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Faith And The Culture

Rick:

Welcome to the intersection of faith and the culture. This is WallBuilders Live and yeah yeah we know we know Christmas was yesterday but you know we're kind of holdovers here at WallBuilders. You understand we're here with David Barton, America's premier historian, and this is the guy I've been to his ranch in the middle of the summer with the air conditioner on like 40 so he could have a fire going and play Christmas music. All right, so just one day after Christmas to have Christmas music that's probably not going to be enough for David is it, David?

David:

We'll have to go the rest of this week, bro. This is Christmas week. Christmas happened this week. We'll just have to go the rest the week playing Christmas songs.

Tim:

It's fair enough.

David:

Well, it's I guess that's kind of a slow withdrawal maybe. You know we just got to phase it out.

Rick:

Yeah yeah. Just slowly fade down the Christmas music. Well, Tim Barton is also with us national speaker pastor and president of WallBuilders. My name is Rick Greene, by the way, I'm a former Texas legislator, and you find out about all three of us at WallBuildersLive.com which is a great place to also get the archives of our program over the last few weeks you can get that right there at the Web site. And then also visit WallBuilders.com and since we've only got what we got less than a week left in 2018.

Here we are at the end of the year, be sure and consider us for one of your end of year gifts. WallBuilders is a listener supported program and when you donate to WallBuilders not only does it make these interviews and educational programs that we do on the radio

program possible. It spreads it to more people, it gets it in the hands of more people. It also makes it possible for us to do our pastor's briefings in D.C., our legislators' conferences, our youth leadership programs, all the different things we're doing to help restore America's constitution and your gift makes that possible. So be sure and visit WallBuilders.com before the end of the year and make that one-time end of year gift or even sign up for a monthly donation. We greatly appreciate it.

So David, Tim, today's program we're going to be talking about Israel and some of the things that are happening right now. Rabbi Jonathan Feldstein will be with us later in the program. But two days ago we had Phil King and Bill Mehrling from ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) on. Phil's a legislator here in Texas actually y'all's state rep.

Airbnb And The Anti-Israel BDS Movement

And we were, one of the items that we had the chance to visit with them about was Airbnb actually joining the anti-Israel BDS movement which was pretty shocking. I mean I know they're a liberal company have seen some of their gender stuff and whatnot. They're a liberal company, but that's just bad marketing in the first place for them to make a decision like this.

David:

Well, when you consider how many Christians support Israel and how popular the support of Israel is across America and how that even Democrats who are openly anti-God even in their platform and elsewhere they're still not openly anti-Israel. So you have a climate clearly and granted Airbnb is a worldwide corporation and they've got places across Europe etc., but you got to know that America has one of their huge clientele.

And to think that you can be anti-Semitic and that that's not going to have an impact from American consumers that's crazy. And so to join the anti-Semitic BDS movement and BDS' boycott divestiture and sanctions, in other words, we want to punish Israel for being Israel and actually live in their own homeland. We think their homeland should be given to all the Palestinians and Israel shouldn't exist anymore. So what we're going to do is we're not going to rent our Airbnb stuff to folks. And it's just pure anti-Semitism.

And so to think that there would not have been a backlash. I don't know who their marketing director is or who their consultants are, but they need to hire some different ones because they surely don't know their clientele and audience.

Gaza, Lebanon, Tunnels, Terrorist Attacks

But that's that's one of the things going on with Israel. There's so many other things as well. I mean you see in the news what's happening. Gaza has been a hot place for several months now.

But then as you look up toward Lebanon, Lebanon and Jordan you know that's been a lot more peaceful than Gaza has, but now it turns out that there's all sorts of stuff going in Lebanon; tunnels that are being tunneled and to launch terrorist attacks against peaceful citizens in Israel. You know they did this before were some of the other tunnels that Hamas had dug word that they were bombing schools and going after elementary schools and going after kids and cities it is just it's ridiculous. So that's now up there again.

But I will tell you that even when there is terrorism like that in Israel it's still statistically is a much safer place than many places in the United States. You still want to be in Israel with terrorist activity rather than Chicago or New York or D.C. or Baltimore or other places, and that's just statistically speaking. So Israel is having its own difficulties right now. The terrorist attacks going on but still a relatively safe place.

Jonathan Feldstein

But Jonathan Feldstein is just a really cool rabbi. He is one of those guys that really is Judeo-Christian. He himself is an Orthodox Jew, but he is so pro Christian and pro Christians and pro evangelicals.

And just a really good brother in so many ways we thought it'd be great to have him kind of update us on what's going on in Israel. What's going with the issues that he's got going there run for Zion, and other things are just some great stuff going on.

Rick:

Rabbi Jonathan Feldstein, he'll be with us when we return. Stay with us here on WallBuilders Live.

America's History

This is David Barton with another moment from America's history. Since the Ten Commandments have formed the basis of civil law in the western world for over 2,000 years and an individual is more likely to find a copy of them in a government building rather than a religious one. Yet, amazingly, numerous rulings over recent years now make it unconstitutional to display the commandments in many public arenas.

Consider what Founding Father John Adams said about this, he declared, "The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, anarchy, and tyranny commence. If 'thou shall not covet' and 'thou shall not steal' were not commandments of heaven, they must be made inviolable precepts in every society before it can be civilized or made free."

John Adams believed that no society could remain civilized if separated from the Ten Commandments. For more information on God's hand in American history contact WallBuilders at 1 800 8 REBUILD.

Run For Zion

Rick:

Welcome back. Thanks for staying with us here on WallBuilders Live. Rabbi Jonathan Feldstein is back with us. Rabb, thanks for coming back on the program.

Jonathan:

I love you. Thank you for having me. It's a privilege.

Rick:

Well, we were we were hoping to do a little end of year rapid-fire conversation with you on several things to get updated on some positive things, run for Zion. Looks to be doing well and then also just your comments on some of the things that have been happening with the tunnel attacks and other things in Israel. We appreciate your time, and we'll just jump from topic to topic. First of all, tell us what Run for Zion is.

Jonathan:

We are we're doing the most exciting thing I've ever done in my life. It's the first time that anyone has actively promoted the opportunity for Christians to come and run in the Jerusalem marathon and that's not, no one's ever prevented that. But we're promoting it, and we're promoting it to the people if they want to they can come and run if they want to take it to the next level and set up a crowdfunding page they can do that.

Raised Funds Will Go Towards Organizations and Subsidies

And we're dividing up the money among several different organizations in Israel Jewish and Christian ones so we can bless the land like God expects of us. And also what we're doing because I really believe that you know I think everyone who believes, who is a person of faith and believes that God's word is God's word. When he says, I will bless those who bless you.

So we are setting up a way, we have set up a way that when people raise a certain amount of money, they're going to get major subsidies toward their tour packages and even airfare which could make the opportunity to come and run in Israel for free.

So that's the most exciting thing I've ever done. And I love where we are where we've got hundreds of people who have signed up and expressed interest in thousands of people who are following us and looking for opportunities to bless Israel.

Rick:

And so you've got people coming from all over the world to participate in the marathon, and this is in March right.

You Can Walk Or Run

Jonathan:

It's in March. It's a full marathon, half marathon, and 10-kilometer race through the center of Jerusalem. The full marathon basically goes all the way around the Old City and then back and through the new city, and then the 10 km is obviously shorter. But all of those races go through the Old City. So yeah it's really amazing, and there are people who have registered from all over the world. I've actually lost track of some of the more interesting and exotic and faraway places, but it's really it's inspiring.

Rick:

Now see Rabbi, I cannot get myself to run at home down the street certainly not around a track or in the same place but to run this race to actually be in this marathon and see such amazing things. Well participating in of course but to be able to support these incredible causes. Now that sounds interesting to even a guy like me that hates running.

Jonathan:

Well, we could walk together you know. Anyone who comes on a tour of Jerusalem will walk 10 kilometers on an average day. So we're just going to do that in an organized way, and I have lots of people who have said, 'I don't run, and I'm not a runner.' And that's why we're not branding it as a marathon because we don't want people to get turned off by the whole 26-mile thing. But 10 kilometers people can walk.

Tour Packages and Other Opportunities

It'll be a beautiful day, a lovely stroll, and then we've got a whole tour package that includes touring and three magnificent special events, and gosh I'm forgetting one other thing...hotels and meals. It's just really terribly exciting to be able to pull this together and let people have that opportunity. And again, it's not like I invented it, I just realized that nobody's done this and if you're a Christian and if you're a runner this has got to be the most spiritual place you're going to ever have the opportunity to go run.

Rick:

And like you said even if you're not a runner you can participate.

Jonathan:

And if you're not a runner. Then come on and join and you go to the website, and you don't want to run, you can't make it in March we will offer other opportunities for other marathons in Israel. But we have something called a virtual runner just for people who want to come along and bless Israel and set up a crowdfunding page in the end of the year. People are giving gifts. Some people are getting generous with their charity. So we're hoping that people will step up and it's very exciting.

Rick:

Very exciting. Runforzion.com is the Web site. Runforzion.com we'll have a link today on WallBuildersLive.com to make it easy.

Tunnels From Lebanon

We were talking off-air rabbi about some of the things that have been happening recently. Just want to get your thoughts on some articles you've been writing in and encourage people to read those as well. But the tunnel attacks and some of the other things that are happening, just want to get people updated on it.

Jonathan:

Yeah. So the most recent I'm talking to you from New Jersey, so I haven't been home in a while but obviously, follow the news that's going on on a daily basis, and we're kind of new junkies over in Israel. So often more than once a day. But the tunnels that we've discovered now coming in from Lebanon are kind of a game changer. It's obvious that Israel has been prepared for that because terrorists behaved in a similar way. But what's different you know the Gaza tunnels that's been going on forever.

The Hamas has had tunnels going under the Gaza border with Egypt, the Gaza border with Israel and some people who know and have shared with me. You know, underneath the actual territory of Gaza you've got a virtual subway of tunnels going on for the terrorists to be able to get around, but Lebanon thing is very different because they're digging under much harder surface. They're digging into stone, I believe it's limestone, and that's much harder to dig than the sandy soil. Hezbollah is very well armed. They've been fighting in Lebanon has been fighting the war in Syria.

They're very well armed they're battle trained, and they've made it clear that they have an operation to conquer the Galilee. And so thank God we've discovered now four tunnels. I hope I'm sure that there are probably others and I'm sure we will discover them, and I'm sure we will deal with that and hopefully God will you know not hopefully he will but God will continue to protect us and give us the means and ingenuity and resolve to always fight and overcome our enemies.

Rick:

It's it definitely is eternal vigilance for sure that that is necessary. I wanted to also ask you about the whole Airbnb thing. I noticed you had been following that and actually we were at the Miami City Council meeting. So tell us a little bit about that because Airbnb has made this decision and thankfully is getting a huge backlash across the country.

Airbnb May Be Backing Down

Jonathan:

Well, news today actually is that they may be backing down now. A bunch of my friends on Facebook have talked about reinstating their accounts. But there has been a massive boycott of Airbnb by Jews and Christians who stand with Israel, and that may lead to this back to this backlash. But it was clearly an anti-Semitic decision.

They're not boycotting anyone else, they're not preventing anyone else in the world from renting their apartments. Only Jews and only Jews in Judea and Samaria and not that I live in a town called Irtas which is just south of Bethlehem. So my Arab neighbors in Bethlehem or the Arab city of Arab town next to us called Abdullah Ebrahim. They have no problem renting their homes and apartments out in Airbnb. So it's clearly anti-Semitic.

Miami Passed A Resolution Condemning Airbnb

You're correct, I was at the Miami town council meeting. They passed a resolution condemning Airbnb for it. I wrote an article calling Airbnb the new corporate boycott Grinch. But what's interesting about that is that now we're starting to see a shift in the anti-BDS movement.

So that we know Jews and Christians standing up against boycotts like this against Israel having teeth, having economic, joint economic power where it makes a difference and Airbnb made a really stupid decision other than the fact that it was anti-Semitic they were apparently going for an IPO. And this is really bad PR for them.

So again, that's you know we talked about before, in terms of blessing Israel. We know that God expects that of us, but God also has a little clause that's attached to it and says I will curse those who curse you and I don't think that that's limiting to corporate America.

Rick:

I totally agree, and even if they reversed their decision you know hopefully, there will be an economic price to pay for having made the decision in the first place. And send that signal to others as well.

Jonathan:

And others will think twice about the future, absolutely.

Rick:

That's right. That's right. Any other any other areas you want to give us an update on before we let you go.

Terror Attacks in Samaria

Jonathan:

Well you know I'll tell you what, in the period that I've been gone there's been a number of terror attacks particularly in Samaria we call in Hebrew the Shamron. And it's interesting, and it's scary, and it's sad, but I have to say it's so uplifting I'm sure you heard about the young couple that was shot in a drive-by shooting, and some soldiers were killed.

The young couple for a moment she was pregnant she was 30 weeks pregnant. She was, thank God, her life was saved and her baby was delivered. A little boy at 30 weeks, 30 weeks in utero. But unfortunately, the baby died after three days. And the inspiration that's coming from this young couple she's in her early 20s. I'm not sure how old the father was or is.

But it's inspiring. And I have to tell you that when we look at this, it's sad. We have soldiers who have been killed and injured. We have this young couple who just lost their first baby because of a terror attack. But the people of Israel stand up to this with pride, with resolve, with faith, and it's so inspiring despite the sadness and despite the grief – that this is how we live.

And our response to terror is not to call for more violence and hate and killing others. Our response is to sanctify God and to put everything in His hands and to be grateful for what we've got, and know that we're going to go on.

Rick:

Before we let you go what about some of the humanitarian efforts and certainly here at the end of the year is a great time for people to know who to give to that is helping with some of these things. But tell us a little bit more about that as well.

Support Christian Services In Israel

Jonathan:

Right. Thank you. I'm glad you asked that because we're being very careful to hand pick organizations in Israel that have fiscal and programmatic integrity and that provide programs that are really in need. And I know, I'm an Orthodox Jew I but I don't want to be providing services that I think are important. I want to be, I'm asking Christians to

step up and stand with Israel, so we're providing services and funds to a program that I know that are important to Christians.

So for instance, when we're talking about the tunnels under the ground from Lebanon, from Gaza. We're funding civilian security projects along the border in areas that have a high risk. And soldiers have been injured and killed this weekend. We're funding a program that provides humanitarian services and social services for soldiers and their families because it's not an easy situation.

And it's the end of the year, and it's not like poverty doesn't exist year round, but it's the end of the year it's the holiday season we just finished Hanukkah and people think more about those who don't have money to put food on the table. So we're funding one of Israel's largest soup banks.

And as I had mentioned in a previous conversation, you know albeit that the phrase protecting unborn babies is used in a totally different context. The death and the murder of this baby, the baby was born at 30 weeks we're protecting unborn babies through civilian security, and now the family is a terror victim. We're going to be providing comfort for terror victims like families like theirs and on and on.

And we're really excited about all of these things so people can go visit Runforzion.com. If they're not runners, like you and I then they can certainly step up and make a donation or sponsor a donor or as I said before just become a virtual runner and have that opportunity to bless Israel and invite all their friends to do so.

Rick:

We'll definitely have links today at WallBuildersLive.com for people to get there then go straight to Runforzion.com. Rabbi once again thanks for coming on.

We look forward to the next time.

Jonathan.

God bless you and Merry Christmas to all of you and everyone listening. God bless. It's really a privilege to be here today.

Rick:

Thank you, sir. Stay with us folks we'll be right back with David and Tim Barton.

Avalon Project

Tim:

Hey, guys, this is Tim Barton with WallBuilders. I know you hear my dad and Rick talk a lot about our Founding Fathers about the original intent of our nation, a constitutional heritage that we have. And really we've seen how far we slipped away from that. And I know a lot of us as we hear my dad and Rick talk think, "I wish there was a place that I could go where I could see these documents and I could read and learn about the Founding Fathers firsthand. See the things they did."

I want to give you some websites today that can help you accomplish that very thing. If you get online, you can go to places like the Library of Congress, and you can look under their century of lawmaking or historical documents. You can go to the Avalon Project, to the Founders Constitution, Google Books, or even the internet archives.

Or you can just go to WallBuilders.com. We have a section for our WallBuilders Library. And under that section, we have different subgroups for historical documents, historical writings, even a place where you can get helpful links to find out more information about other websites. Where you can do research for yourself and find the truth for yourself. Friends, this is the time that we need to know who we are and where we came from. WallBuilders.com is a great place to go.

Rick:

Welcome back to WallBuilders Live. Thanks for staying with us today Jonathan, Rabbi Jonathan Feldstein with us and by the way we know we're playing Christmas music it's the day after. But we're just going to keep it going.

David:

Hey, look, if it's if it's in the same year that Christmas happened, it's available for Christmas music.

Tim:

That is kind of the theme for David Barton. That's true.

Rick:

That's that summertime Christmas man. No doubt about it

David:

And springtime and fall and 4th of July and everything.

Rick:

All right, I know that both of you are basketball players, so running is just like in your blood. You love to run. I chose baseball because I could stand still most of the time in the game right.

It's the first time Christians are being invited

David:

So first sedentary people like you. There is the walk around Jerusalem. I'll tell you, having been Jerusalem a number of times I love walking around the walls of the city. What Suleiman the great did in building those walls and Nehemiah and everything else Hezekiah. It's really fun just to walk around.

Tim:

And Rick because you were having the interview, I was mentioning to my dad is I would actually I'm tempted to think about going and running a marathon. Never run a marathon, and it's almost eight years. But oh my goodness.

To run one in Jerusalem that would be so fun. And so then when he said well actually you know there's the half marathon and the 10k I thought oh well 10k that's you know that's easy. No problem at all. And then he said you can just walk and I thought oh well now is really not an excuse. The airfare costs you know expenditures there.

However, then there's the opportunity to have some of this paid for if you help promote and do things, and so my goodness, this seems like a really incredible opportunity to get to go do something really fun and neat and potentially very minimal expense.

So a really cool opportunity. And as you mentioned it's not meant that Christians weren't invited before, they've never made a point to try to emphasize Christians come and be a part of this. So it really is a cool deal going on.

Jerusalem Is A Safe Place

David:

And by the way, I mean for an Orthodox rabbi you could tell that he was really offended over Christmas. I mean wishing us Merry Christmas going out. See, it's really the healthy part of Judeo-Christian relationships. It really is fun, and he's just a really good guy.

And so you know as Tim says for are a sedentary guy like you, Rick. You could actually walk around the walls which really is great. And Jerusalem is a very safe place. You know the terrorist attacks were out on the borders going on in Jerusalem. I mean for a massive city I am never afraid to walk around Jerusalem at night any time. It's just it is a

very very safe city. So it's it's really really fun and you know he was talking too about even up in the northern area with Lebanon. What's going there.

As Christians, we've actually been part of raising funds and helping fund private security up in those areas because it's such a peaceful country all in all except for the terrorist attacks and that's you know that's lower than the crime rate over here.

Terrorist Attacks Are Lower Than the Crime Rates Here

Rick:

Which by the way sounds really funny to say it's really peaceful over here except for the terrorist attacks. That's the thing. I wouldn't be most afraid of except as you mentioned right, their terrorist attacks are more minimal than even some of our violent crime statistics here in the U.S..

And so certainly the news portrays these extreme dramatic things, although if the news media started covering all the violent crimes that happened in our communities and cities, nobody would ever get to New York again. You wouldn't go to New York City that's such a violent place. You wouldn't visit Washington D.C. But this is where you can kind of see some of that bias. But as you're mentioning, you know it really is kind of a safe place, and you shouldn't feel unsafe or threatened being there.

Some of the safest places I've felt were not in the U.S. they were in places like Israel or Poland and some of these other nations of the world and actually Israel. Right, it's not because people don't necessarily have guns. No, right. You have armed people all over the place, and yet you feel very safe being there because you know that the good guys with guns are there to stop the bad guys with guns and the good guys with guns know how to use it.

So it's a very different dynamic than most Americans understand again based on what the media portrays.

Fund Christian Security to Keep Israel Peaceful

David:

That's right, and what happens with these tunnels these guys pop out of the tunnels and go to some nearby town and whack it and then get back in tunnels and go across the border again. And so what happens is we help fund security guys who actually because really the police presence in Israel is almost not there.

They almost don't have police in Israel. I mean it's such a tiny force because it is such a peaceful place except for these incursions where a terrorist comes across and tries to wipe out a family and then get out of there. So we actually do help fund that.

It's you know Christians are wanting to stand up and support families. I thought he had and he said it is a different way of looking at protecting the unborn. In this case, you are protecting the unborn from anti-Semitic terrorist murderers who want to come to kill them. So that is actually a Christian ministry that is one that you can be part of. But it really is significant, what he's got over there.

Samaria and the West Bank

By the way, he talked about the terrorist attack was in Samaria. Do you guys know what Samaria is according to the media?

Tim:

According to the media?

Rick:

One of the oppressed places oppressed by the Jews I'm guessing, I don't know.

David:

As a Jew, he called it Samaria because we know in the Bible that is part of Israel. That's where Jesus spent a lot of time but since Samaria talked to the woman at the well, the Samaritan in the good tell, the good Samaritan, etc. Samaria is what the media calls the West Bank. That's the occupied part of Israel.

That's what Israel has occupied Palestinian territory. That's like saying Fort Worth is not part of Texas. Fort Worth is occupied territory, and Texas should get out of Fort Worth. It's that crazy. And when you're in Israel Samaria is part of Israel there's no question, but the media calls it the West Bank and Israel, the Israeli occupiers need to leave. The Palestinians, no. Again, that's like saying Oklahoma City is not part of Oklahoma, Oklahomans need to get out of Oklahoma City it belongs to someone.

It's crazy, but that is Samaria. So when you hear West Bank in the news just think Samaria. It is part of Israel. It is part of traditional Israel and it's definitely what God promised would be part of Israel.

Don't Forget to Check Our RunforZion

We encourage folks to go to runforzion.com, and that's even if you want to walk Zion and see about going over and being part of the Jerusalem walkathon if not the marathon.

Rick:

Special thanks to Rabbi Jonathan Feldstein for joining us today. Thank you for listening.

You've been listening to WallBuildersLive.