

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

*May God richly
bless you!*

Tom & Debbie

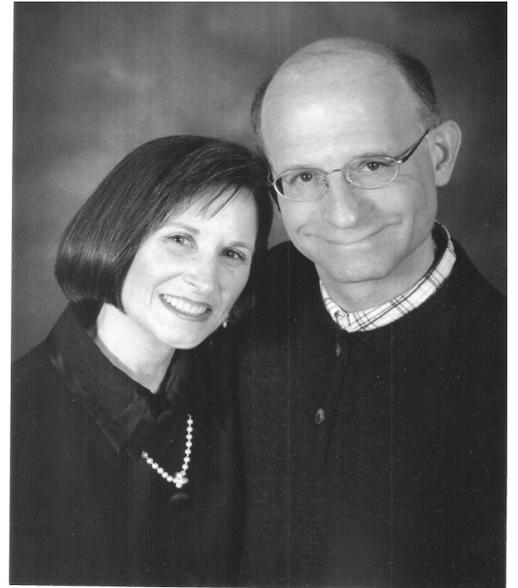
Israel is the #1 Proof of God!

In the beginning, God chose, called and created a nation for His Own possession which He would faithfully love, guard, but also judge and scatter until finally restoring, saving and glorifying forever! No, not the USA... but Israel! As we study through 'The Acts of the Apostles,' we find that, in reality, it's almost exclusively The Acts of Peter and also of Paul who wasn't even one of the original Twelve. The beginning chapters focus on Peter and a little of James but from chapter 9 onward, it's almost exclusively Paul. We learn nothing of the travels and ministries of Andrew, Bartholomew, Phillip, Thomas, Thaddaeus, etc. Yes, Matthew and John do pen their own 'books' but it's Paul about whom we learn. Why is that? The simple answer is that

The Acts' author is Luke, the writer of the 4th Gospel, which sits just before *The Acts*; he was Paul's longtime traveling companion who documented all their travels; none of the other Apostles had their own personal scribes along with them. It would have been nice to learn of the ministries of the others but God's real reason for the focus on Paul is that His Eternal Plan was that the New Testament, the New Covenant would be revealed to Paul by Jesus, Himself, when Paul was taken up into the third Heaven and whose later ministry would then be to write out the Truth of God's New Covenant. Paul was the one to whom would be revealed God's New Covenant of Salvation by God's Grace alone, through our Faith alone, through His written Word alone, apart from any works whatsoever. All our Doctrine of the True Church would then be revealed in Paul's Epistles: Romans through Philemon and possibly also the Epistle to the Hebrews. In fact, it was Paul who would be tasked with revealing these Truths to the other Apostles.

Mankind is divided into two main groups: Israel/Jews and everyone else: Gentiles. God made certain and specific promises to Israel which will all be fulfilled completely but it was always God's intent that the True Church, the Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, be composed, mostly, of Gentiles from every tribe, tongue and people group. To be sure, many Jews have come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and are included in the True Church but it is, still, mostly Gentiles and that is to whom Paul was sent.

What about the Jews? Let's be honest and not fall prey to being shamed by false cries of 'Anti-Semitism!' Israel has always been a stiff necked and rebellious people. They consistently rejected God while He consistently blessed and protected them until finally, they rejected and crucified their long awaited, long prophesied Savior and Deliverer, their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no mistake, it was the Jews who crucified him. Yes, the Romans had the ultimate authority and they drove the spikes into the wood but it was the Jews who instigated and pushed it through to completion. They cried out: '*His Blood be upon us and upon our children!*' Then, only 30 some years later, God used those same Romans to obliterate Jerusalem, the Temple and to scatter Israel to the four winds and,



humanly speaking, they should have disappeared and been swallowed up by the World. But, thankfully, God is Faithful; His Love, Grace and Mercy are never ending; He is Faithful to His Word and Promises unto a thousand generations. God placed a spiritual blindness on Israel so that their majority would never see the Truth of the Gospel; yes, one by one, many Jews would come to Faith in Jesus Christ but it will not be until He returns at Armageddon, that all the Jews left alive will, at the moment they see Him, turn en masse to Him and be saved; He will then establish His 1,000 year Kingdom on Earth with Israel as the 'Head of the Nations;' they will finally be blessed, honored and glorified by God in fulfillment of all His Promises to their forefathers.

Though He scattered Israel in AD 70, He promised to, in the Last Days, restore them to their Promised Land and drive them all back to it through the many pogroms, the Nazi Holocaust and finally, as we see today, the wicked hatred of Israel and Jews spewing forth around the World. And don't be so naive as to insist that God would never 'do' those things, that He only uses what befalls Him. God is always in complete control of all things, in all places, at all times, past, present and future! In fact, the Crucifixion was always His Perfect Plan; He planned, He caused it and He purposed it for His Glory: 'Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge

of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain' Acts 2:23 and 'For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, ²⁸ For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.'

Acts 4:27 It was always God's perfect Plan but Israel was still accountable. No people had ever been so chosen; no people had ever had God so reveal Himself to them; no people had ever been so embraced by God and no people had ever so spurned God as an adulterous wife as revealed in the Book of Hosea. Throughout the centuries, God has been judging, chastising and punishing Israel. In Daniel 9:24 we read of Israel's chastisement, looking toward the Last Days: 'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity.' Then, in Isaiah 40:2, again, referencing when Israel is finally restored when the Lord Jesus Christ returns: 'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. ² Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.' Israel has been receiving, from God's Hand,

double for all her sins. This is not anti-Semitism, this is not Jew hatred; this is simply believing and understanding God's Word but His Word is also True and sure that He will finally restore completely and embrace Israel as the tender lover He has always planned, to her, to be and He is that same tender lover, in the Person of His Son, to His beloved Bride, the True Church. What we find through the last twenty chapters of Acts is the growth of the True Church throughout the Gentile World but all along the way, time after time, evil Jews sought to stamp out the Church and kill Paul: over and over and over again. At one point, Paul said, to the Jews, 'But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. ⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.'

Acts 13:45 Satan's goal has always been to stamp out Israel to prevent the coming of Jesus Christ and to stamp out the True Church. He heard God's promise of a Redeemer Who would 'bruise his head.' His first attempt was to try and infect the human race through fallen angels intermarrying with human women in Genesis 6; God stopped that with the Flood. He tried to destroy the Messiah on the Cross. He tried to stamp out the True Church in its infancy through many evil Jews. But the True Church grew and spread up into Europe and finally across the oceans to the New World where it gave rise to the greatest, freest and most God honoring civilization the World has ever known but Satan still always tried to stamp it out.

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After the Jews were 'removed,' Satan developed another weapon to stamp out the True Church: Catholicism! Catholicism morphed into a horrendous caricature of the True Church. No entity in History has ever killed so many true believers; they sought to keep the True Word of God from the people; it became a death sentence to possess or to even read God's Word; only the priestly hierarchy could do so but God was always in control; He began to awaken men of God to the Truth of Salvation by Grace through Faith which was antithetical to the darkness of Catholicism. He inspired the invention of the printing press; the Word of God began to be circulated through which the Holy Spirit brought the Light of His Truth. In 1611, the King James Bible was produced which, as the greatest selling Book of all time, brought Light to the nations in these Last Days. Catholicism had hidden the Truth of Last Days Prophecy and the restoration of Israel. As the Bible spread, God began to awaken men of God to the Truth that all His Promises would be fulfilled: Israel's rebirth, the realignment into a one-world government, the Rapture, the rise of Antichrist and False Prophet, the Tribulation, the physical return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Salvation of Israel, the Millennial Kingdom, the Final Judgment, a New Heavens and New

Earth, the New Jerusalem and, finally, the never-ending, ever-expanding Universal Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ as we, His Bride, rule and reign with Him forever! Israel is the glaring proof of the existence of God and His faithfulness to those whom He chose for Himself from the foundation of the World. God chose and called Abraham and promised to make of him a great nation and that through his 'seed,' He would bless all the peoples of the World. That ultimate blessing is, of course, in the Person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He formed the nation in the crucible of Egyptian slavery; He then planted them in the exact territory He had promised to Abraham more than 500 years before. He promised to ultimately bless Israel far above all the nations of the Earth but first, according to their sin and rebellion toward Him, He scattered them and they became as dead dry bones. Almost no one believed that Israel would ever live again and they did not until God began to stir and awaken them 18 centuries later. He drew them back into their land; they revived their long dead Hebrew language and one day soon, He will save all who remain and because He has been faithful therein, we can

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also know that all His promises regarding the True Church will also be fulfilled entirely.

As we look out upon the horizon of our own darkened nation, it would be easy to fall prey to fear and trepidation; it would be difficult not to imagine that God has forgotten us or that He plans a terrible judgment in which we will be fearfully caught up. Do not fear! *'The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid... I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.'* ¹⁴ *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.'* Psa 27:1,13 His promises are true! He will come! Rest in Him and His care for you! He will never leave you or forsake you... ever!

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