

The Man of Israel Today
Curt Landry's Interview with
Rabbi Benny Elon (Member of the Knesset)
From Mt. Zion, Israel

Landry: Shalom, and welcome to Mount Zion in the city of our God, Jerusalem. I am so excited. I have waited 3 years for this interview with Minister and Rabbi Benny Elon. Who I must publicly say right now that over the years as we have done our work here, he has been the strongest supporter to help us to be able to be a help and build a bridge between the evangelical community and the Jewish world. But I want to introduce you Minister and Rabbi and my friend, Benny Elon. Thank you so much for making time.

Elon: Shalom, it is my pleasure first of all to see you, and to see you here in the right place in Jerusalem, so close to the Temple Mount and to the Old City. It is always good to see you and your good deeds and all of the activities with your leadership are such a great success.

Landry: Thank you, Toda Roba, and before I forget, I want to say, it's going to be Rosh HaShana, Shona tova to you and your family. We're believing that this next year is going to be a strong year for Israel.

Elon: We have high expectations as always, and we always want to conclude the year with high expectations and not with deep disappointment. And sometimes we don't succeed to do it. The traditional way to say, "Shona Tova", we used to say, "Shona Tova, Vini-tu-qua" (Spelling?). It means a Good Year and a Sweet Year. And you know, good year can be also something that God sees it as a good thing even if you don't understand why, and sometimes bad things, when we think they are bad things, for Him, He knows why He is doing it. But we want from Him not only just a good year, we want from Him also a sweet year. That we'll touch it, that we'll feel how good is it in front of our eyes. And after the suffering really and the pains that we had last year in the last war and other things, I really hope and pray that we'll have better year, and we all need it. So again, thank you for coming here in such a special time.

Landry: Can I ask you a question, because as a spiritual man, one of the questions I've held for you is, I've been coming to Israel now for sixteen years and it seems like there is more sensitivity to God, more people praying, and more unity after this war. Would you agree with that?

Elon: Yes, in a way. I mean, if you take the right retrospection and you have the right proportions and the right perspective, you can judge the things as you said. But if you look at each part by itself, there are many mistakes that Israel is doing. They, which means we, have to pay after it and it costs a lot of pain. We had the tragedy of the Oslo Accords that was some kind of wish for peace that started with high expectations and concluded with deep disappointment, you know, a lot of bloodshed. And people thought they could be smart and have peace plans with enemies against the Bible. And Israelis offered territories, like they deal with real estate or issues like this. Not like they deal with the Holy Land that God gave them as a real gift only for the chosen people as an everlasting possession. And instead of peace, we got bloodshed. Then came the disengagement, and it was last year with a lot of pain. Jews, by force, were uprooted from the land of Israel, by their own brothers, by Jews. And why they did it?, because they had this illusion, that they can have peace with the enemies, with the Islam radical. With those enemies that really hate peace. And again, they thought if they will give territory, they will get peace. And instead of it, they will give territory and Israel got more terror and more bloodshed and rockets on the South and rockets on the North. Now we concluding

this year with a war that came on us in the North and thank God, we are 'OK'. But we didn't win in the way you have to win in this jungle, in this neighborhood, in this Middle East. A victory, a triumph in this place is to be clear to both sides, who is the winner and who lost. And in spite of the fact that I think we were strong, but not enough in order to make clear those who hate Jews and hate the state of Israel and hate Christians and hate the Western world.

Landry: Rabbi, can you share with us about the current situation in Iran.

Elon: Yes, I really think that after what we the Jewish people and the world experienced and suffered from Germany, sixty years ago, from Hitler, we are not allowed to take things as a joke or to say, Oh, it's nothing. When a President of a country like Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says clearly, "I'm going to wipe out, to destroy the state of Israel." We're not allowed to laugh. And we're not allowed to say, "Oh". My father was born in, Germany. His mother, my grandmother, decided in spite of all of her relatives, it was after 1933, after Hitler became the Reich, the President of Germany, and in spite of all of her relatives, even in spite of her husband, my grandfather, they all said, "Oh, Hitler is just joking. Germany is such a culture, they can't do it. They're not going to do real damage to the Jewish people." One day, my grandfather, he was a rich man, he was in business in Holland, and she decided, that's it. She took her five children, including my father, and just took them. Abandon behind her, the business, the apartment, the furniture, everything. And surprised my grandfather. Knocked on his door. He was shocked and he was angry. With five children, just imagine. But it took him a few days to understand that it was the last day and other wise, I would not exist. All of my family was with the other relatives in Auschwitz. You know dry bones, in a valley of dry bones. As all of the [horrors] that were there with no hope, with no chance, 6 million. And she saved a family because she took it seriously. She understood that if Hitler says that he is going to have a final solution to the Jewish problem, he means that he is going to kill her and her children. And in spite of my grandfather and all of the relatives, she took leadership and courage, and she...after it of course, my grandfather admired her till his last day. But we have to learn, it's not a private case, this is my case.

Landry: Right

Elon: We are speaking about the nation. When the president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says, "I'm going to wipe out the state of Israel from the globe. I'm going to destroy the very existence of the Jewish state." And he's going to have nuclear weapon that gives him the tools to do it. How can we be quite? Who is giving us the permission to say, I was just kidding? And we know how they raise their children. We hear and we see the incitement, the hatred. It's a generation that was raised with a real hatred for every Jew. So in a situation like this, I really think, and after the experience that we had, that it is a real task upon all of the people of the Book, all of the Jews, including all of the Believers, and all Christians who are real allies to the state of Israel, to be aware and to understand that we cannot let Iran having the nuclear weapon. [We have to put an end them.] I remind you, Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel, he decided against USA, and against his colleague, Shimone Perez, in Israel, he decided to bomb the nuclear, in Iraq.

Landry: That's right.

Elon: And everyone was shocked. A few years after it, USA said, "Thank you". Just imagine Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. And that's exactly the situation now. Now I don't think that it's only our problem. And I don't think that we have to do it only by ourselves. I really think that President Bush and other leaders have to be, you know, to share this problem and to see a way to have a solution to this problem and to prevent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Iran for having nuclear

weapon. This is the purpose, if we shall not have the aid and the assistance from other leaders in the world, we have to do what we have to do. But I really don't want to come to this situation alone. You know, God is always with us, so we will never be alone, but God also has a few messengers and people, and through them, He helps us. Like, in general, I think the American nation, as a nation, is a nation of mercy to the Jewish people and to the state of Israel. And it's very important that we should not be alone. Specially, you know, the evangelicals, the Christians that are Zionists, that they know in their hearts how important is the Bible as the Word of God. Not just as a book on a shelf of books. How important is the revival of the Bible by returning of captivity of Zion to the land of Israel as it is written in the Bible. To those, they have to understand that this is a very crucial time. It's not just time for, you know, have [nagilla] parties, and nice smiles. It's a time for political pressure at home in America. Through their own representatives. Through the White House, the Administration, to do what is ever necessary in order to come to the situation that Iran will never have the facilities of nuclear weapon.

Landry: (the sound was off for the first part of this question) ...each Feast of Trumpets there's a sounding of the Shofar and it's my prayer from my heart that at this crucial hour for Israel and the world, that there would be an awaking blast of the Shofar into the evangelical community, to rise up. Not just in prayer and proclamation, but to rise up with a single voice. That they would be the Watchmen, the Notzrim that they are called to be in Jeremiah. That they would rise up and be a voice in heaven and on earth about the warning you just spoke. Because I believe this warning of not being asleep. We do not want to re-live history from 60 years ago. We want to be wise like your grandmother, and say, "These threats are real." And we must not just hear them, sh'ma, we need to say to the church and to the government of Israel, "Sh'ma Yisrael, Hear O Israel." We need to hear this time. I want to ask, with the current government in the situation, how do you think they are going to respond to the challenge that just came from this war?

Elon: I believe that after the war in Lebanon that Israel had with the political earthquake that it's created here, people are less self confident. You know, our problem, as God warned us through Moses in the book of Deuteronomy, don't lift your hearts, and don't say it was my power and my might that did it. Never forget who gave you the ability to have this wealth. Never forget who gave you the power to have this wealth or power or ability. And you know, sometimes you ask yourself, after 60 years from the Holocaust, everyone can understand it, it's a miracle. But now, again, again you have to read the book of Deuteronomy and again you have to find people that say, "Oh, we have IDF, it's the best army. We are strong, it's our power." And they forget who gave them the power to do this. Wealth, this independence, this sovereignty. And sometimes, you know, when people got some pain, they become more humble, more modest. And some, it's also true with a nation. So I hope after the results of the war in Lebanon, people will understand that it's not a game, and we're not allowed again to say, "OK, our political plan is to have a disengagement and to destroy settlements in Judah and Samaria and to give more territory to the enemy." That's what the Prime Minister Olmert says before the elections. Now he regret it. He says it was a mistake to say it. I hope he's right and he has real repentance. And as I said, as a politician, I have to be careful because sometimes it's very dangerous to wish that you are not wishful thinker. If people understood what's going on they have to come to one conclusion, and only one conclusion. That this war was maybe the last Shofar, the last voice of siren, of alarm, before the real war of Iran. And this was a real red light, warning call, to show us that we have to be in unity and we have to know who is the enemy and who is our lover. First of all it's true inside the state of Israel that Israelis will not fight with themselves. That we'll have united people here in Israel, under God. And we'll have more roots and connection to the roots, and we'll have more time and money. Not for nonsense, not to waste money in order to uproot your own Jews from the Holy Land. To take all of our money and all of our wealth and all of our energy, just to one purpose, to be ready to the real threat of Iran. Because we have maybe a year, maybe less, to prepare ourselves in so many aspects, so many aspects.

Landry: Rabbi Benny, I apologize for the noise outside but we are right near the Old City, and as you and I rejoice that the construction and the improvements are happening, but for our viewers, the noise is here. But this is so important.

Elon: It's a noise of construction, not of destruction, thank God. And it will always be like this. Development in Jerusalem, it's a good thing. Not to the studio but for other things.

Landry: There's such a propaganda and lack of information about what we are talking about, I know that you have written a book. It's an excellent book, and I'm actually writing my first book. It will come out in the fall, but how can we get this message out, of the urgency. I don't feel like we're fanatical, I feel like we have revelation. How can we get this out, because it's going to be the evangelicals who have been touched spiritually from within to be able to bring the message out? How can we do that?

Elon: I really think that we can do it, and we shall succeed to do it, because this is God's plan. And when we are doing the right thing, we have only one way to succeed, that's all. And I have no doubts about it. The power God gave to the United States of America today, politically, as I can say the only Empire in the world. The political power that the evangelicals had in order to have a President that, he's a man of God, in a way, close to the Bible. And I really think that, as you know, as it is written in the book of Esther, if you remember, when Mordecai warned Esther and tells her, 'Don't think that you can escape in the king's house. And if you are going to escape, your house and your father's house will be perished. But the word of God, He'll find another way to do it. He'll find another person to save His people.' And this is something that we have to remember in this crucial time. As Mordecai said to Esther, he says to her, "Maybe for this exact timing, you came to the kingdom, you came to be a queen." And that's what I'm saying to the evangelical community. For this moment you came to have this kingdom of the world that God gave you, through your own man, President Bush, in America. This is more important than everything else. He is in the position. In the coming year, with all the representatives that you have connection to them. And don't hesitate, don't escape in the king's house, in the good, and find time in a day to day time. You have to take care, this warning of Mordecai. Mordecai understood that, the Iranian leader, his name then was Haman, today his name is Ahmadinejad. He understood it. It's a real thing. When Haman says, 'We have to destroy the Jewish people, he understood that the only way is to stop him, not to have the power to do it. To prevent him on time, and then he with his smart political way, but of course, only through God's hand, found the right way and the right woman, it was a woman that saved the Jewish people, Esther. He had to convince her that she has to do it. And she is not allowed to escape this time, and to say, 'I'm tired, maybe someone else. You know it's a risk. How can I go to the king when he didn't call me?' Maybe it's not politically correct to say that Ahmadinejad and the radical Islam are going to destroy and they are so radical. No, maybe we have to speak politically correct, maybe we have to think twice - no. He came to her and tell her, don't escape in politically correct, don't escape in the king's house, and don't escape in no other excuse. Do what ever you can. And if you should not do it, the people of Israel will survive. Because God has promised it, as a covenant, an everlasting covenant.

Landry: That's right.

Elon: But you will not be the one that did what God wanted in this exact time. God gave you the power. So I'm saying again to the evangelical community, in United States of America, your so, thank God, friendly and warm to us. Your so important to the Jewish people, and you know how necessary is today your task and your position. So just do it. Just call your representative and say to whom ever you can, do what ever you can to prevent "Haman", Iran's governor, president, king to destroy the people of Israel. Don't let him have a nuclear weapon.

Landry: Amen

Elon: And this is the message, it's written on the wall, as we read in Daniel. You just have to know how to read it. It's very clear. It's even in the newspaper. But sometimes those who don't know how to read the Bible don't know how to read the newspaper. So I wish and pray, that through your show, and it's also God sent Curt and gave you this power to have this ability to speak with so many people in quantity and quality. So many believers, so many real friends of Israel. They will take it seriously. And they will not let the Iranians to have nuclear weapon.

Landry: I see two things happening, in the Spirit, prophetically. I see God speaking to the Church like Esther, saying, 'Have you been called for such a time as this?' And there's a warning, because the Scripture says, 'If you do not answer this call, deliverance will come from another place. I see that traveling in the Spirit. But also, I see another stream from Heaven, from God to Israel, saying, 'The time to favor Zion is now.' And I think that as that time to favor Zion and the Church being blessed to come and stand, it becomes like a 'fist', and it makes a statement in all the world, that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is not a man that He should lie. Would you agree with that statement?

Elon: Yes, and I think that we shall be ready to the 'fist'; we should be also ready to celebrate the Feasts. And to celebrate together the redemption of Israel. And you know, if we should listen to the Shofar as a warning sign we shall be ready to listen to the same Shofar, as it was, and as it will be, part of the celebration of nomination of the King, that this was a part of the ritual by the Shofar. And all of the people saw how the King comes to the people of Israel. So if we want to be part of the Feasts, we have to be ready also to have a 'fist'. And maybe my accent is maybe not so clear, but the message has to be clear to all of us. And we really have to be ready, and to know who is our lover and who is our enemy. I think it's clear, more than any time before. I think we can see who are the enemies that killing 3,000 innocent people in New York and Washington, in 9-11. That killing families eating pizza in a restaurant in Jerusalem. And doing all of it on behalf of Allah. Means not only killing with no ethics, and no spirit of God. Also using the name of God in order to do such evil like this. So its clear, who is the Satan and who is the enemy, and in the other side, who has the Bible, and who is the lover of Israel, and the lover of the Jewish people, and the lover of the God of Israel. And I really don't remember so many times when it was so clear. And we just have to be ready to do what we have to do. All of us, the government of Israel, the people of Israel, and United States of America, as a nation, and individuals, that have this strong Spirit and spiritual life in their own hearts. And understand that the Book of the books, the story of the God of Israel, it's not just a story, it's a real thing. And Israel is a real thing. And God of Israel is a real thing. And the state of Israel is a real thing. And here we are in Jerusalem, not only in Jerusalem on heaven, we are now in Jerusalem on earth, it's a real thing. And it has to do a lot with Jerusalem on heaven. But we are not just dealing with abstract concepts, we are dealing with a real thing. And we are dealing now with a real threat. And it's a real time that God checks all of us and tests. It's a real test for all of us. And I wish and pray that we'll prepare our homework and we'll come with good results in this test.

Landry: Rabbi will you pray for us, and pray for me, that we can take this message, that has come out and let it multiply, and that the Church would Sh'ma, that the Church would hear. Could you pray, please?

Elon: God of Israel, God of Abraham, God of Itzach ,Isaac, God of Yacov - Jacob, You change his name to be Israel and then You are the God of Israel, God of the children of Israel, the tribes and all of the descendants, the children that came, generation after generation, and having the name of Israel, Your Name in their own name. This is a very crucial time, and we pray that You will guide us to

know You and to know what we have to do. And when I say 'we' I mean the people of Israel, I mean all of the Christians that in their hearts are Zionists, and close to Israel. And understand that Your plan is to return the captives of Zion, the children of Israel to Israel. Those Christians that every day doing what You commanded in the Book of Psalms - Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. So we pray, and we wish, that You fulfill and You hear, and You listen, and You do good things for the new year. That we'll hear good news, and we'll celebrate, all of us when together we'll be here when all of the exiles will come back to Israel. And Your House will be built, the Temple Mount, as You promised by Your prophets. And then we shall celebrate, all of us, together.

Landry: Amen