

MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT ASSEMBLY

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A COVENANT WITNESS TO TWO CROWNS WITHOUT A PLUMB LINE

POPE LEO XIV, PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, AND THE WAR IN IRAN BEFORE THE WORD OF YAHWEH

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*Authority: The Tanakh — The Word of **Yahweh** Alone*

Standard: Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 — Two or Three Witnesses

PREAMBLE: THE PLUMB LINE BELONGS TO YAHWEH

Two powerful men have entered the public square this week in open conflict — one calling for peace in the name of Jesus, the other invoking Elohim to justify war. Both speak from significant thrones of institutional authority. Both invoke the name of the Divine. And both stand before the same unyielding standard that has measured every king, prophet, priest, and empire since Sinai: the Word of **Yahweh**, the Elohim of Yisrael.

This is not a political document. Miqdash Bethel Covenant Assembly takes no side between Democrat and Republican, between Washington and Rome. We take the side of the covenant — the written Torah of **Yahweh** — and we apply that standard with full bilateral force to every party. As the prophet Amos declared in the name of **Yahweh**: *"Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Yisrael; I will spare them no longer."* (Amos 7:8)

This witness is addressed to both men — and to the watching world. It reaches simultaneously the Judaic, Christian, and Islamic traditions, because the covenant of **Yahweh** belongs to no denomination and bows to no empire.

PART ONE: WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT WAS SAID

The public conflict between Pope Leo XIV and President Donald Trump has escalated across the week of April 7–14, 2026, centering on the U.S.-Israeli war in Iran. The following is the documented record:

DATE	POPE LEO XIV	PRESIDENT TRUMP
Palm Sunday, March	"Jesus is the king of peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war. He does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war but rejects them."	Trump and Sec. Hegseth invoke God and Scripture to frame the Iran war as divinely supported.
April 10, 2026	"God does not bless any conflict. Anyone who is a disciple of Christ, the Prince of Peace, is never on the side of those who once wielded the sword and today drop bombs."	When asked if God approved of the Iran war: "I do — because God is good and God wants to see people taken care of."
April 11, 2026	At St. Peter's Basilica prayer vigil: denounced a 'delusion of omnipotence' fueling the war. Declared: 'Enough of the idolatry of self and money! Enough of the display of power! Enough of war!'	Prior threat regarding Iran: 'A whole civilization will die tonight.' Leo called this 'truly unacceptable.'
April 12–13, 2026	"I have no fear of the Trump administration, or speaking out loudly of the message of the Gospel... Too many innocent people are being killed. Someone must stand up and say there is a better way."	"Pope Leo is WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy... Leo should get his act together as Pope... If I wasn't in the White House, Leo wouldn't be in the Vatican."
April 13, 2026	Departed for 11-day Africa tour, continuing peace appeals from the papal plane.	Posted an AI-generated image to Truth Social depicting himself in a Christ-like healing pose. Deleted by afternoon after widespread condemnation.

PART TWO: WHAT YAHWEH SAYS — THE COVENANT WITNESS

We do not adjudicate this conflict by polling, political preference, or Catholic canon law. We bring both men — and both institutions they represent — before the Word of **Yahweh**. The standard is the written Torah. The method is Devarim 19:15 — two or three witnesses.

A. ON INVOKING YAHWEH TO JUSTIFY WAR

YESHAYAHU (ISAIAH) 1:15

"When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen — your hands are full of blood."

This is the word of **Yahweh** — not a political opinion. The precise charge brought here is not *that one may never fight* — the Tanakh records many authorized wars. The charge is that **no one may place the seal of Yahweh upon bloodshed He has not commanded**. Both Trump and Hegseth have done precisely that. They have not appealed to **Yahweh's** word for authorization. They have invoked the name of **Elohim** as rhetorical cover for geopolitical and military strategy.

SHEMOT (EXODUS) 20:7

"You shall not carry the name of Yahweh your Elohim in vain, for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who carries His name in vain."

The Hebrew word translated 'in vain' is *shav* — **H7723**. BDB defines it as *emptiness, vanity, falsehood, that which is deceptive*. To utter the Name of **Yahweh** as endorsement for an act He has not commanded is not merely disrespectful — it is **covenant perjury**. The image Trump posted of himself in a Christ-like pose before the watching world only deepens this indictment.

B. ON THE KILLING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IN WAR

BAMIDBAR (NUMBERS) 35:33

"You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it."

The Hebrew term is *dam naki* — **H1818** + **H5355** — innocent blood. The Torah does not permit the calculation that civilian deaths are acceptable collateral in military campaigns conducted in **Yahweh's** name. The same Law 207 this assembly has studied — *Lo Tirtzach* (Shemot 20:13) — applies the term *ratzach* (**H7523**) specifically to the shedding of blood that is unjustified by covenant authority. This standard is not suspended in wartime.

We have documented in Lesson 16 of our 613 Laws Covenant Course the peer-reviewed civilian casualty record now exceeding 50,000 lives in Gaza. The same standard applies to Iranian civilians. Neither Trump's threat to annihilate *"an entire civilization"* nor the ongoing air campaign qualifies as authorized covenant war under the Torah's criteria. There is no Tanakh precedent for **Yahweh** commanding the destruction of civilian infrastructure, hospitals, or water systems in service of a geopolitical agenda.

C. WHAT LEO XIV GOT RIGHT

We note without hesitation that Pope Leo XIV's declaration — *"Enough of war!"* — aligns with the prophetic witness of the Tanakh. The cry of **Yeshayahu (Isaiah)**, **Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah)**, **Michah (Micah)**, and **Zekharyah (Zechariah)** is unanimous: the nations will not find peace by the sword, but by returning to the covenant standard of **Yahweh**.

MICAH (MICAH) 4:3

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Leo's instinct to oppose the sanctification of violence is correct as far as it reaches. His appeal to the suffering of innocents reflects the moral seriousness of *tzelem Elohim* — every human being formed in the image of **Elohim** (Bereishit 1:27). On these points, the covenant witness affirms him without reservation.

D. WHERE LEO'S WITNESS REMAINS INCOMPLETE

However — and the covenant witness must be bilateral — Pope Leo XIV's moral authority is significantly limited by what his institution has done and what he has not yet said:

AREA OF INCOMPLETE WITNESS	COVENANT STANDARD
The Gaza Silence	Leo has spoken boldly on Iran. But the documented killing of over 50,000 civilians in Gaza — verified by Lancet and UN sources — preceded the Iran conflict. Where was the equivalent vigil for Gaza? The plumb line must fall equally.

The Church's Own Record	Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 7:9-10 — Yahweh rejects those who steal, murder, and burn incense to Baal, then come stand before Him in His house saying 'We are delivered.' The Crusades, the Inquisition, and colonial religious violence are not fully accounted for. Peace advocacy today does not erase that record without a covenant reckoning.
The NT/Tanakh Distinction	Leo's appeals are rooted in the Gospel and the Rosary — the NT tradition and Marian devotion. The Tanakh — the only covenant text Yahweh authorized — stands prior to and above all council and ecclesiastical tradition. The peace Yahweh establishes is not the peace of Rome or the Vatican; it is the Shalom of the covenant.
The Name of Yahweh	Leo calls on Jesus, on the Christ, on Mary. But the Name that stands behind all covenant peace is Yahweh — 6,828 occurrences in the Tanakh, suppressed by the substitution 'LORD' across all Catholic Bibles. Until the Name is restored, the source of peace is obscured.

PART THREE: THREE-RELIGION AUDIT

What does the covenant standard say to each tradition about this moment?

TRADITION	WHERE IT STANDS	COVENANT CHARGE
Judaism	The modern State of Israel is conducting military campaigns that this assembly has documented exceed any defensible covenant authorization. Israeli leaders have also invoked Elohim and Torah to justify the Gaza campaign.	Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:16 — "You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor." The charge applies inward: when a people claiming the covenant sheds innocent blood, the covenant indicts them first.
Christianity	Trump and Hegseth claim Christian conviction while endorsing collective destruction. Leo correctly resists this. But Christianity as a whole must reckon with its history of sacred violence before its peace testimony carries full weight.	Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 29:13 — "This people draw near with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, while their hearts are far from Me." Institutional Christianity must match its peace declaration with covenant repentance.
Islam	Iran and its allies have also shed blood. The Islamic world is not exempt from the covenant standard simply because it opposes U.S.-Israeli military power. The	Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 — Two or three witnesses. The same evidentiary standard applies to all parties in this

	covenant weighs innocent blood regardless of the flag under which it is spilled.	conflict. Innocent blood is innocent blood.
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PART FOUR: COVENANT APPLICATION TABLE

SPHERE	THE FAILING	THE COVENANT REQUIREMENT
Individual	Both Trump and Leo speak from positions of great power. Trump posts messianic imagery of himself. Leo has spoken truth more consistently but remains silent on Gaza.	Devarim 1:17 — "You shall not be partial in judgment... the judgment is Yahweh's." No person — pope or president — is exempt from covenant impartiality.
Community	Catholics who supported Trump are now watching their president attack their pope. Evangelical Trump supporters are watching their leader claim divine endorsement for war.	Amos 5:24 — "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Communities must measure their leaders by the covenant, not tribal loyalty.
Nation	The United States is conducting a war invoking God's approval. The nation's leaders are publicly feuding with the world's largest Christian institution over that war.	Mishlei (Proverbs) 14:34 — "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." A nation that invokes Yahweh while shedding innocent blood is not exalted — it is indicted.
World	The world is watching two Western institutions — the U.S. presidency and the Roman Catholic Church — fight over who speaks for God while bombs fall on civilians.	Zekharyah (Zechariah) 8:19 — "Therefore love truth and peace." The nations will only find the path of Shalom when they return to the covenant of Yahweh — not to the interpretations of Rome or Washington.

PART FIVE: COVENANT WITNESS — A DIRECT WORD TO EACH

TO POPE LEO XIV

You have spoken the truth when you said enough of war. You have reflected the heart of the prophets when you stood before the tomb of Peter and called for peace. The covenant witness affirms this. But you have a plumb line to receive as well.

Where was this vigil when Gaza burned? Over 50,000 documented civilian deaths preceded your first bold statement against Iran. You said 'I read countless letters from children in areas of conflict' — but the children of Gaza wrote those same letters for 18 months before the Iran war began. The covenant weighs each life by the same standard. Partial peace advocacy is not the full testimony of **Yahweh**.

Furthermore, you pray in the name of Jesus and lead the Rosary. Miqdash Bethel does not mock your faith. But the Name that is the source of all covenant peace — **Yahweh** — has been suppressed in every Catholic Bible by the substitution 'Lord.' Until the people know the Name, they cannot fully call upon it. The covenant witness invites you to go deeper than the Gospel. The Torah — the instruction that the Messiah you follow said he came not to destroy but to fulfill — awaits your full submission.

YIRMEYAHU (JEREMIAH) 6:14

"They have healed the wound of My people lightly, saying Peace, peace — when there is no peace."

TO PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

You have invoked **Elohim** to justify a war. You have posted an image of yourself in a pose reserved for the Messiah. You have told the world *"God is good and God wants to see people taken care of"* — in the same breath that your administration threatened to annihilate an entire civilization.

This witness asks: where is the Torah authorization for this war? Not the NT. Not a Hegseth sermon. Not a chaplain's blessing. **What has Yahweh commanded?** The Torah sets specific conditions for authorized warfare. None of them include threatening the mass destruction of a civilian population. None of them include invoking **Yahweh's** name as political theater.

The image you posted of yourself in the posture of the Anointed One is not a minor matter. The Torah is unambiguous:

SHEMOT (EXODUS) 20:3-5

*"You shall have no other gods before Me... You shall not make for yourself a carved image...
You shall not bow down to them or serve them."*

To position oneself as a Christ-figure before the watching world — to present oneself as a healing, divine presence — is not merely arrogance. It is a form of self-idolatry that the covenant specifically forbids. You said it was a picture of yourself as a doctor. But the imagery was chosen and posted. **Yahweh** sees the heart.

And to the Pope — you said he 'wouldn't be in the Vatican if you weren't in the White House.' This is not the posture of a servant leader. Mishlei (Proverbs) 16:18 stands: *"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."* The covenant issues this witness not to diminish you but to extend to you what every prophet extended to every king: the truth you need, not the flattery you want.

PART SIX: THE COVENANT PATH FORWARD

The Counsel of Peace — founded by this witness alongside Asayah Y. Hawkins (counselofpeace.org) — has called for precisely what both men claim to want: **a table of dialogue grounded in covenant truth**. Not the interests of Wall Street, Rome, or Washington. The covenant of **Yahweh** — the plumb line that made the promise of Zekharyah 8:3: *"I will return to Zion and dwell in the midst of Yerushalayim, and Yerushalayim shall be called the Faithful City."*

That city is not built by bombs or by papal vigils alone. It is built, line upon line, by those who keep the covenant and speak the truth — even when it is unwelcome to the president and pope alike.

MICAH (MICAH) 6:8

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does Yahweh require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?"

This is the covenant witness of Miqdash Bethel Covenant Assembly. We speak to all — without fear and without favor. Authority: The Tanakh — The Word of Yahweh Alone.

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Shemot (Exodus) 20:7	Not to carry the Name of Yahweh in vain (shav — H7723)
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Miqdash Bethel Covenant Assembly is not associated with the House of Yahweh out of Clyde/Abilene, Texas.
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