

Jan Markell's Understanding the Times *Olive Tree Ministries*



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2016: The Year America Betrayed Her Best Friend

By Jan Markell

In late December, Israel—and more specifically, Jerusalem—became the burdensome stone to a lot of nations (Zechariah 12). *The United Nations Security Council* condemned Israel for building new apartments. Never mind that in other parts of the Mideast innocent people are being burned alive amidst mass slaughter by ISIS, Russia, and the Syrian dictator Assad. It was Israel who had to be condemned for adding new housing on her God-given land. No condemnation came to North Korea, China, Russia, Sudan, or Somalia, all known for atrocities too awful to write about.

Israel has the evidence that Barack Hussein Obama was behind this scheme. There may be more to come in the few days he has left. This newsletter will go to press well before January 20 so as it is being written and produced, Obama and his cronies could be initiating more mischief. They could also demand a Palestinian State before January 20.

With this U.N. vote on December 23, parts of Jerusalem, including the territory surrounding the holy Temple Mount and Western Wall, became “occupied territory.” Per the *U.N. Security Council*, her designated borders shrunk to those of 1967 and became “Auschwitz” borders. In other words, they are indefensible borders. Her population is growing as Jews return home from being scattered about in a dangerous world that hates them and thus new “settlements” are being built. What makes this so controversial? *Every nation makes room for new immigrants.*

For eight years Barack Obama delighted in humiliating and marginalizing Israel's Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu. One observer said

Netanyahu was treated worse than a third world dictator. Obama treated the Castro brothers and the brutal killers of Iran with far more respect. The leader of our greatest friend in the world—Israel—was humiliated and shamed for eight years. Barack Obama's upbringing was too influenced by Islam and Marxism to love a leader of the free world who was far more of a statesman than he was.

I have quoted Daymond Duck of *Prophecy Plus Ministries* before. He writes, “God clearly made an unconditional covenant to give all (not part) of the land of Canaan to Israel for an everlasting (forever) possession. He also promised to be Israel's God (Genesis 17:7-8).

“God also said, ‘I will gather all nations and will bring them down into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.’” (Joel 3:2)

The author goes on to say, “In the last half of the Tribulation, God will drag the nations into the Valley of Jehoshaphat for the Battle of Armageddon because they have scattered the Jews (forced them from their land) and divided their land (by creating a two-state solution.)

“Obama did more than stab Israel in the back. He stabbed God in the back by calling His Word a lie and saying that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, and the Western Wall, belong to the Palestinians. Obama stabbed every American in the back by exposing America to the judgment of God for his deliberate acts of revenge against Netanyahu (Obadiah 1:15).



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“He stabbed Donald Trump in the back by making the Middle East problem worse than ever and much harder to solve. He stabbed the Palestinians in the back because they no longer have to negotiate with Israel. They will have to be defeated on the battlefield.”

The author closes making salient points. “Christians need to pray that Donald Trump and a coalition of both Republicans and Democrats can quickly reverse this global atrocity. That is a possibility because many prominent Democrats have denounced Mr. Obama’s ungodly action.”

The author goes on to conclude properly, “The terrible deed of this servant of Satan was a previously-planned Bible-denying resolution in the *U.N. Security Council*... saying Israel’s settlements are not legal and they are putting the two-state solution in jeopardy.

“God gave the land to Israel and the Palestinians are the occupiers (Deuteronomy 32:8-9). He knows the Palestinian Authority didn’t come about until 1967. He knows that in the history of the world there has never been a Palestinian State and there will ultimately be one state, not two, when He gets through dealing with Israel’s enemies.”

Daymond Duck concludes, “It is undeniable evidence that Jerusalem is a burdensome stone for the world (Zechariah 12:2), a major sign that the Tribulation period is close, and by implication, solid evidence that the Rapture is not far off.”

God is restoring both the land and the people of Israel (Ezekiel 36). No individual nation can hinder this program. No king, premier, potentate, or president can stop God’s plan. They will find they are fighting against God if they oppose His plan. All of those who rose up against God’s people have come to ruin, yet Israel is preparing for a bright future—perhaps the most stunning on earth. Much of the world, including Muslims, political Leftists, and even Replacement Theology Christians, are trying to disprove this.

Starting in January of 2009, Mr. Obama and his minions proceeded to wreak havoc on job creation and on the American military, inflict strangulating regulations, amass crushing national debt, foist horrific healthcare and education systems on our citizens, and seed every government department with operatives from the terrorist organization *Muslim Brotherhood*. He also handed over control of the Internet to the United Nations—the most corrupt, tin-pot-dictator-driven, anti-American, anti-Semitic, American-resource-draining cesspool in the world.

As he finally exits office, he praises Islam, ignores Christians, and condemns Jews. His treachery has been exposed, but the damage now is incalculable and may be irreparable. He has been a hammer of judgment on America. Yet God remains in control and “laughs” (Psalm 2) at such inept world rulers.

God’s plan of the ages hasn’t changed! *Am Yisrael Chai! Israel lives.*

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JAN MARKELL

Jan was saved as a child under Dr. Hyman Appleman, noted Jewish evangelist. She has authored 8 Christian books with major publishers and produced a dozen DVDs, some shown on *Sky Angel*. Her radio program, which was launched in 2001, “Understanding the Times,” is syndicated on over 800 Christian radio stations. Jan hosts the largest Bible conference in America in the Twin Cities area. It looks at current events and Bible prophecy.

Understanding the Times 2017 Conference



Presented by Jan Markell and Olive Tree Ministries

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES 2017

Saturday, October 7

Grace Church, Eden Prairie

9301 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 (a southwest suburb of Minneapolis)

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • No cost or registration needed

Purchase a lunch ticket as you enter the church

Guest Speakers for 2017



AMIR TSARFATI

Amir is an international Bible prophecy teacher residing in Israel. He found the Lord through the "Jesus" film in Israel. He heads the ministry "Behold Israel." He is also a tour guide in

Israel. Learn more at www.beholdisrael.org.



MICHELE BACHMANN

Michele is a watchwoman on the wall with insights into current events from a biblical perspective. She served in Congress as a Representative to Minnesota's 6th District from 2006 to 2015. She also ran for President of the United States in 2012. She has traveled the world and met with world leaders in dozens of countries and has special insight for Middle East issues.



PASTOR J.D. FARAG

Pastor Farag heads Calvary Chapel Kaneohe, Hawaii. His parents are Arabs from the Mideast but J.D. has a strong love for Israel and the Jewish people. He is well known from his

weekly prophecy updates on YouTube where he reveals cutting-edge biblical insights as to the lateness of the hour.



DR. MARK HITCHCOCK

Mark pastors Faith Bible Church in Edmond, OK and has authored over 20 books on Bible prophecy. Mark also teaches at Dallas Theological Seminary. He has been at a number of our

annual events.

2016 CONFERENCE



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The Top Bible Prophecy Stories of 2016

By Jan Markell

At the end of each year I like to review how Bible prophecy played out during the year. Seeing dark news items from a prophetic perspective causes the darkness to be more bearable.

These Tribulation stage-setting events aren't in any particular order. But we must keep our eyes on Israel, God's timepiece. The minute-hand is Jerusalem and the second-hand is the Temple Mount. They have all been prominent in the news.

1) Zechariah 12:3 became a blunt reality on December 23. This was the day the *U.N. Security Council* voted unanimously to come against Israel. America abstained which is essentially voting with the other members. Israel and Jerusalem symbolically became the world's burdensome stone. *This was initiated and instigated by the President of the United States which means terrible repercussions are coming to this land.* And Israel is further isolated and alienated as predicted.

2) The great falling away didn't stop falling in 2016. Many evangelical churches became nothing more than advocates for open borders and multiculturalism as evangelicals make the same mistake the Mainline Protestants made 150 years ago. The social gospel made such giant inroads and salvation issues became unrecognizable. Emergent/Postmodernism raged. Other churches fell into lukewarmness. Hardly any would deal with the issues of the day or the Lord's return.

3) The longing for a "man with a plan" was never so prominent. Even CNN's Home page begged for a man who could restore order. It asks in smaller print, "Is there a leader who can stop the chaos and heal America?"

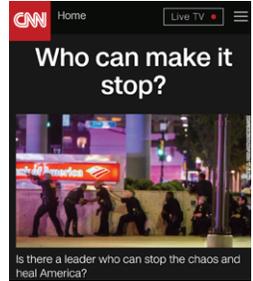
4) II Timothy 3 character was on overdrive in 2016. Various presidential candidates were consumed with pride and self-aggrandizement. Values seemed to tank this past year.

National industries featured same-sex ads with no shame. *It seemed like everyone was drowning the lake of me-myself-I.*

5) Israel's re-convened Sanhedrin took the momentous step of nominating a High Priest for the Temple—for the first time since its destruction in 70 A.D. The Tribulation Temple is in the works, even though the United Nations just declared this area off-limits to the Jews!

6) Israel struck Damascus in early December, targeting some weapons. This is a precursor to what is predicted in Isaiah 17:1.

7) God continues to intervene for His sovereign nation of Israel. In November, he sent a pillar of a cloud of dust and rain to push back ISIS on Israel's border. *He who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps (Psalm 121).* The cloud of dust and rain stayed right at the border and did not cross into Israel.



The Top Bible Prophecy Stories of 2016

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8) There was stage-setting for the Tribulation's natural disasters which will be far worse than anything the world has known thus far. Publications called many events “record setting,” “unprecedented,” and “of biblical proportion.” The Bible calls them “birth pangs.” Anne Graham Lotz addressed this at our October 15 conference.

9) The war on cash intensified. A few nations are banning cash and this will eventually lead to “Mark of the Beast” accounting. Technology was introduced that enables the total payment of goods and services using only an embedded chip.

10) Gog-Magog players are getting ready. Russia is the new power player in the Mideast thanks to America's absence. So is Iran. Turkey is in chaos and looking to Russia for support. These are the three primary players in Ezekiel 38-39, although other nations participate including Libya and Sudan. Some obvious players are missing including Syria and Iraq. Are they decimated in the current war there?

11) Europe is in a meltdown—setting the unstable stage for the arrival of the Antichrist out of Europe. Its godless culture welcomes all things dark and occultic. Their refugee policy has thrown the continent into chaos. It will welcome a “Mr. Fix-It” to calm the storm. On June

1 they had a literal Satanic ceremony as they dedicated the Gotthard Base Tunnel in Switzerland. European leaders cheered this. Below to the left is the demonic “goat man” who was celebrated on June 1 by world leaders. This was addressed by Amir Tsarfati at our October 15 conference.

12) The season of mocking the Lord's return intensified. The publication “Christian Today” out of the U.K. scorned the Lord's return and said a “zombie apocalypse” was more likely. Yes, this is a “Christian” periodical who thinks those of us longing for His return are believing in a fantasy.

13) The predicted rise of evil continues as foretold in II Timothy 3:13. A new term was introduced in late 2016: “Spirit Cooking.” It is too dark to write about but you can Google the information. We don't recommend it for sensitive people. It is borne out of the occult followers of Satanist Aleister Crowley and it would have entered the White House and Oval Office had Hillary Clinton won. *This may be the biggest reason the Left lost as many in the Clinton campaign were cheerleaders for this evil.* It is not Internet-hype.

14) The run-up to the lawlessness in the Tribulation has begun. There was post-election rioting with the promise of much more to come—all a blatant rejection of Donald J. Trump. Barack Obama was the most lawless president in U.S. history. He even told illegals they could vote with no consequences. Now the Left is making daily comments and jokes about assassinating Donald Trump.

15) The gay agenda has turned blatant. Many major corporations promoted this



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with their national advertising. The “days of Noah” have returned as predicted by Jesus. The transgender agenda also flourished. *In both cases Target led the way with promotion.*



16) The predicted rise in the persecution of Christians and Jews intensified. One organization monitoring this said a Christian was killed every six minutes. At the same time, some pastors in America were forced to turn over sermons for inspection and Christian businesses were hammered for trying to stand for righteousness. *Yet Islam is protected and no condemnation can be given.*

17) For most of these to play out required the prophesied rise in strong delusion (II Thess. 2:10-12). Those who take delight in mocking and rejecting Him, He will condemn, confuse their thinking, and cause them to believe fables. And they do! *Remember, global warming is a*

greater danger than radical Islam. Today it would seem the Mad Hatter is in charge. The “reprobate thinking” of Romans 1 has everything upside down. All good is evil. All evil is good.

18) Technology giants came against righteousness once again. From Facebook to YouTube to Google to Twitter, their progressive agenda rejected a conservative and Christian message. The Christian film “I Am Not Ashamed” had their YouTube trailer taken down one year in advance, marginalizing ticket sales. Christians and conservatives need to find new outlets for their messages as these venues will close in the coming years.

Things are not falling apart — they are falling into place. Can you hear the hoof beats of the four horsemen of the apocalypse in the distance?

I won’t be silent about the signs of the times. If Jesus chastised the Pharisees for not knowing the signs of His first coming, why would we not be expected to be aware of today’s apocalyptic signs?

Wake up, rise up and look up!

Worth Quoting

Gary Bauer of American Values, Presidential candidate 2000

Many people may be inclined to think, “Well, we won and we can all work together now on positive changes for America.” That would be nice. But it is unlikely to happen in a deeply divided America, especially if the left has anything to say about it.

As I have reported, radical groups like Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, the Sierra

Club and others, have reported record fundraising since the election. They are not going to spend that money helping to “make america great again.” The Left is determined to fight tooth and nail for every inch of ground it gained over the past eight years.

Many on the left want bigger government and higher taxes, not smaller government and lower taxes. They want Israel thrown overboard. They think it is good that we are reaching out to enemies like Iran and

Worth Quoting

Venezuela. They think religious liberty should surrender any time it comes into conflict with their radical social agenda. They want more abortions, not fewer. *They will not go quietly into the night.*

Even though he is leaving office, Barack Obama remains the leader of the Left. And unlike his predecessors he is remaining in Washington, D.C. But he is not done yet. Every day, step-by-step, he is working to corral Trump/Pence, to tie their hands and limit their options.

Buckle up, folks. There are huge battles ahead. There will be many opportunities and we must make the most of each one. But nothing is certain. The election may be over, but the battle for the heart and soul of America is still raging as fiercely as ever.

Terry James, author, commentator, co-founder Rapture Ready Website

One can sense prophetic movement afoot within this presidential election cycle. The globalist agenda, as mentioned a number of times in these commentaries, seems to have been put on hold, or at least slowed.

That is not to say that the forces wanting to set the stage for Antichrist's rise to power—unwittingly no doubt in most cases—have by any means given up on their agenda. But, in America, for the moment, the people's decision to put this particular man in the most powerful office on earth appears to have erected a wall of opposition.

It is God, Himself, who in actuality has put Trump in the office of U.S. president, just as He allows any potentate, prince, or president to come to power.

Eric Metaxus, author and commentator

If it's right to oppose the killing of human beings at the beginning of life, why do so many evangelicals say it's okay near the end of life?

Evangelical support for the pro-life cause is both well-known and extensive. The *Pew Research Center* says a full 75% are still willing to tell a pollster that "having an abortion is morally wrong."

But there's disturbing news when it comes to evangelicals and another pro-life issue: assisted suicide. According to *Lifeway Research*, 38 percent of those who profess to be evangelical—nearly four in ten—agree with the following statement: "When a person is facing a painful terminal disease, it is morally acceptable to ask for a physician's aid in taking his or her own life."

In other words, physician-assisted suicide is okay—at least in some circumstances. So *how in the world is that "pro-life"?*

Wendy Wippel, columnist, Jack Kinsella's Omega Letter

It seems to indicate that we may have another reason for celebration coming? One spelled R-A-P-T-U-R-E? Is it just me, or do the headlines seemingly push the date closer every day?

Exhibit A: The United States' decision to abstain from the U.N. vote on restricting Jewish settlements in land that they won fair and square, after being attacked, in the 6-day war in 1967. A vote that every one of the other countries with voting rights enthusiastically supported. Which makes a chilling confirmation of a prophecy by Micah official: Micah 4:11:

"But now many nations are gathered against you. They say, 'Let her be defiled, let our eyes gloat over Zion!'"

Other versions translate the word translated as 'gloat' here—as to "feast on", or to "react in ecstasy" at what they see. Having read a fair amount of world reaction to the UN vote—the fact that finally, a unanimous vote against Israel had been achieved—a unanimous vote to strip them of their land—I think all of the above translations were spookily exact descriptions of the world's reaction.

Officially, as you read this, just as Micah described, the whole world is licking their chops and anticipating Israel's defilement. The leaders of the whole world, in unison, are licking their chops thinking about Israel's ultimate destruction.

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Worth Quoting

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Joel Rosenberg, author and commentator

The number one question people I'm being asked is this: *What do Israelis think about the election of Donald Trump and the transition to a Trump-Pence administration?*

Here's the short version:

- Israelis were as stunned as the rest of the world by the elections — especially since the media said Hillary Clinton was a “sure thing.”
- That said, the Netanyahu government

appears enormously encouraged by the election results and believe they will have true and dependable friends and allies at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue beginning on January 20th.

- The Israeli public at large is steadily warming towards Trump. I would describe the mood as cautiously optimistic.
- By contrast, the Palestinian leadership seems cautiously pessimistic and deeply concerned Trump will be too “pro-Israel.”

So Is the Rapture Now on Hold?

By Jan Markell

Are happy days here again? I am sensing that even Rapture-watching believers, some anyway, now think that event is delayed while America returns to prosperity. Thanks to the 2016 election results, we may now return to the role of international leader. *Is America about to be great again with a return to prosperity? A recent report said that in the wake of Brexit and Donald Trump, the European Union may fall apart. Have prophecy watchers been proven wrong? Neither of these fit into the presumed agenda.*

An Election or a Revolution?

It's true that an eight year national nightmare is ending. It's been a time where Christians have been targeted, America has declined, lawlessness has abounded, corruption has been the norm, and aberrations have been celebrated. *It would be difficult to explain to a Martian why putting children at risk in transgender bathrooms is cool.*

So, millions of righteously indignant Americans got fed up with heavy-handed government telling them how to behave, what to believe, and what light bulbs to buy. They were sickened that the values of

Jay-Z, Beyonce', Katy Perry, and Madonna were not just celebrated but pushed on the average American. They wept at the future for their children and grandchildren and went to the polls to bring sanity back and take the future away from the progressive Left.

The media had told them Hillary Clinton was the slam-dunk winner. So had the polls. Clinton fireworks were set for election night. But few Americans could afford healthcare, Americans were at risk in every big city and small town, and jobs had gone to foreign countries. Voters were ordinary people chipping away at our own Berlin Wall. They were sick of the glory going to “Black Lives Matter” when it was obvious that middle American lives didn't matter.

We didn't have an election back on November 8, we had a revolution.

What About the Globalist Agenda?

The globalist agenda has hit a road block because President-Elect Donald Trump is not one of them. How can that possibly fit with end-time eschatology? The opposite should have happened. The ardent

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globalist, Hillary Clinton, should have won November 8 to keep that freight train on the tracks and the end-time clock racing.

Donald Trump's election is the single largest setback to the one-world aspiration of modern time. This even dwarfs Brexit. Brexit is in the little leagues compared to our election result. *Surely the globalist cabal won't allow this to stand.*

Then there is Israel. As predicted in Zechariah 12:3, she had become friendless. Now America is circling back to be her staunch ally under Donald Trump. How does this line up with end-time scripture? Does this perhaps delay everything?

America in Prophecy

Online prophecy writer Matt Ward states, "Trump's promise to 'make America great again,' is, I believe, a genuine aspiration. His nomination may be a reprieve, a last chance type of situation for repentance and the renewal of a once great nation and power.

"But I am not sure that America, or the world, have that kind of time left. When I look around today, I can see the obvious convergence of end-time Bible prophecy in a way never witnessed before. This convergence is coupled by the clear speeding up of prophetic events. We are careening toward a point of no return. These two facts alone clearly point to the lateness of the hour."

Ward continues, "If the assumption that we are rapidly approaching a point of no return is correct, a presidency that involves at least four or perhaps eight years of 'making America great again,' led by a man who genuinely wants to affect this change, would, therefore, seem to be incongruous with Bible prophecy."

Business as Usual

Let's say for the sake of discussion that America and even the world go back to "business as usual." Is that not what the climate will be at the time of the Rapture? As Bill Perkins writes in his *Compass* publication, "The Trump victory does seem like it fits better with Matthew 24 and Luke 17. Those verses say things should be normal before the Rapture. They specifically mention 'planting and harvesting,' 'eating and drinking,' 'building,' and social events. In other words, normal things in life. If Trump rights our sinking ship a bit, it would fit scripture like a glove."

Perkins says, "Contrary to what was predicted, the stock market is rallying. The money people think Trump will do better than Obama on managing the economy. By His grace, God has given us our own Brexit moment—maybe even a Nineveh moment. Maybe this is God's answer to our prayers by temporarily slowing the progress towards the Biblically prophesied 'one world order.' He may have amazingly given us a reprieve from the illegal and unchecked madness of those in power."

Imminency still reigns

The important thing to remember as it concerns Rapture timing is "imminency." This suggests any moment. It's why the early church greeted each other with "Maranatha." From the earliest days of the church, the apostles and first-generation Christians nurtured an earnest expectation and fervent hope that Christ might suddenly return at any time to gather His church to Heaven. The writers of the Bible suggest nothing has to precede it.

"Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently

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for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, *for the coming of the Lord is at hand*. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. **Behold, the Judge is standing at the door.**" (James 5:7-9)

Paul was convinced he himself might be among those who would be caught up alive to meet the Lord! That's imminency. A solid conviction that Christ could return at any time permeates the whole New Testament. Nothing has to happen first.

Perhaps we have more time to delay the decay. We are to "occupy until He comes," be salt and light, and rescue the perishing while there is time. Many believe it is the Rapture of the Church that will devastate the world. *Once this small but powerful remnant of believers is removed, all hell breaks loose. It matters not who is*

president, king, ruler, or emperor.

Perhaps today

The spirit of the Antichrist seems to reign even in America. The progressive left is rioting, burning, and behaving as though they cannot wait for the man of lawlessness to arise so they can worship him. I believe he is still waiting in the wings. Nothing has changed. *The birth pangs will continue to reverberate around the world.*

As for Europe, the more it destabilizes, the more it sets the stage for the Antichrist.

The Rapture is not delayed. *The theme of the Bible is perhaps today.* Don't grow weary in waiting. Keep watching expectantly. Jesus Christ will soon take His own to the Father's house (John 14:1-3). We are awaiting our "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13) and it is imminent.

Our Readers And Listeners Respond

Just to let you know that your radio ministry is appreciated by fellow believers in South Africa. We listen online at your website.—Nicoliene, e-mail

Jan, for several years I have enjoyed reading and listening to you teach about world events through a Biblical lens. My eyes have been tremendously opened and I am forever grateful.—Deborah, e-mail

Jan, if I had to name one thing that was the highlight of 2016, it would be your radio show! I could not get through a year without the wisdom, knowledge, and discernment your ministry brings to the air waves. I sense the shared fellowship of you and your guests during these last days.—Linda, e-mail

I've been wanting to write you ever since the fall conference. It was so good, and so encouraging. I was especially blessed by the turnout, as I'm sure you and your team were, too. Thank you for feeding the eschatologically hungry through your conferences and radio programs as too many of us are not fed through home church pulpits, as you know. I recommend your conference CDs and DVDs.—Amy, e-mail

Jan, God has used you and your ministry in my life to bring hope and encouragement, and to also have the courage to continue sharing the truth with others.—Jamie, Hawaii

Piercing the Perils of 2016

By Terry James, Guest columnist

The year 2016 more than lived up to the anticipation it harbored back when I wrote my *Nearing Midnight* commentary at the beginning of last year. I want to present that article here, *with the caveat that I anticipate even more profound prophetic unfolding in 2017.*

Piercing the Perils of 2016

Never in my own memory has a new year appeared at its beginning to be more prophetically interesting. Never—in my thinking, at least—has one portended more perilous times, as the apostle Paul would have it. Yet I wouldn't trade my time on this darkening planet with anyone of any other generation.

The fact that the Lord of Heaven has put me here at this strange, ominous, yet immensely fascinating time in history makes it all the more intriguing—even riveting, in terms of wanting to know what happens next.

He has put you here, too, at this time when the final curtain is about to fall. He has trusted you to be an actor in at least part of the final scenes of this great, cosmic play called human history. No illustrious personages of the past—not Julius Caesar, not Napoleon Bonaparte, not Alexander the Great, not even Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, or Ronald Reagan were so privileged. We are about to serve as active members of a most especially commissioned cast who populates the end-times stage.

There is about to occur a schism—a separation—of cataclysmic proportion. It will rend one part of humanity from the other. It will not be a natural catastrophe that will inflict the humanity-dividing rift. It won't be great political upheaval in America and around the world that will

cause the tearing apart of life upon the troubled planet. Those things will certainly happen. But it won't be acts of nature or of man that will bring about the very last scene of the age. That last act will be orchestrated by the Master Director of all Creation—by the Lord God of Heaven who is the final judge of good and evil.

The excitement presaging that grand climax of the age is building. Momentous events, written on the pages of Holy Scripture, are about to come alive. The final curtain will rise when Jesus steps out on the clouds of glory and calls all believers—His Bride, the Church, to Himself. If you are a believer in Christ alone for salvation, you will catch the grand finale as you watch from the luxuriant balconies of Heaven.

We see the drama building all around us for the tumultuous scenes set to play out during the times just ahead. The year 2016 is cloaked in the fog of malevolence this world continues to wrap itself in an increasingly anti-God, anti-Christ vesture that embraces humanism forewarned about by the psalmist.

Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. (Psalms 2: 1-3)

A quick scan of the news just the past week exposes, I believe, the arrogance of those the Scriptures call “earth-dwellers” who incessantly strive to break asunder the governance God rightfully placed upon His creation called man. The reports are laden with prophetic indicators.

One such report is seen in the prideful

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claims by a U.S. State Department spokesman, as the boast involves the increasing call for “peace and safety.” While the situation in Syria grows intensely worse by the hour, with the Syrian people torn violently between the forces of Syrian dictator Bashar Al-Assad and the hordes of ISIS murderers, Secretary of State John Kerry is lauded as bringing about a peace that just isn’t happening and will never come to pass.

State Department spokesman John Kirby wrote under the headline, *Bringing Peace and Security to Syria*: “Under Secretary of State John Kerry’s stewardship the United Nations passed a U.S. sponsored resolution to create a road map for Syria.” Again, the problem is that like in all of the humanistic efforts at bringing true peace, the only “peacemaker” is kept out of the peacemaking. Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, is denied at every turn by the president of the very country that speciously purports to be making the peace.

President Obama, remember, upon his very first week in office, proclaimed that the United States is not a Christian nation. The president of the United States of America, in effect, proclaimed regarding

the governance of the God of Heaven: “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”

We can believe what that omniscient, omnipotent, governing authority has to say about such arrogance and willfulness. The message is chilling for the planet’s inhabitants who will be left behind when the great schism aforementioned takes place.

He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. (Psalms 2: 4-6)

Details of what is about to take place in 2016, of course, lurks in the murkiness of an ever-increasing pall of trepidation. But, for those who are secure within the unshakable, impenetrable shelter of their Lord and Savior, there is no reason to fear. Piercing that black uncertainty is an effulgence that lights the path to the brightest of all possible futures. *It is that Blessed Hope of Titus 2: 13!*

Learn more about Terry James at his website, www.raptureready.com.

The Story of the Decade

In recent years, Christians have been on the run like never before. In 2016, 90,000 Christians from many denominations were killed, but you won’t hear much about it in pulpits around the world or from major news outlets. Entire Christian communities have been wiped out, particularly by radical Islam in recent years.

Pastor Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church, Dallas, says John Kerry and Barack Obama have blood on their hands for not defending these people. He says,

“What Muslims hate is that historically, Christians have been the Jewish people’s best friends.” He adds that as the United Nations pushes toward a two-state solution in the coming weeks and months, more devastation may follow.

Jeffress reminds people that Muslims consider both Jews and Christians to be “people of the Book.” Both groups are in the crosshairs and another good reason to stick together.

A SINCERE THANK YOU!

Thanks for supporting the work of Olive Tree Ministries in 2016. God blessed in every respect. We had 6,000 at our annual conference and all said it was our best out of 20 such events. Our financial needs were met thanks to His blessing and your generosity. Our radio budget exceeds \$600,000 a year including production costs and station expense. My thanks to my radio team including Larry Kutzler, Eric Barger, Jill Martin Rische and Steve Krumlauf. We look forward to bringing you the inconvenient truth in 2017.

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If you enjoy social media, we have a presence there. Jill Martin Rische manages our Facebook and Twitter outreach. Tens of thousands are reached there with articles, radio programs, and other vital updates to keep you informed. Interact with like-minded believers on social media. Find our Facebook page at “Jan Markell’s Olive Tree Ministries.” Find us on Twitter at “OliveTreeMin.”

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- Sign up for our e-alerts (also referred to as e-newsletter) at the website. This is sent about twice a month
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- The best way to contact us is through the website. We read all e-mail and try to answer U.S. mail but regrettably cannot answer all of it. Thanks for all encouraging correspondence sent in any form! Every letter or e-mail is read by our staff.

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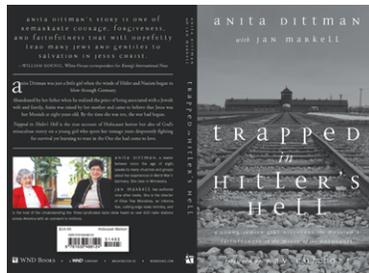
In Romans 9 - 11 the olive tree is the symbol of the spiritual heritage of Israel and the Jewish people. By God's grace, other peoples now share equal participation in His promises of eternal life and blessing.

CONTACT

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jan@olivetreeviews.org

Resources by Jan Markell



Trapped in Hitler's Hell: A Young Jewish Girl Discovers the Messiah's Faithfulness in the Midst of the Holocaust

By Anita Dittman and Jan Markell

Book: \$11 – 206 pages – softbound

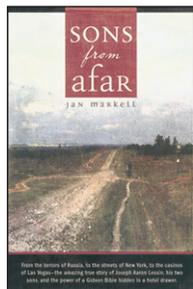
Jan's classic book, now celebrating 35 years of making a difference. The remarkable story of Anita Dittman and her miraculous survival during the Hitler years. The story spans 12 riveting years of

deprivation, captivity, escape, and walking across Europe to find her mother in a concentration camp. It is inspirational and puts trials in perspective. It demonstrates that with God, all things are possible. He truly never leaves or forsakes us.

"I read 'Trapped in Hitler's Hell' and loved it. It was mesmerizing, fascinating, inspirational, and God-exalting. And it was a masterpiece of writing!" – Dr. Dave Reagan, Lamb Lion Ministries

DVD: \$16 – 75 minutes, full color, produced by George Escobar

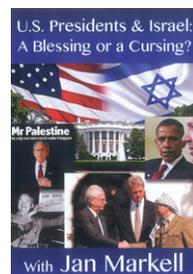
Brilliant. Gripping. A touch of cinematic expertise seldom seen. This drama was carried right to the heart of the viewer—me. I trust this dual production of film and book will be like an emotional hypodermic needle for America to awaken to the fact that the present leadership has placed the Western world on the cusp of the whole thing being repeated.—Merv Watson, Israel



Sons from Afar

\$10 – 173 pages – softbound

This book by Jan Markell is a re-do of her classic *Gone the Golden Dream*. It is the true story of Joe Lessin and his sons. Joe's Judaism leaves him empty and he has a God-shaped vacuum in his heart. After he finds the real Messiah, Jesus Christ, he must win his family to Christ. His sons rebel for years, but then as it is promised in Isaiah 60:4, his sons come from afar and commit their lives to the true Messiah. Witness the power of a simple Gideon Bible hidden in a hotel drawer.



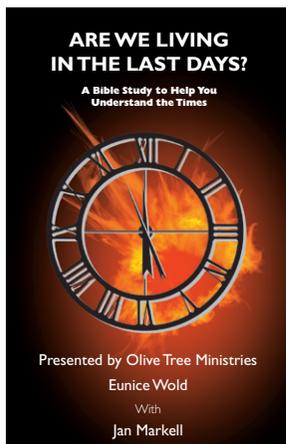
U.S. Presidents & Israel: A Blessing or a Cursing?

\$10 – DVD – 60 minutes

Jan Markell traces the activity of recent U.S. Presidents and how they blessed or cursed Israel and the Jewish people (Genesis 12:3). She begins with Woodrow Wilson, as he was in office during the *Balfour Declaration*, and ends with Barack Obama. The Obama administration has been the worst persecutor of Israel in its 68 year history. Is this one reason why America is experiencing unsolvable problems? All Presidents between these two are considered in this helpful historical lesson with end-time significance.

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Written and designed by Olive Tree Ministries

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