

## Transcript 158

Shea Houdmann

Welcome to the Got Questions Podcast. On our podcast is, you know, we like to go through popular questions, questions that were being asked again and again and again. We like covering the frequently asked ones the most, the important ones. And today we're going to do a mix of both. And if I could give you one topic that we haven't yet done on the podcasts that we're getting a ton of requests for, something about the end times. So it's been our to do this and no sense of avoiding it, but I really wanted to one know which which aspect of the end times to cover, and the first one to also who would I like to have on. And so joining me today is Pastor Jack Hibbs. He's the pastor of Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, California. He's also author, very well known speaker, and the in times is something he's particularly passionate about, Israel is something he's particularly passionate about. So today we're going to be doing some of the most frequently asked questions about Israel and its relationship to the end time. So Pastor Jack, welcome to the Got Questions podcast.

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Shea, first of all, I'm honored to be on this. I love what you guys are doing. I love your platform. I encourage every buddy, they should just spread the word, get people to know about Got Questions. I love the fact that you guys are still one of those safe locations where you can send people and they're not going to get goofiness. So we appreciate you.

Shea Houdmann

We we save the goofiness for our office here we try not to actually put it on on the website. Well, thank you for, thank you for that encouragement. So Jack, let's start off with kind of a more general question. What is Israel's role in the end times?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Oh my goodness. OK, so Israel's role is not only an an end times topic. It is an absolute biblical topic from Genesis to Revelation. So much so, Shea, that when you look at the context of what we're discussing, Bible prophecy. Now great scholars are what you and I know as eschatologies. Like Doctor John Wolfred and others, they have announced to us that the Bible itself is somewhere, depends on who you're talking to, but 27 to 31% of the Bible contains prophetic events. That's over 1/4 of your Bible. That means prophecy is important to God. Many of the prophecies, in fact, it's quite possibly accurate to read Scripture and let Scripture speak to you, that a bulk of those are in relation to Israel. And so when you look at the fact that God started with Israel and he's going to end with Israel. In between, is this thing called the church age and we can discuss that later. But Israel, as the Bible lays out, Israel is the time peace. That's the key point to literally understanding Bible prophecy for the church. The difference between the Church and Israel, the tribulation period, the age in which we're living now. What about the Old Testament prophecies and all of God's promises to Israel? Did he forfeit, or did they forfeit those? Or were they really, truly everlasting covenant that God made with Abraham? If we botch this up, Shea, regarding the topic of Israel, then we have cut ourselves loose even as gentiles from from the validity of the Bible. We won't know what God is going to do next. So yes, Israel's key to understanding the end time Bible prophecy scheme.

Shea Houdmann

Thing that amazes me the most about those who interpret Bible prophecy literally. The book revelations describing literal events that will occur. For a long time, people were predicting below, who interpreted the Bible literally take a premillennial viewpoint that there has to be an actual nation of Israel for these events that take place. Well since about 70 AD, there was no nation of Israel, yet some pre millenniums were saying there's going to be and people were laughing at them. Well then come 1940s, suddenly there is a nation of Israel again, and so we just start to see how these events actually could unfold. See, you know the Bible actually Bible prophecy could be fulfilled literally, when for nearly 2000 years you said to step out in faith that there there will someday be a nation of Isreal for God to begin to work through prophetically without actually seeing in reality. In the 1940s, you see it become a reality. And now they're like, how soon is it?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Wow, so well said. You know, you think about what you just said. For example, it's Isaiah that says, shall a nation be born twice in one day, a second birth and one day, speaking the context is Israel. It says it's it's Isreal. Did that happen, May 14th, 1948, in one day? Did the Bible predict that in the last days before God deals with Israel that he would draw his people back into their own land, Ezekiel 36-37? That he would draw them back into their own land in the last days. Listen to this. And that he would draw them back from all four corners of the Earth and he would do so, bringing them back and they would come in unbelief. Isn't that wild? They would decide to move to Israel or some would say we're going back home. Oh, did you used to live in Israel? No, but we're going home. Oh wow. Are you a Jew? Yes. Listen, Shea, you've heard this 1000 times. Are you a Jew? Yes. Do you believe in God? No. It's like, what?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

If you go to Israel today, ask a Jew on the street, do you believe in God? So many of them will say no, which is hilarious because the word Jew comes from Judah. It means one who praises God. If you say you're a Jew and you don't praise God, there's a funny thing going on. Well, the funny thing that's going on is God's word is being fulfilled. So he's been drawing his people back into the land. You got to stop and ask yourself is that true? It was born a second time as a nation. No country ever has in human history, but Israel in one day, May 14th, 1948. And that it would be also indicative that they would be surrounded by a hostile group of enemies that would seek their destruction in the last days. What do we see on the news? The best thing and you already said it. The best thing to do is when you read the Bible, read it with a futurist literal approach. Let it talk to you. Don't tell the Bible what to say. Let the Bible speak to you and you'll you'll land on your feet just fine.

Shea Houdmann

Absolutely. That segues really well into what I wanted to ask you next, and this isn't so much a question that we get, but it's something that we are often responding to. Every time there is a explosion of violence in the Middle East, Hamas or the Palestinian territories or Lebanon or Syria attacking Israel in some fashion. Some people we like to call it, go in automatically, go into apocalyptic freak out mode. Or this is it. This is the one. And yet in the 20 year history of Got Questions, I don't know how many different explosions of violence and warfare there have been in and around Israel. How do we, like you say, look up the expectant. Be looking forward to the eschatological fulfillment of Bible prophecy and be

excited to be passionate about it and want to see it while also not freaking out each time something happens in Israel that might be the start of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Pastor Jack Hibbs

You know so perfectly well said. We want to avoid Shea sensationalism. There's this bizarre thing, would you call it freak out mode? It's very sad. I actually think it does more damage to the witness of the church than any good. And look, you know, not too long ago we had all the books about the blood moons, the blood moons, and it's this is the end that's start counting the calendar, the the date Christ is coming the second coming. All this craziness does nothing but discredit the witness of the church. So what do we do about? In fact, even as you and I are speaking at this moment, I reached out this morning and late last night to friends in Israel because there's violence going on right now in Israel. I asked how they're doing. Are you OK? Where did the missiles of the rockets land in your area? Listen, nobody gets freaked out over Chicago's. Look, look, Israel, that's one thing. You go to Chicago, you good chance you get shot. But it's Israel. That should tell people something. Everybody's Israel sensitive. That's a good thing. But we need to interpret everything through again through the scriptures.

Pastor Jack Hibbs

These things are going to escalate. Violence against Israel is going to escalate according to the Bible. How do we know? Well, one of the things is that Daniel tells us that whenever the Antichrist does come on the scene he's gonna offer peace and prosperity. So that presupposes there's gonna be no peace and no prosperity. He's going to bring the answers. So we need to just pull back. Oh my gosh. You know, the COVID shot was the mark of the beast. No, it wasn't. It was just a stupid virus or a vaccine that didn't work. It wasn't the mark of the beast. OK, the thing is people jump and I don't know, Shea, if it's because they want to see Bible prophecy fulfilled or they just want to be the ones that get out of the gate with the first tweet. I don't get it, but we need to calm down. Read the Bible. Don't be anxious for anything. And by the way, I mean, Jesus said when you see these things begin to happen, look up, your redemption draws near. But he also said when these things begin to unfold, the end is not yet, for these other things must take place. So we need to be balanced by the entire word of God, the fullness of God's counsel. And again, we'll do fine if we do that.

Shea Houdmann

Amen. The primary rapture passage in the testament, First Thessalonians, I love how it includes concludes with encourage one another with these words, not not freak one another out, scare each other. But encourage one another with these words, and that's that's an important attitude shift that a lot of us to be reminded of who, who are excited, who are passionate about the end times, love studying it, love teaching on it, but also don't want to get in front of what God's word actually says. Allow God's word to shape our eschatology, not the news headlines.

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Yeah, I love that. Can I just add this before we move on? I am I was I was spiritually born and raised in a church that was just Super Pre and and then after a while I rebelled and I went post. And so I I studied everything post and I gotta tell you, it was depressing. I had to manipulate Scripture. I had to replace Israel with the church in scripture. I had to change the and it became so difficult. And then I mean, God took me to the woodshed and when I came back to understanding the pre tribulational rapture view I

came away with such a deep assurance and comfort as you just mentioned. But people need to realize this, at the church I pastor and in my personal life, Shea, we believe that the Lord could come back today. That drives us. Listen its going to sound cookie. But didn't Jesus say? Doesn't the Bible say occupy till he comes? Doesn't it say that we need to get into the fields because they're white unto harvest? Even though I believe that he could come back today, our entire staff is just busting the the hump to get stuff done, to get the word of God out. And we're planning for the next 50 years literally Shea, with radio programming, television programming in case he doesn't come back, but we're working like he's coming back today. That fact of his imminent return fills up our tank to be ready to meet him now, but it sets us on a path of urgency that is a 50 year plan. And it's not a contradiction. We're occupying until he comes. He could come today.

Shea Houdmann

Amen, when I look at the history of the Got Questions Ministries and being around now for 21 years and seeing this cycle of questions and some people have gone through the whole, Jesus is coming back so soon predict the date against what the Bible says and make some tragic mistakes with their lives and their decision making because of that, or get so focused on the end times that they forget that we have a calling, we have a mission to make disciples now. So it's a difficult balance, as I'm sure we've all discovered and gone too far in one direction or the other. But it's a good to remember to be looking out to be passionately expecting and desiring the return of Christ, but also until that day comes the fields are white with harvest. We are to be his laborers in the field. So we discussed briefly how to avoid the apocalyptic freak out, on the other side why is it so important for us to remember that God still has a plan for the nation of Israel?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Brilliant question. Wonderful answer from God's word. I'll put it to you this way. If God does not fulfill his promises that he made to Isreal, then you and I, the church we have no promises to hang on to. You gotta remember, we have been grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel, the Gentile church. God will so fulfill his word even in the face of Israel's rebellion and stubbornness. Did he not say in the old Testament, don't think I picked you Israel because you guys are really good at music and you can write great plays and you guys are going to be the biggest Nobel Prize winners in the universe. No, he said, I picked you guys because you're really a bunch of hard headed, stubborn people who are stiff necked and I am going to show the world my grace and mercy through you Israel. I've picked you. And that is to encourage us. God is not going to give up on Israel even if Israel gives up on God. He has said I'm going to reserve a remnant for, for my words sake, for my namesake. I made a promise to Abraham. I made a promise to David. I'm gonna fulfill it. And that's why for the what? 75 years my math is right. Israel has been in their land again in the last days. It's not Palestine. I know people want to say Palestine I get it. It was never Palestine, by the way, in the Old Testament, I think you guys know that. Of course, Emperor Hadrian renamed Israel Palestine in 135 AD to shame the Israelis and to call Jerusalem Jerusalem to call it Capitolina. Why? Satan and unbelief always tries to erase the promises of God. And that's why Israel has been the target of anti-Semitism. Satan look, Satan hates them because he knows something. What most Christians don't know that is Israel is pivotal to the fulfillment of end time events. Israel must be present for the seven-year tribulation period. And so we must again let Scripture interpret Scripture.

Pastor Jack Hibbs

And please don't let Calvary Chapel, the Lutheran Church, the Baptist Church, the Catholic Church, or any cool somebody pull you away from organic Orthodox and original Bible scriptures. Look to the apostles, read them, read the Bible, you'll be safe. And again, if God doesn't keep his promises with Israel, Shea, you and I, we can't trust him for anything.

Shea Houdmann

Absolutely. That's that's Romans 9 through 11 right there. God points to how can we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God? Because nothing will ever separate Israel from God's love. So so so. Here's the question that actually came in yesterday via e-mail about Israel. And so it fascinates me because it's a very interesting question. How does the fact that right now the nation of Israel is largely unbelief, Atheistic, you can say, and hostile to Christianity. How does that impact how we as Christians view the nation of Israel at least right now?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Yeah, again, number one, we answered it a moment ago. God said I'm going to draw them back into their own land in unbelief. So that's happened. And remember what Paul said in Romans to the Gentile church? He said, hey, you guys, it's my desire that you guys provoke the Jew to jealousy. What does that mean? When we study the word of God, when we know the word of God as a gentile who's been grafted in, when we share the Lord with Jews, and I highly recommend all of you do that, I I highly recommend get schooled and understand how to share with the Jew that Jesus is the Messiah without ever touching the New Testament. Remember the the early church fathers and all the apostles, they didn't have a New Testament. They only have the Old Testament. And yet they argued Christ as Messiah from the Old Testament. So you see, but jected Jews hostile towards us. Of course they are. They're very passionate people. And even when they're wrong, they think they're right. They're stubborn as all get out. But I got to tell you, I mean, I just confess. I've talked to a lot of Jews over the last 30 years, some of them I love dearly, some of them have stayed in my home for vacations from Israel, they don't believe and boy do we go at it all in love. Old Testament only, and it's thrilling.

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Here's the thing. You're right. Generally speaking, they don't like Christians. Listen, I have found that many times the Christians they don't like, I don't like them either because I'm not even sure if the Christian they're talking about even a Christian. So I want to win them with the love of Jesus. I understand something, that the Bible says that the God of this world, Satan has blinded the eyes of those who do not believe. But I do not see that in Scripture regarding the Jew, Shea. The Bible says God has blinded the Jew, which causes me. He's one man to put the veil on the Jew, which causes me personally, Jack to try to find a Jew wherever I can to try to share with them Yeshua as Messiah from the Old Testament. If they're going to hate me for that, it just fills fulfills Bible prophecy, which Jesus says if they hated me first, they're going to hate you too. I told them the truth. They rejected me. Don't be surprised if you tell them the truth and they reject you. So I'm supposed to find a Jew. Tell them about their God. I on my I have a ring from Israel, as probably most so many people I know do. And it says your people, my people, your God, my God, from the book of Ruth. And so I'll sit down on an airplane or I'll be somewhere and a Jew will say ohh you're Jewish and I say no. No, no, I'm not Jewish. But the God I worship is Jewish. And that opens up the whole conversation. It's OK if they hate us. They hated Jesus first. Don't be offended by that. Don't don't step back from that. And I think you could, I think you and I

should engage Shea like never before because we do need to rebuke or expose a bad version of Christianity that many of these Jews have inherited by sad example.

Shea Houdmann

Amen. Well said. The flip side of that coin, what are the ways that you would say that Christians today in this current dispensation in this current age and what way should we be supporting the nation of Israel?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Yeah, I would look for ministries. If you don't know any get ahold of Got Questions.org or go to jackhibbs.com. We'll steer you in the right direction. There are great ministries that you can get involved in. Now hear me out because I don't want you to get upset. #1 the number one goal for us is to get the gospel to the Jew. But they're not an easy people to get the gospel to. So just like a good doctor will distract you when he gives you the shot or I love my dentist, by the way. I mean, who can say that? My dentist numbs my gums with the topical before he gives me the shot and I don't feel a thing. We can deliver that, we must deliver the truth to the Jew. But we must first listen. We must earn that opportunity to do it in love. They're not a crusade type of people. They're not going to show up at a Christian outreach. You've got to show them love. You've got to befriend them. You've got to do friendship evangelism. That's hard work. That's not our American version of flash in the pan. Hey, come to the crusade and you'll get saved. They want to know if you're real. Look, they're very bright, shrewd, and tough people to win over. But the power of God's love always prevails. If they know, in fact, listen. Somebody that you and I know Shea, Dennis Prager said about myself in this church that I have a honored a pastor, he said, I know that that church and that Pastor Jack is a group of people who will hide me in the day of trouble. That's a term among Jews. Are those gentiles, you know? Are they people who will hide you? It's of reference back to World War Two, and the Corrie Ten Boom era. And when a Jew believes that you will risk your life for them, then they're ready to to listen to what you have to say about the gospel. It's vitally important that that you do that, love them. And watch what happens.

Shea Houdmann

Powerful and that's you can gospel is the power of salvation to all who believe first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. And we often flip that around. It's it's a powerful reminder that, you know, doesn't matter that they're largely unbelieving and don't seem open. Now the gospel must go out to the Jew. And if we're not doing that, we're failing any big portion of what God is calling us to. Thanks for that powerful reminder. So just briefly, I mean briefly, you're going to laugh when I actually ask you this because you could do a whole episode just on this, but what would you say? What are the next things on the prophetic calendar specifically related to Israel that we can be looking towards?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Yeah, I'm going to answer it the way you put it. You said specifically regarding Israel. So that's what I'm gonna stay focused on. Israel at the current hour is being increasingly surrounded by a hostile audience. According to Ezekiel, we now see the proximity Shea of Russia. We thought Russia was more Jerusalem, Moscow. Now it's Russia and Lebanon, Russia and Syria. So we know that the possibility of Ezekiel 38 is very near possibility. We see Iran, Persia in scripture, we see the alignment of those several several nations, which is how we know it's not Armageddon context. There are several nations named in the

Ezekiel sequence of nations that will group together with the Prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. He goes by the name name or a title. Not the name, title of Gog. GOG, a military political leader. I'm not saying it's Putin, but it's going to be a Putin type. That could happen. We also know that Isaiah 17 warns us that in the last days something's going to happen in Damascus that will render it Isaiah 17. Damascus will experience an explosion of such a magnitude that it will never again be inhabited. That could happen at anytime. Could that be actually a preemtor to the Ezekiel situation?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Israel's government is falling apart at the seams, much like America right now. Israel seems to be going through the same thing. There's a destabilization. I could take an hour pointing out possibilities, I'm not prophet. Possibilities of the stage being set by all the parts that could now get God's time clock going. So I'm looking to Israel to possibly be invaded. I'm looking for Israel to be blamed for something that could cause a coalition of nations to attack them. I see Israel struggling internally, so keep your eye on Israel. There are various news agencies that you can watch. Can I just encourage all of you? Don't watch Western news. It is so now polluted. You're not going to get good news about any country or even your own country from your local news. You've got to go outside and I look at all kinds of news. I look at the People's News in China. I'm looking at the Iranian times. Tehran times. And various Israeli news sources, I-24. Is one of them. But keep your eye on Israel, you guys every day. Because I think this summer is and I'm I'm based on this, Shea, off of prophecy and off of history of the past. This summer could be a really rough time for Israel, but again we move one more step closer to end time events.

Shea Houdmann

Absolutely. I've been to Israel few times. I'm hoping to return in the fall, but this whole numerous people who on the trip are in e-mail, so is the trip still on? It's like as of now the trip is still on but yeah, that could totally change based on events or things could be totally calm again in preparation for the next big explosion of violence that that one might be the ones. So like you said, keep your eye on Israel, but also keep your eye on the scriptures and base your end times view on what Scripture says. Not necessarily on the news headlines, but the news headlines can be indicators of on what God is doing and that the prophetic calendar is the clock is ticking a little faster.

Shea Houdmann

Well, Pastor Jack, thank you so much for joining me today. I just wanted to give you a brief opportunity. Hopefully our audience is familiar with you, with your ministry, with the books you've written. But what are some things you have going on? And feel free to give website address anything. What's something you really like our audience to be aware of that you're doing?

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Thank you for that. There's a lot going on, but one thing is monumental and it's this, on May 28th which is coming up real quick. May 28th is the fact that we are launching Real Life network. If you know what Hulu is, if you know what Netflix is, if you know what Amazon is, we're doing the exact same thing. But we are launching Real Life network, which is going to host 24/7. Video on demand. Sometimes we'll have live broadcasting as well. It is Christian content and or conservative or moral or character building content. Some good old American programming, something like Little house on the Prairie all the way through to the legacy series of of Doctor David Jeremiah or Billy Graham, or Chuck Smith or Charles

Stanley, doctor Adrian Rogers to contemporary teachers today. It's gonna be a it's gonna actually mirror a lot of the integrity that you guys have sustained all these years. And that is it's a place where you can go. Its free to subscribe, it's free to be a broadcaster on it because God has provided and you're going to be safe. You're going to be. You're not going to be shocked. It's going to be Bible based, scriptural teaching and content that you're going to love. So thank you for that question. Its the real life network and you can find out more by just simply going to [jackhibbs.com](http://jackhibbs.com), [jackhibbs.com](http://jackhibbs.com) everything is there. And man, thanks for allowing us to have the plug.

Shea Houdmann

No problem, and we'll include some links both in the description on YouTube and this video goes live in the show notes for the podcast and at [podcast.gotquestions.org](http://podcast.gotquestions.org) when this episode goes live. So Pastor Jack, thank you again for the thrilling conversation. Been wanting to do this for a long time and I look forward to hopefully meeting you in person sometime. So I've admired you, your ministry, your teaching for a long time.

Pastor Jack Hibbs

Shea, thank you. Thanks for the honor for having us on. God bless you.

Shea Houdmann

This has been the Got Questions podcast on what is Israel's role in the end times? Got questions? The bible has answers. And we'll help you find them.