

WHAT THE RECORD NOW CONFIRMS

A Covenant Response to the Kent and Graham Revelations

Prepared by Miqdash Bethel | March 19, 2026

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Tanakh as Sole Doctrinal Authority

Two convergent disclosures — Senator Lindsey Graham's admissions to the *Wall Street Journal* and former NCTC Director Joe Kent's testimony on the Tucker Carlson Network (March 18, 2026) — have now produced a complete public record of how the United States entered the war in Iran. This brief responds to that record from the covenant standard of the Tanakh, the only text that speaks with binding authority to all three peoples at the center of this conflict: Israel, Iran, and America.

The Tanakh does not speak to this moment as ancient literature. It speaks as living covenant law — the standard by which Yahweh (יהוה) holds every nation, king, and governing official accountable, regardless of whether they acknowledge it.

PART ONE — THE LINDSEY GRAHAM RECORD

The *Wall Street Journal* published a report titled "*Lindsey Graham's Quest to Sell Trump on Striking Iran*." Graham confirmed the following in his own words:

- He traveled multiple times to Israel, meeting with members of Israeli intelligence — receiving information, he said, that "*our own government won't tell me.*"
- He coached Prime Minister Netanyahu directly on how to lobby President Trump, and Netanyahu presented intelligence to Trump that Graham says "*persuaded*" him to approve Operation Epic Fury.
- He used psychological word-association to move Trump emotionally: "*I say Franklin Roosevelt, what do you say?*" — an appeal to wartime presidential legacy.
- He told Trump: "*Mr. President, you want to have your fingerprints on this. You want them to know America will fight.*"

- He coordinated with Gen. Jack Keane and columnist Marc Thiessen, who rotated calls to the White House and published op-eds Trump then reposted on Truth Social.
- He pre-briefed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman: *"I went to MBS to say, OK, I think this is going down."*
- When asked about the war's \$1 billion per day cost — against the backdrop of 194 confirmed children killed — he answered: **"Best money ever spent."**

The Torah Standard: False Witness and the Corrupted Counselor

What Graham has described is the mechanism that **Shemot (Exodus) 23:1–2** prohibits in precise terms:

"You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice."

A U.S. senator received foreign intelligence, bypassing his own government's chain of accountability, and used it to construct a false consensus — a manufactured landscape of threat designed to move a president toward war. This is not a procedural irregularity. It is the exact network of false witness the Torah prohibits: the many voices coordinated to produce an unjust verdict.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:16–17 establishes the governing standard for national leadership: the king shall not ***"multiply horses for himself"*** — meaning he shall not build military power through foreign dependency — and he shall not be ***"turned aside"*** from the covenant path by foreign influence. Graham's operation was precisely the mechanism by which a president who campaigned on *"no new wars"* was turned aside — through flattery, psychological manipulation, and intelligence fed to him by a foreign government through a domestic intermediary.

On the profit motive: **Mishlei (Proverbs) 1:18–19** speaks with prophetic precision:

"They lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors."

And **Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 22:17** — the prophet's direct word to rulers who monetize bloodshed:

"But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood, and on oppression and extortion."

At the time Graham declared this war *"best money ever spent,"* 194 children had been confirmed dead among 1,205 documented civilian casualties in Iran. **Bemidbar (Numbers) 35:33** is unambiguous: ***"blood defiles the land, and no atonement can***

be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it. The prophet does not grade the blood by the justification offered for it.

PART TWO — THE JOE KENT TESTIMONY (March 18, 2026)

Joe Kent — 11 combat deployments, six Bronze Stars, former CIA paramilitary officer, and the sitting Director of the National Counterterrorism Center with full access to the classified intelligence picture — testified on the record at the cost of his career. Five claims stand as the evidentiary core of his testimony.

Claim 1 — No Imminent Threat Intelligence Existed

Kent stated without hedging: ***"There was no intelligence that showed an imminent threat from Iran to the United States."*** There was no intelligence of a planned Iranian attack on U.S. forces. On the nuclear question: *"The Iranians have had a religious ruling — a fatwa — against developing a nuclear weapon since 2004. We had no intelligence to indicate that fatwa was being disobeyed or was on the cusp of being lifted."*

The Tanakh's standard for judgment — including the judgment of war — is established in **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15**:

"A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."

The intelligence that justified this war did not meet the Torah's evidentiary standard. It did not meet the legal standard of U.S. law. It did not meet the standard of international law, which also requires imminence. Kent's testimony stands as the second witness — the IAEA's independent finding of no evidence of a systematic Iranian nuclear weapons program stands as the third. By the Torah's own rule of judgment, the war's legal predicate is void.

Claim 2 — The Imminent Threat Was From Israel, Not Iran

Tucker you pressed the decisive legal question. Kent confirmed it:

Carlson: *"So the imminent threat the Secretary of State is describing is not from Iran. It's from Israel."*

Kent: ***"Exactly. And I think this speaks to the broader issue: who is in charge of our policy in the Middle East."***

Secretary of State Rubio had acknowledged that the U.S. knew Israel was going to act, that Iranian retaliation against American forces would follow, and that the U.S. struck preemptively to reduce casualties. Kent's reading: the administration's own Secretary of State described an Israeli trigger — not an Iranian threat. The stated legal predicate for the war was fabricated from an anticipated allied action, not an adversarial attack.

Kent further stated: *"The Israelis felt emboldened that no matter what they did, no matter what situation they put us in, they could go ahead and take this action and we would just have to react."*

Shemot (Exodus) 19:5–6 establishes the priestly governance standard — those who govern in covenant stand *impartially*, beholden to no foreign interest. **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 1:17** specifies the judgment standard of the covenant governor:

"You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is Yahweh's."

A government that goes to war because an ally acted in a way that forced its hand has surrendered its governing sovereignty. It has placed the judgment of war in foreign hands. This is the constitutional and covenant crisis at the center of Kent's testimony — and it is the question you named correctly: "Who is in charge of our policy in the Middle East?"

Claim 3 — The Information Was Laundered

Kent described a documented pattern: Israeli officials would shift the stated red line from *"Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon"* — which allows for negotiation — to *"Iran cannot enrich at all"* — which forecloses it. That framing would then appear the same night on Fox News, or in think-tank op-eds from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. His conclusion: ***"If you looked in classified intelligence, we didn't see any of that."*** The manufactured consensus had no classified basis.

Shemot (Exodus) 20:13 — the ninth of the Ten Words given at Sinai — prohibits ***"false witness."*** The Torah's prohibition is not limited to courtroom perjury. It encompasses the systematic construction of a false narrative to move a nation toward an outcome it would not otherwise choose. A coordinated media, think-tank, and senatorial operation that produced the appearance of intelligence consensus where the classified record showed none is ***shav*** — false witness — operating at civilizational scale.

Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 9:5 names this precisely:

"Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity."

Claim 4 — Killing Khamenei Empowered the Hardliners

Kent's warning is among the most strategically consequential statements of the entire war: *"Khamenei was moderating their nuclear program. He was preventing them from getting a nuclear weapon. If you take him out aggressively, people are going to rally around that regime."* He further named Ali Larijani — a veteran Iranian negotiator described as *"eager to get us a deal"* — as one of those systematically eliminated by the war. Kent's conclusion: the next Ayatollah will be more radical because he will have to prove it.

The Torah principle embedded here is the covenant of **shalom** (שָׁלוֹם) — a word whose root means wholeness, completeness, and the mutual security of all parties. **Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 29:7** instructed even exiles in Babylon:

"Seek the shalom of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to Yahweh on its behalf, for in its shalom you will find your shalom."

The principle is structural: you cannot destroy your adversary's moderate voices without destroying your own path to resolution. Every negotiator killed, every pragmatist eliminated, every moderate regime voice erased by military action forecloses the covenant path of *shalom*. Kent understands this militarily. The Tanakh grounds it covenantally. The result is the same: the war has created the conditions for a more dangerous Iran than the one it set out to destroy.

Claim 5 — Key Decision Makers Were Locked Out of the Room

Kent testified: ***"In the lead-up to this last iteration, a good deal of key decision makers were not allowed to come and express their opinion to the president."*** The Director of the National Counterterrorism Center — the president's principal counterterrorism adviser — could not get his assessment to the president. The decision was made by a restricted circle, deliberately insulated from dissenting intelligence voices.

Mishlei (Proverbs) 11:14:

"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

Mishlei (Proverbs) 15:22:

"Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed."

The Torah's governance model is built on the breadth of counsel — not the suppression of it. A war room constructed to exclude the voices most qualified to assess the war's legal and intelligence basis is a room that has violated the foundational wisdom standard of covenant governance. This is not an administrative failure. It is a covenant breach at the highest level of national leadership.

Even Steve Bannon — architect of the MAGA movement and Trump ally — called for immediate investigation on his program: *"Joe Kent is a guy that is highly revered — 11 combat tours, valor and courage beyond question. Coming from a guy like Joe Kent, you are going to have to investigate this."*

PART THREE — WHAT THE COMPLETE RECORD SHOWS

These are not allegations. They are confirmed facts, sourced from Graham's own words to the *Wall Street Journal* and Kent's testimony on the Tucker Carlson Network — corroborated by Secretary of State Rubio's own public statements and the IAEA's independent findings.

1. **A U.S. senator traveled to a foreign intelligence service**, bypassed his own government's chain of accountability, obtained intelligence his government would not give him, and coached a foreign prime minister on how to psychologically manipulate the President of the United States into a war.
2. **A coordinated media and think-tank operation** — Keane, Thiessen, Levin, Hannity, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies — manufactured the appearance of intelligence consensus that the classified record, by Kent's testimony, did not support.
3. **The Director of the National Counterterrorism Center was locked out of the decision room**, along with other key intelligence voices. The decision was made by a circle deliberately insulated from professional dissent.
4. **The stated legal predicate for the war — imminent threat from Iran** — was, by the Secretary of State's own public admission, triggered by anticipated Israeli action, not Iranian aggression. The imminent threat was from the ally, not the adversary.
5. **The IAEA independently confirmed** no evidence of a systematic Iranian nuclear weapons program, corroborating Kent's classified-level assessment.
6. **At least 194 children are confirmed dead** as civilian casualties of a war whose initiating senator publicly called *"best money ever spent."*

The Covenant Verdict

The Tanakh does not grade these facts by nationality or political alliance. **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 10:17** establishes the standard by which **Yahweh** judges every nation:

"For Yahweh your Elohim is Elohim of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome El, who is not partial and takes no bribe."

Every king, senator, prime minister, and intelligence official named in this record will answer to that standard — not to a religious tradition, but to the covenant law embedded in creation itself. **Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 59:14–15** names the condition this record describes:

"Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey."

Joe Kent departed from evil. He made himself a prey. Tucker Carlson has been pressing toward truth in the public square. The question now is whether the covenant framework that names what they have uncovered — and offers the path forward — will be carried to the places where decisions are still being made.

PART FOUR — THE COVENANT PATH FORWARD

The secular voices — Kent, MacGregor, Carlson — have correctly diagnosed the wound. **What they cannot offer is the medicine, because medicine requires a covenant framework larger than any single nation's interests.** The Tanakh provides it.

The Hebrew root of peace — **Sh-L-M** (שָׁלוֹם) — does not mean the absence of conflict. It means wholeness: the condition in which every party has what it needs for life, security, and dignified existence. It is the only framework that can speak simultaneously to Israel's legitimate security concern, Iran's legitimate national dignity, and America's legitimate interest in withdrawal from manufactured wars.

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 2:4 is the covenant architecture that neither senator, general, nor media analyst has been able to name:

"He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and 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."

This is not eschatological poetry awaiting a distant future. It is the operational covenant standard — a mediating authority grounded in **Yahweh's** impartial justice, to which nations come voluntarily when military force has been exhausted and discredited. The United States, Israel, and Iran are standing at that exact threshold right now.

The covenant peace initiative documents sent by Miqdash Bethel to Mojtaba Khamenei, Reza Pahlavi, Israeli Ambassador Yechiel Leiter, and others provide the framework for that conversation — grounded entirely in the Tanakh, speaking to each recipient through their own prophetic tradition, demanding nothing and offering the ancient Hebrew covenant of **shalom** as the only framework large enough to hold all three peoples.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 30:19 is the covenant's final word to every nation standing at this junction:

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live."

The choice is before the nation. The record is now public. The framework exists. The question is whether those with the platform and the courage to carry it forward will do so.

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