

MidEast Conflict #5

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[0 : 00] First of all, I'd like you to turn to Ezekiel chapter 25. We've already been there, but I want to reinforce it with just a couple of verses. We are talking about the *olam ibah*, that is the eternal hatred.

And we pointed out to you that it is a one-way hatred. It is a hatred that is very peculiar. It's an irrational hatred that the Arab has for the Jew, but the Jew does not have for the Arab.

And in case you wonder why it doesn't work both ways, the answer is simply because of the promise that God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And the Arab is the one who feels that he has been cheated or slighted.

And the reason the Jew does not hate the Arab, and they don't. Now, don't misunderstand. There is no great love lost between the Jew and the Arab.

But they do not begin to have the level of hatred, animosity, and vitriol that the Arabs have against the Jews.

[1 : 10] And one of the reasons for that is explained by the idea that it is not the Jews who are believed to have gotten the short end of the stick.

It is the Arabs. So, in point of fact, if the argument is valid, and I think it has some validity to it, the Jews really have no reason to hate the Arab.

And in reality, the Arab has no reason to hate the Jew because this was all God's doing. God's the one who made the promise.

God's the one who gave the covenant to Abraham. And if the Arab feels that he has somehow been cheated or slighted because of that, his argument is with the deity, not really with Israel.

Because Israel did not command God giving them that. It was something that God did of his own free will. And he bestowed this covenant promise upon Abraham and Abraham's seed.

[2 : 16] I'm going to say it again. This covenant, Abrahamic covenant, is the core. It is the underpinning. It is the heart and soul of the plan and program that God has for the planet in the future.

It all goes back to Genesis 12. It is through thee and thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed.

Not just Israel. All nations. Israel is the catalyst. And the ironic thing about that is most Israelis today don't understand that, don't believe that, don't realize that.

They see themselves in some general vague kind of way as historically the chosen people of God. But a great many of them feel like Tevye did in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

We appreciate your choosing us and making us God's chosen people. But would you do us a favor and maybe choose somebody else for a while? Because there were certain consequences that come with it.

[3 : 26] So they don't really understand the implications of this. But and neither do most Protestants. And I'm certain that most Catholics don't. And very few Jews do.

But this promise that God gave to Abraham, there is locked up in it, the Abrahamic covenant, God's future plan of blessing and prosperity for the whole human race that will be realized in the millennial reign of Christ.

That's how key it is. And it is this people, the Jew, the seed of Abraham, through whom God is going to accomplish that.

And the centerpiece of that is our Lord Jesus Christ, born approximately 2,000 years after Abraham lived.

And we will see time and again, and we'll be seeing this especially on Sunday morning, how that Jesus Christ came as a minister of the circumcision to confirm the promise given by God to the

fathers.

[4 : 48] Who are they? Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is so important, so critical, so dynamic. It is amazing how it is so often overlooked and not really appreciated.

So, in part at least, early Arab understood the implications of that. And Ishmael contended with Isaac because he wanted to be that child of blessing.

But God made it clear to Abraham and Sarah that it would not be Ishmael, but it will be he who comes from the relationship between Abraham and Sarah, not Abraham and Hagar.

So that, of course, fell to Isaac. And then it is perpetuated through Jacob and not to Esau, but to Jacob. And we are going to see in our study tonight a recurrence of who Jacob's enemy really is. It's his twin brother, Esau. And the descendants of Esau who are known as the Edomites. They live in the land of Edom.

[6 : 03] That is where Petra is. That is where Basra is. And that is where southern Jordan is located now.

And they are the descendants of Esau, referred to as the Edomites. The Greek name for Edom is Idumea, I-D-U-M-E-A, Idumea.

Herod, who was the king at the time Jesus was born, Herod the Great, was an Idumean. He was a direct descendant of Esau.

And these were understandably adversaries to Israel. So, in Ezekiel 25, and look, if you will, at verse 15.

Thus says the Lord God, because the Philistines have acted in revenge and have taken vengeance. And by the way, to whom does vengeance belong?

[7 : 10] Yep. And you know what? He is going to take it. And he is going to call it vengeance. And it will be the vengeance of God.

The only one who is really competent to avenge that. Verse 15, because the Philistines have acted in revenge and have taken vengeance with scorn of soul to destroy with everlasting enmity.

Those two words in the New American Standard. Some translations, if you've got the King James, it may say everlasting hatred. Or perpetual hatred.

But the Greek or the Hebrew is Olam Iba. Olam Iba. Because of Olam Iba. Your relentless, unremitting hatred and animosity toward your brother.

You're going to pay a price for that. And God is going to see to it that they do. And he says, you have acted in revenge and have taken vengeance with scorn of soul to destroy with everlasting enmity.

[8 : 20] Therefore, thus says the Lord God, behold, I will stretch out my hand against the Philistines. Even cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.

Who are these people? Their descendants live right now as I speak in the Gaza Strip.

And almost on a daily basis, they continue to lob rockets across the border into the land of Israel.

And one of these times, Israel is going to retaliate.

They've done that before and they will do it again. Now, let us come over. And by the way, what we're talking about here in the Philistines. This is Philistia. And it consists of the same geographical area that was such a thorn in the side to David when he was a king.

Remember, he even spent some time in the Philistine camp. Remember that? When he feigned insanity and spent some time in the Philistine camp. There are five principal cities in Philistia, which is, for all practical purposes, modern Gaza.

[9 : 34] There is a town that is also named Gaza. And then there is Ekron, Ashdod, and Ashkelon. And we were privileged to witness archaeological dig that was taking place.

I think there was a group of archaeological students there from the University of Minnesota or Wisconsin. I don't know which it was. And they were there for the summer engaging in a dig in Ashkelon.

And they'd found some interesting relics. And they were showing them to us. And they were quite excited about it. And then right next, close to Ashkelon, as best as they can identify, is the ancient city of Gath.

That's another Philistine community. G-A-T-H, Gath. You remember who was from Gath, don't you? The most famous guy from Gath.

His name was Goliath. And he was Philistine. And these are the same people who came out and taunted the armies of the Lord, from whom Saul and his men shrank in fear.

[10:45] And young David was the only one who had the gumption to say, Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he would defy the armies of the living God?

And it was these people's present-day Gaza-stripped people, their ancestors. And, of course, some of them, not all of them were from there, but some of them came from Jordan.

And that's a long story. We may or may not get to that tonight. All right, let's go over quickly to Ezekiel 35 and verse 15.

Ezekiel 35. And here's what we read.

As you rejoiced. As you rejoiced. Now, let's see who he's talking about. Let's get into context. Let's back up.

[11:46] Look, if you will, at verse. Well, let's start with verse 1. Okay. Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir and prophesy against it.

Where's Mount Seir? Mount Seir is the highest mountain in Edom. And it is the principal peak.

And it was a stronghold of these people in their day. And he's saying to Ezekiel, prophesy against it and say, thus says the Lord, behold, I am against you, Mount Seir.

Those are bad words to hear. If God ever says, I am against you, you might as well just wrap it up. You're done for.

I am against you, Mount Seir, and I will stretch out my hand against you, and I will make you a desolation and a waste. I will lay waste your cities, and you will become a desolation.

[12:50] Then you will know that I am the Lord. And you know something? Through every one of these phrases found so many times in the prophets, And you will know that I am the Lord.

It would not be unfair to tack on to the end of that. You will know that I am the Lord and not Allah. Allah is the deity, the pagan, idolatrous deity of the Muslim world.

And of course, they don't regard it that way at all. But that's the way scripture does. Who do you think the pagans were in the Old Testament before Allah ever came on the scene?

Dagon? Who was Dagon? Dagon was the fish god. The Philistines, people living in the Gaza Strip then, worshipped Dagon.

[14:03] The people that David did battle against when he went up against Goliath, Their idol was Dagon, the fish god. And these were peoples of the sea.

They were right on the Mediterranean coast, And they often went out to sea fishing. And if you wanted to have a good catch for the day, You made a sacrifice to Dagon before you set out to sea. And that was one of the deities. Chemosh was another. And we'll be looking at that later. Chemosh was the deity that Ruth and her sister, Orpah worshipped before Naomi came along and won her to faith in Jehovah.

And then she uttered those immortal words. Bid me not to depart from you. I will go where you go. I will lodge where you go.

Your God shall be my God. And Ruth, the Moabitess, was forsaking her deity Chemosh.

[15:14] Chemosh was the idol with a Buddha-like posture Into whose lap the Moabites sacrificed their own children.

It's part of the fertility cult. If you want to be sure that Chemosh will give you more and an abundance of children, You've got to prime the pump.

You sacrifice a child that you have in order to get more children from him. This is satanic, demonic rationale. And they were into it.

And the Baals, you see that in the Old Testament so many times. The God Baal, B-A-A-L. Another of the deities. And there are multitudes of them.

But the only one true God, of course, was Yahweh, the God of Israel. So in Ezekiel 35, we are reading verse 5.

[16:17] Because, because you have had everlasting enmity. That's the Olam Eba, again in Hebrew. And have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of the punishment of the end.

Therefore, and this verse 6 is really powerful. I've got this underlined. This is so on target with today's Muslim.

Particularly those of the extreme or fanatical sect. Look at this, verse 6. Therefore, as I live, declares the Lord God, I will give you over to bloodshed.

And bloodshed will pursue you, since you have not hated bloodshed. Therefore, bloodshed will pursue you.

There are top flight radical Muslims on record for making statements like this. You people love life. [17:30] We love death. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine somebody saying that? We love death. They do.

And to them, the greatest honor that could possibly be bestowed upon them would be to die as a martyr in the cause of Islam.

And if you can give your life while killing infidels, an infidel is anyone who is not a Muslim.

If you can give your life, sacrifice your life, to kill as many infidels as you can, you are blessed of Allah.

In fact, that is the only ironclad guarantee that you can have, that you will be accepted by Allah, is if you die as a martyr.

[18:28] This is why they love the concept of death. These are bloody, bloody, bloodthirsty people. And God is here saying through Ezekiel, you like blood so much, you are going to be bathed in it.

And it's going to be your blood. And the accusation so often leveled against them is that they have shed innocent blood.

These are people that go into marketplaces and sit on buses with bombs strapped to them and blow themselves up. This is all an irrational, satanic hatred.

And I will make Mount Seir a waste and a desolation, and I will cut off from it the one who passes through and returns. And I will fill its mountains with its slain on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines.

Those slain by the sword will fall. I will make you an everlasting desolation and your cities will not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

[19:43] Because you have said, these two nations and these two lands will be mine. You know what he's talking about? He's talking about Israel.

What are these two nations and two lands? This is Judah and Israel. They were a divided kingdom when Ezekiel wrote this. And they were talking about the whole land of Israel, including the north, Israel, and the south, Judah.

And they are talking about these two lands. This is nothing more than the descendants of Esau saying, the northern and the southern kingdom, these two lands will be mine.

And what do they want right now? Israel. Jerusalem. Jerusalem. They want the Jew in the Mediterranean Ocean where he belongs as far as they are concerned.

We will possess them, although the Lord was there. Therefore, as I live, declares the Lord God, I will deal with you according to your anger and according to your envy which you showed against them because of your olam ebah against them.

[20:57] So I will make myself known among them when I judge you. And you will know that I, the Lord, have heard all your revilings which you have spoken against the mountains of Israel.

Listen, these are God's chosen people. And he does not appreciate that. He's going to make them pay big time.

Saying, they are laid desolate. They are given to us for food. And you have spoken arrogantly against me and have multiplied your words against me.

I have heard. Because whatever you do to Israel, you do to the apple of his eye. And he says, I will bless those that bless you.

I will curse those that curse you. All Israel is getting from this corner is cursing and invective. And that's what they're going to get in return. And it is going to be powerful.

[22:02] And by the way, you are aware that there is no time in history that even comes close to this description as being fulfilled.

This is future. And our author, with whom I tend to agree because I keep looking for reasons not to agree with him, but I can't find any so far, Bill Salus is of the opinion that this is coming and it could start today.

Could start today. This is all pre-tribulational, probably pre-rapture material. Thus says the Lord, As all the earth rejoices, I will make you a desolation.

As you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel because it was desolate, so I will do to you. You will be a desolation, O Mount Seir and all Edom, all of it.

Then they will know that I am the Lord. And I would add once again, and not Allah. So all of this is going to come together. And let me remind you, we're not going to turn back there, but when Lot and Abraham went their separate ways because their herdmen were contending with each other

and squabbling about the water rights and the pasture land and all the rest of it.

[23 : 38] And Abraham said to his nephew Lot, he said, look, we don't want our herdsmen fighting and arguing like this. And Abraham said, it's apparent that we're just really not able to get along that well together, so we need to go our separate ways.

And Abraham, and here they are, they're facing north, they're in the land of Israel, and they're facing north, and Abraham says, look, you go whichever way you want.

If you want to go to the right, you go to the right, and I'll go to the left, I'll take what's left. Or if you want to go to the left, okay, I'll go to the right, I'll take what's left.

You take your choice, Lot, and I'll take whatever you don't want. And Lot looked and saw what he thought was a well-watered plain to the east, and this was east of the Jordan River, and Lot says, I'll take that.

Abraham says, okay, that's fine. You go east, I'll go west. The river will be between us. You go to the east, and I'll go to the west, and we'll all have some peace and quiet.

[24 : 59] And that's precisely what they did. And what is it that the east became? The east became Jordan.

It became northern Jordan, which is going to be inhabited by the descendants of Lot and his two daughters.

And they had two boys, a boy by each of those daughters through an incestuous relationship, and the firstborn son, Lot, named Moab.

And the second, I'm not sure I have him in the right order, he named Ammon, A-M-M-O-N. And to this day, the descendants that are in Jordan, where King Abdullah, who is an American university graduate, is ruling and reigning right now, I might add, in a very uneasy kind of position, as many of the dictators are in Arab countries now.

But he and his comrades are direct descendants of Moab and Ammon.

[26 : 31] And Esau and his descendants are further down south in the area of Petra and the city of Basra, and these are all going to mass together, and we will see that momentarily in Psalm 83, and I want to introduce that to you before we leave the study tonight, because it's important background material.

So all of this is the making of enemies that surround the nation of Israel on every side.

Golda Mayor says we have only one neighbor that's friendly to us, and that's the Mediterranean Ocean, and our other neighbors would like to put us in it, and that's precisely the way it is.

So let's go now to Psalm 83, because it has a lot to do with the premise of this book, Israel Stein, and I must confess that many years as I've been studying the scriptures, I never put this together, but I really think it's very significant.

Psalm 83, this is the Psalm of Asap, O God, do not remain quiet, do not be silent, and O God, do not be still.

[27 : 51] And what the Psalm is saying here is, we can't afford for you to be still, we need you to be acting. For behold, thine enemies make an uproar.

Do you see what the Psalm is doing here? He's saying, God, your enemies, well, what is it that makes them God's enemies? They're enemies of Israel, and if they're enemies of Israel, they're automatically enemies of God.

That's the point. You cannot separate the God of Israel from Israel. Even when they are undergoing chastisement and punishment for their sin, they remain steadfastly the chosen people of God.

And we are told in, I don't recall whether it's Jeremiah or Isaiah, I think it's Jeremiah 25 or 21 or 23, something like that, where God assures Israel of their covenant relationship and of their steadfastness before him, and the theoretical question is posed, what would it take, what would it take to knock Israel out of the picture so that they are not a player any longer?

And the prophet says, as long as the sun is in the sky and the moon is in the sky, Israel is in the heart of God.

[29 : 32] And if you want to bring Israel to an end, all you have to do is eliminate the sun and eliminate the sky. Well, that makes them pretty certain.

And this is a burden all throughout scripture from Genesis 12 on through the book of Revelation, that God is going to accomplish precisely what he has promised and he is going to use this chosen nation to do it.

All nations of the earth are ultimately going to be blessed and advantaged because of this nation. It isn't that God is doing this just for Israel.

He is doing it for the world. All nations of the earth are going to be blessed, but not without being blessed through Israel.

And there are some Christians that just can't tolerate that notion at all. They just see Israel as undeserving.

[30 : 38] And I say, oh, Israel is undeserving, so I guess we're not. It has never been a question of who deserves the favor of God.

That has never been the issue. Psalm 83, let's continue on. And those who hate thee have exalted themselves. They make shrewd plans against thy people.

There's only one people in all of the Bible that's thy people. they conspire together against thy treasured ones.

Same people. They have said, come, let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.

Listen, that sounds like an Arab Yehu standing up in the United Nations talking today. this is the same kind of language they use. We want to completely eliminate us.

[31 : 40] They have no right to exist. And I don't know if you're aware of it or not. But if you fly over to Tel Aviv, you cannot go from Israel to Jordan, or from Israel to Lebanon, or from Israel to Egypt, that might be different because Egypt actually made peace with Israel, and it cost Anwar Sadat his life, because he did.

But the reason you can't go from Israel to any of those neighbors around them is because they will not recognize your passport. You get your passport stamped in Israel, and you go to Jordan with it, and the Jordan authorities will say, you've got your passport stamped from a nation that doesn't exist.

You say, what do you mean it doesn't exist? I just came from Jerusalem. But this says it has the state of Israel. Israel is not a state. Israel does not exist. Israel has no legitimacy.

Israel has no right to grant a passport or to stamp a passport for anybody. So you have to go, if you're going to Jordan, if you're going to Petra, which is in Jordan, you've got to fly into Amman, Jordan.

And then you can go from Jordan into Israel, and Israel will accept that. And they will accept it from any of their neighbors. Because Israel recognizes the legitimacy of the national entity of all of its neighbors.

[33 : 23] But none of them will recognize Israel. Once again, it's a one-sided proposition. So let's hasten on. Our time is almost gone. In fact, it's already gone, but I'm not quitting anyway.

Verse 5. Verse 5. For they have conspired together with one mind against thee do they make a covenant that tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites.

Who are the Ishmaelites? They are direct descendants of Ishmael. Where do they live today? Saudi Arabia. This is the house of Saud. They are supposedly our friends.

We get 8% of our oil from Saudi Arabia and we pay dearly for it. And that's who these people are. Edom.

That is southern Jordan down near not too far from the Dead Sea only further east of it. Moab. We've already talked about them.

[34 : 35] That's northern Jordan. And the Hagrites. Who are the Hagrites? They are descendants of the matriarch Hagar that Abraham used to father Ishmael.

These are Egyptians. And Gebal and Ammon that again is the capital of modern Jordan and Amalek Israel fought with Amalek when they came to Rephidim because there was water there. Genesis I think 17 or 18 something like that. And they had a big fight a big struggle because they were fighting over the abundance of water that was there. Assyria and that is modern Syria part of it and also part of Iraq also has joined with them.

This is northern Iraq and Jordan. They have become a help to the children of Lot. The descendants of Lot. And keep in mind folks this is all in the family.

Lot was a nephew of Abraham. Their blood. It's crazy isn't it? Absolutely crazy. Deal with them as with Midian.

[36 : 05] Well how was Midian dealt with? Who are these people? Who are the Midianites? Remember Gideon? Sword of the Lord and of Gideon? And Gideon choosing his 300 and he went

to battle against the Midianites.

They too are of this same ilk, same clan. As with Sisera and Jabin at the torrent of Kishan.

And this goes back to the book of Judges. Remember Sisera? Sisera when Sisera escaped from battle and got away. He was the general of the army that was fighting against Israel.

And he crawled into this tent and he was utterly exhausted. He was just worn to a frazzle and he fell asleep. And there was a Jewish woman there by the name of J.L.

Remember J.L.? And J.L. went outside her tent and picked up a tent peg and brought it in and while Sisera was sleeping she put that tent peg above his temple and wham!

[37 : 25] Down with a hammer and that was the end of jail. and the psalmist is saying yeah do that to them as with Sisera and Jabin at the torrent of Kishon who were destroyed at Endor who became this is not nice who became as dung for the ground make their nobles like Oreb and Zeb and all their princes like Zeba and Zalmunna who said let us possess for ourselves the pastures of God and who are they talking about Israel that's the pastures of God oh God make them like the whirling dust like chaff before the wind like fire that burns the forest and like a flame that sets the mountains on fire so pursue them with thy tempest and terrify them with thy storm fill their faces with dishonor that they may seek thy name oh

Lord let them be ashamed and dismayed forever let them be humiliated and perish does this sound very nice to you whatever happened to love your enemies pray for those who persecute you what's this stuff these are cursings these are called imprecatory psalms they are designed for invective and cursing deliberately what's the rationale for that I'll tell you what the rationale is for it is nothing more than God making good on his promise what was his promise I will bless those who bless you I will curse those who curse you all the psalmist is doing is saying all right God you said it now make good on it do what you promised and that's exactly what he's going to do and it may come any day now

I'm going to close this out and I want you to think of this scenario all of these neighbors that are surrounding Israel they are listed there in Psalm 83 and you can plot them on a modern day map they are everywhere around Israel except for where the Mediterranean Sea is they surround it Israel is all closed in and every one of these nations is in real trouble right now as we speak they are undergoing riots in the street some regimes have already been toppled like Egypt King what's his name in

Jordan King Abdullah he has already made a whole bunch of promises for reforms he's been throwing things out to the people but so far they're not buying it they're not satisfied they want more liberty and more freedom you know what's happening in Syria where Bashar Assad took over from his father Bashar Assad is by profession an ophthalmologist trained in Great Britain and he is the head of the government of Syria and he's not sleeping very well at night either and we know what's happening in other nations all around there they are all in big big trouble now just think for a minute what could these nations do what could the leaders of these nations do that would really take the heat off of them yeah take the heat off of them and focus it on somebody else you know heads of state become very proficient for creating distractions and things to take the pressure off of them by fomenting something in another area and what psalm 83 would allow for is for these troubled nations that are teetering on the edge for these heads of state to get together and say listen guys if any of us are going to survive we've got our people really angry they're making threats they're marching they're protesting it's getting ugly how many people have been killed so far in Syria nearly 500 of their own people have been shot in the streets shot dead and the only thing that will take that will deflect their attention would be if we masked our forces and concentrated on a push to eliminate the state of Israel now I'm not saying that's what's going to happen but I wouldn't be a bit surprised if it did or something similar to that and if this comes about as Psalm 83 suspects and as the psalmist has been pleading with God to come to the rescue of his people if that comes about the end result is going to be this Israel this time is not going to be restrained

[43 : 33] Uncle Sam may try to yank on their chain but it's not going to work this time and Israel is going to utterly decimate these neighbors and occupy occupy their land and if you look at the land they will be occupying it is precisely the same chunk of real estate that God promised to Abraham back in Genesis they never have possessed it do you realize that what God promised to Abraham encompasses virtually all of Iraq and much of Iran and all of

Lebanon and all of Jordan that's promised to God God's promised to Israel and they're going to occupy that and it won't be any problem for them to occupy it if they completely decimate the armies

that are now in accordance with those countries and that seems to be what's going to happen and this has nothing to do with the vision of the valley of dry bones that's coming later the Russian horde that will be coming in with Meshach and Gog and Magog that will be later so these things could be very very soon because the Mideast right now is hotter than it's been in a long long time it's hotter than it's been since the last war and things are looking very very ominous so stay tuned keep watching the news these things are going to break loose just about any time yes oh hey that's no problem with all the upheaval going on how can these countries unite enough to do that hatred hatred hatred for

Israel well no they don't trust each other let me put it that way but they will they will they will collaborate with anybody who has the same goal as they have and and and and and and and if we can if we can band together with these guys and frankly some of them I can't stand but if we can band together with them and use each other to eliminate Israel then we'll take care of them later and they're all thinking the same thing of course that's devious that's the way they that's the way they are fascinating time to be alive I'll tell you I think this is coming I think it's coming down real soon so just just keep watching for it because every morning I get up I flip the news on and I just wonder what's happened overnight I would not be a bit surprised if tanks are rolling in somewhere but listen this time Israel is not going to be meddled with they are going to mean business big time and they are really going to kick butt big time there won't be enough left to write home about and I don't know if it's going to involve nuclear activity or not but it may very well so we are grateful our father that you are the promise making promise keeping God that behind your promises is not only your integrity but your incomparable ability to make good on all that you have promised thank you for being the God you are and we pray that as these events unfold perhaps even before this generation's eyes men and women the world over will come to know and appreciate one thing then they will know that you are the Lord thank you for yourself Christ's name amen