

God's Guest List

A senator is in a restaurant and the waiter brings over the rolls, but no butter. "May I have some butter, please?" The waiter gives a slight nod and wanders off. Ten minutes later, still no butter. The senator catches his eye. "May I have some butter? Please?" Still the vaguest of responses, and after ten more minutes, still no butter. "Maybe you don't know who I am", says the senator. "I'm a Princeton graduate, a Rhodes scholar, an All-American basketball player who played with the New York Knicks in the pros, and I'm currently a United States senator, chairman of the International Debt Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee, chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and a member of the Senate Select Intelligence Committee". "Maybe you don't know who I am", said the waiter. "I'm the guy who's in charge of the butter".'

Senator or not, if I was the waiter, I'd be even less inclined to bring any butter since that pompous fool tried to "pull rank" on me. "You want butter?" I might say. "Then, write down with pen and paper every illegal act you did and every lie you told, for the past year, and I might bring you some butter!" Though an unlikely scenario, it does make the point that in the ultimate, final analysis,

each and every one of us is equal. What? We're actually communists after all?? All equally poor and impoverished? Yes; spiritually that is. (The big lie of communism is that everyone can be equally well-off under the oversight of a centrally-planned and controlled government staffed by the most knowledgeable experts, geniuses and talented of humanity. The truth is that only those at the "top" pulling the levers of power live lives surrounded by wealth generated from all the masses below them. But even they plod through life in inexpressible, inescapable misery because they deny Lord Jesus, or worse, embrace the devil's demons.) All because our true status in life, our spiritual status, is all that matters, both in the here and now and in the eternal hereafter. Our worldly wealth or our destitution matters not one whit in the eyes of God. For none of that is who we are. As Job declared in 1:21: "I was naked, with nothing, when I came from my mother's womb; and naked, with nothing, I will return to the earth".

Over and over again God's Bible tells us, shows us, proves to us, that none of us has any more "brownie points" with God than anybody else. Every single one of us, every human being that has ever lived and will ever live, is equally in need of the Blood of Messiah Jesus on their lives. And not just every person, but indeed, every single bit and byte of all creation. For without Christ Jesus' shed blood to redeem the universe, everything will eventually simply cease to exist. Yet this does not mean that each and every one of us is the same, clones of all other humans,

aside from our superficial external features, indistinguishable one from another. No. While we all equally need Lord Jesus' salvation, we are each and every one unique and different. No two people on earth who have ever lived or will ever live are identical. No two personalities are the same. Out of the multiplied trillions and more sentient creatures that Almighty God has created, no two are the same. Different species of beings share certain sets of characteristics and features, so they can be seen to be related and belong to a certain tribe or kind of being, but aside from that, no two beings of any kind are the same. The ultimate Creator, God, never, ever repeats Himself. Except when He's talking, trying to get some meaning across to hard-headed humanity, He'll repeat Himself over and over and over again, for as long as it takes for us to notice, pay attention, understand and correctly respond. But often humans never respond at all.

A week ago yesterday, the terrorist organization Hamas launched a meticulously-planned large-scale assault on Israel. Their absolute barbarity came to light day by day as the Israel Defense Forces regained control over border villages and territories temporarily conquered and taken over by Hamas from its bases in the Gaza strip. Later, related terrorists, Hezbollah, which mostly controls Lebanon, also launched rockets and missiles into northern Israel, the Galilee. Israel suddenly found itself fighting a war on two fronts. Only the size of New Jersey, this little country is now ferociously fighting for its very survival. The fact that this is,

at root, a spiritual war is clear to anyone with eyes to see and half a brain. The massacre of entire families, indiscriminate slaughter of concertgoers, repeated raping of women, dragging them through the streets, the beheading of babies while their parents were forced to watch, almost none of which were military personnel of any description, reflects the base objective of extermination, genocide of the Jewish people. This is evil, plain and simple. The crowds of so-called Palestinians dancing in delight in the streets at heaps of dead Jewish bodies, in a pandemonium of frenzied hatred, leave no doubt that all this is unadulterated devilish, demonic evil. People in their right minds do not behave in such manners. People under the influence of God's Holy Spirit are humane, kind, gentle and loving. People under the influence of evil, unclean spirits you do not want to meet in a dark alley.

Despite all this being plain to see, many voices have risen against Israel. We can expect this from the usual suspects, especially brainwashed Arabs, who call themselves Palestinians while no such ethnic group exists. It was invented back between the two world wars as Arabs tried to wrest control of the Middle East from France and Britain after the Ottoman Empire's collapse. A whole cloth lie. Like the new ones we're living with here and now. Which continue to be churned out ad nauseam by the evil resident in many of our compatriots, otherwise known as the Left, the progressives, the democrats, the republicans in name only, etc. But also by some of our own Christian brothers and sisters!

Shockingly, some fellow believers are also condemning Israel, blaming her for the current atrocities! These otherwise orthodox, conservative believers, have been taken in, hook, line and sinker with newly repackaged, demonically-inspired replacement theology that claims that the Church has completely replaced Israel and the Jews. This fallacious, specious, and spurious reasoning asserts all God's promises to His Chosen People have been transferred exclusively to the Church because He's rejected the Jews for their repeated flagrant idolatry throughout history, and ultimately in their terminal rejection of Christ when they crucified Him. These ideas can sound nice, stroke our egos, make us feel "special". Those susceptible to this error inwardly harbor an envy of the Jews' special status and blessings from God as His "Chosen People". Though they'd never admit it. Accordingly they become judgemental of those who disagree with them. By necessity, they have to ignore huge portions of the very Bible they claim to completely follow to the letter. How can God Who has made *unconditional*, everlasting promises and covenants be trustworthy when circumstances supposedly have changed and He decides He must go back on His word, and renege on His *unconditional* promises? Only willful ignorance of the whole of the Bible can explain how these Christians can be so misguided.

And this despite the Apostle Paul's extensive discussion of this very question in the Book of Romans in which he answers in spades. Consider just these few verses, Romans 11:1-6: 'Now I

ask you, has God rejected His people? Absolutely not! I'm living proof that God is faithful. I am an Israelite, Abraham's my father, and Benjamin's my tribe. God has not, and will not, abandon His covenant people; He always knew they would belong to Him. Don't you remember the story of what happens when Elijah pleads with God to deal with Israel? The Scripture tells us his protest: "Lord, they have murdered Your prophets, they have demolished Your altars, and I alone am left faithful to You; now they are seeking to kill me." How does God answer his pleas for help? He says, "I have held back 7,000 men who are faithful to Me; none have bowed a knee to worship baal." The same thing is happening now. God has preserved a remnant, elected by grace. Grace is central in God's action here, and it has nothing to do with deeds prescribed by the law. If it did, grace would not be grace.' Of all people, Bible-believing Lutherans should know this best.

Yet these misguided Christians have such judgemental spirits and gall to dare to castigate us for supporting Israel. All I can say is that Holy Spirit will deal with them in due time. And that time is coming soon. Because we are living in the End Times, and this current conflict, along with the Ukraine war, has the potential to snowball into a third world war. But what must happen in God's timetable will happen. And just as the Lord has minimized the casualties on *both* sides in the current conflict in Gaza, He will protect His people, both the original branches of God's olive tree, and us, the grafted in branches. So keep the truth!

