy God.

D. The Most Dangerous Time in History

I. UPDATE on Israel/Hamas War

1. Today is Day 142 of the War (Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024)
2. Death rates are heartbreaking.
3. Stories of abuse are shattering.
4. Hamas started this current conflict.

Doomsday Clock



5. Israel may be too ferocious for “optics” for me.
6. Hamas tunnels are under key structures.
7. Evidence points to the UN’s direct support of Hamas.
8. The mood in Gaza is very tense—most are scared.
9. The mood in Israel is tense over Hamas and Hezbollah (the next phase of the war).
 The mood in my country is tense. While the operation in Gaza is going well, we know that the big war has yet to commence. The conflict with Hezbollah must come and it will come. When it does, it will be brutal for the entire nation... Hezbollah is much better armed and much better financed and much better trained than Hamas. Our Iron Dome and other defense systems can only do so much against the thousands of rockets that will come racing across our northern border. I fully expect that when it is all said and done, the skyline of Tel Aviv will look totally different as will many other parts of my country. - Amir Sarfotti with BEHOLD ISRAEL
10. Israel seems driven to succeed in destroying Hamas and Hezbollah—at all costs.
11. How do you negotiate with terrorists that have one goal—*Israel’s elimination*?
 A two-state solution cannot exist when one side does not believe the other side has a right to exist. - Pastor Joe
12. The whole world is fearful as the IDF approaches Rafah.

II. UPDATE on Israel and the United States

1. The Biden administration showed its hand on Israel Tuesday, February 6, 2024, when USSOS Anthony Blinken gave Israel an ultimatum to “...support Palestinian statehood or risk demonization by the United States.” (Source: Caroline Glick, JNS, “360 Degrees of Hostility: The Biden Administration and Israel, Feb. 5, 2024)
2. The Biden administration also said it would “cut back” on delivering arms and military supplies to pressure PM Netanyahu to stop the war in Gaza. (Source: AP, Feb. 11, 2024)
3. For me, it’s hard to read the current administration. President Biden on Monday, February 19, 2024, said, “[he would] personally go to the UN and call for a cease fire in Gaza.” But, on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, the United States vetoed a ceasefire in the UN Security Council. (Source: Reuters, art. by Michelle Nichols, February 14, 2024.)
4. I am not shocked that antisemitism exists—I am shocked that Christian antisemitism exists. (*Doxxing* is the new enemy of the Jewish people.)
5. Israel has God on its side—it does not need the US; the US needs Israel (Gen. 12:3).

6. I am saddened that pulpits are basically hushed, and our churches are basically prayerless on this matter.

Three Times Paul Warned Us to “Not be Unaware”:

Second Coming (1 Thess. 4)

Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor. 12)

The Mystery of Israel (Rom. 11)

7. US Morality (which is in a nosedive), Wokeness (arriving at moral position contrary to God’s precepts and void of God’s input), DEI (Diversity, Equality and Inclusion), and CEI (Corporate Equality Index) are putting our country in a position to receive God’s harshest judgment (and obviously threaten our stock markets and retirement accounts).

- Morality: *It is in a nosedive.* We have abandoned the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage, the complete breakdown of the family unit, pornography, countless mental health issues (i.e., horrible shooting investigations that entirely ignore the mental health issues of the attackers), the agenda driven, godless children’s books in our public and school libraries and the complete abandonment of known biblical positions both in our churches and society.
- Wokeness: Born out of the BLM movement, has moved to every kind of sexual preferences/gender identifications, CRT-I, and *modern views* on racism and social issues. *“Wokeness” is the most insidious, dangerous and pervasive ideology I have ever seen in all of my life.* - Dr. Tommy Nelson, Denton Bible Church, Sermon, April 4, 2021.
- DEI (Diversity, Equality and Inclusion) is forcing its agenda.
- CEI – (Corporate Equality Index) is also forcing the same agenda. Take BUD LIGHT™ and Dylon Mulvaney; TARGET™ and LGBTQQA+ displays; and FORD MOTOR CO.™ with their *rainbow pickup*. I believe they are showcasing an agenda—and they don’t care what you think or what profit you make when you invest in their companies. *Why?*
 - i. They are willing to suffer short-term financial losses for long-term cultural gain.
 - ii. They are more interested in a high CEI score than improved customer satisfaction. *They are pushing an agenda at all cost!*

8. Social Media - Our musicians, sports figures, movie stars and social media influencers are the primary change catalyst in the younger culture.

9. Most older Americans are afraid in a post-pandemic world. Their concerns are our open border, political turmoil, abandoned patriotism and loss of spiritual foundations.

10. I am concerned about the cognitive decline in our President.

The Six “Woes” of Isaiah 5:8-30

Woe to the Corrupt one who lives a sinful life.

Woe to the Wealthy and Wise who know but do nothing.

Woe to the Scoffer who says *there is no God*.

Woe to the Moralizer who says *no one will tell me how to live my life*.

Woe to the Antinomian who does what he/she wants but ignores the consequences.

Woe to the Enlightened—ones who have the light but choose to live in darkness.

III. UPDATE on Israel and the World

- Israel vs. Hezbollah war is inevitable—and it will be a tough one.
- United Nations is completely on the side of antisemitic extremists.
- North Korea and Kim Jung Un – nuclear threats.
- Russia’s drive to create nukes that will be detonated in space.
- Russia’s *Yarovaya Law* adds provisions to prosecute foreign Christian missionaries.
- Ratification of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), a complex agreement between Russia, China and Iran to lead the world to a *new multipolar world order*, intended to replace the current *unipolar American-led order*. It includes a military and mutual-defense agreement. It was ratified July 4, 2023, but publicized February 1, 2024. (Liberal US media outlets did not carry the story.)
- Most nations, including ours, are facing extreme weather events, cyber insecurity, inflation, unsustainable debt, economic downturn, social polarization, mental health issues, artificial intelligence and a host of things unmentioned.
- I do believe the world, as we know it, is in the beginning of “birth pains” of the last days. I remain confident of the imminent return of Jesus Christ.
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But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The skies will disappear with a loud noise. Everything in them will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be exposed. ¹¹ In that way everything will be destroyed. So what kind of people should you be? You should live holy lives and serve God, ¹² as you wait for and look forward to the coming of the day of God...

BONUS: My biggest fear is that God will take His hand off the United States.