

## MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT ASSEMBLY

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Authority: The Tanakh — The Word of Yahweh Alone | Standard: Devarim 19:15 — Two or Three  
Witnesses

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### A COVENANT WITNESS TO THE RELIGION OF POWER: TUCKER CARLSON'S BROADCAST ON ISRAELISM, CIVIC RELIGION, AND THE MISSING PLUMB LINE

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### INTRODUCTION: WHAT TUCKER NAMED — AND WHAT HE MISSED

**Tucker Carlson has done something genuinely significant in this broadcast.** He named the operative civic religion of the United States government — **Israelism** — with precision and documentary evidence. He identified the blasphemy laws. He traced the inversion of Christian ethics into a nationalism without covenant. He named the IHRA definition for what it is: a blasphemy code enforcing religious loyalty to a political state. He even quoted **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17** and **Dani'el (Daniel) 11** by implication, though without grounding them in their covenant context.

This broadcast is the most honest public diagnosis of America's theological crisis to appear on any major media platform in years. And Tucker is right on every major factual claim he makes. The Kepha Arcemont Experiment sent Tucker a letter on March 4, 2026 — before this broadcast — raising precisely these questions from the covenant standard. What follows is not a refutation of what Tucker said. It is the completion of it.

**Tucker named the false religion. He did not name the true one.** He identified that the old civic religion of universal human rights — grounded in the belief that every human being bears a soul given by **Yahweh** — has been replaced. He is correct. But Tucker then handed the response over to Father Josiah Trenham, an Orthodox priest operating from the New Testament as his foundation. The covenant witness before us requires going further back, and going all the way to the root: **the Written Torah of Yahweh, the Tanakh alone.**

## SECTION I: WHAT TUCKER GOT RIGHT — THE COVENANT CONFIRMS IT

### I.1 — ISRAELISM AS CIVIC RELIGION: THE COVENANT STANDARD AGREES

Tucker named the operational test for any civic religion: **what cannot be mocked? What triggers the blasphemy penalty?** He correctly observed that Yeshua of Nazareth can be mocked by a sitting president with a demon-image meme and faces zero institutional consequence. But criticism of the secular State of Israel's military policies triggers the IHRA definition, adopted by nearly 40 states, with criminal penalties attached in countries like Ukraine.

The covenant standard of **Yahweh** agrees with Tucker's analysis — and deepens it. The Torah does not permit the elevation of any political state to the level of the sacred. The covenant of **Yahweh** was made with a people, not a political government. Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:14-20 establishes that any king who rules over **Yahweh's** people must not multiply military power beyond measure, must not exalt himself above his brothers, and must govern by the Written Torah — not by geopolitical loyalty codes enforced by foreign lobbying organizations.

*He shall not acquire many horses for himself... And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold... He shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear Yahweh his Elohim by keeping all the words of this Torah.*

— Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:16-19

The IHRA's conflation of criticism of Israel's government with *hatred of Jewish people* is not only intellectually dishonest — it is a covenant violation. The Torah condemns partiality in judgment with unambiguous clarity. Devarim 1:17 commands: *"You shall not be partial in judgment; you shall bear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is Yahweh's."* No government — Israeli, American, or otherwise — stands above the covenant standard of **Yahweh**.

### I.2 — TRUMP'S AI MESSIAH IMAGE: THE COVENANT NAMES THIS PRECISELY

Tucker identified Trump's posting of an AI image depicting himself in Messianic robes as mockery of Yeshua and a sign consistent with the prophetic descriptions of the man of lawlessness in Thessalonians and Dani'el 11. The covenant witness of Miqdash Bethel has already addressed this in full in the companion document *Two Crowns Without a Plumb Line* (Doc 58, April 16, 2026). The charge under the Written Torah is Shemot (Exodus) 20:3-5 — the prohibition on self-deification and

the creation of images that place a human being in the position of **Yahweh**. The Torah named this sin before any NT epistle was written.

### 1.3 — THE CIVIC RELIGION OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS: WHAT IT WAS ACTUALLY BASED ON

Tucker described the old American civic religion as grounded in the belief that *"every human being possesses a soul given to him by God at creation... each individual possesses rights granted him by God, not government."* He is correct. But he did not identify the source of that understanding with precision.

That doctrine does not originate in the New Testament. It originates in **Bereishit (Genesis) 1:26-27** — the declaration that every human being is created in the **tzelem Elohim** — the image of **Elohim**. This is a Torah doctrine. It precedes Christianity, precedes Islam, and is the covenant foundation that both religions built upon. When Tucker says the old civic religion held that every human has inherent rights because they were made by God, he is standing on ground the Written Torah established. The **tzelem Elohim** standard is the reason innocent blood — any innocent blood, Gaza or elsewhere — constitutes a covenant violation of the highest order.

*So Elohim created man in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them.*

— **Bereishit (Genesis) 1:27**

## SECTION II: WHERE TUCKER'S ANALYSIS STOPS SHORT — THE COVENANT COMPLETES IT

### 2.1 — THE NEW TESTAMENT IS NOT THE FOUNDATION: BACK TO SINAI

Tucker correctly observed that the New Testament contains no command from Yeshua to kill, to make war, or to treat one ethnic group as holding special dispensation above the covenant standard applied to others. He quoted Mattityahu (Matthew) 5 — the Sermon on the Mount — accurately: *"You have been told not to kill; I tell you don't be angry."*

But Tucker and Father Trenham both locate the authority in the New Testament — and specifically in the Orthodox tradition. This is where the covenant witness must name the limitation with respect: **the New Testament is not the Tanakh**. The Written Torah of **Yahweh** was established at Sinai. The NT is a first-century witness document written in Koine Greek by authors who thought in Hebrew and Aramaic, operating within Second Temple Judaism, under Roman civil law. The NT does not

supersede the Torah. Yeshua himself said it in the verse Tucker cited: ***"I came not to abolish the Torah but to fulfill it."*** — Mattityahu 5:17.

Trenham's Orthodox theology is internally consistent and admirable in its opposition to Christian Zionism. But the covenant of **Yahweh** does not need the Orthodox Church to validate it. The Torah stands alone, prior to and above every Christian council, every papal encyclical, and every denomination's systematic theology. This is the ground Miqdash Bethel Covenant Assembly occupies: **the Written Torah as sole doctrinal authority — reaching Judaism, Christianity, and Islam simultaneously, with the same standard applied to all three.**

## 2.2 — ON ZIONISM, CHRISTIAN ZIONISM, AND THE TORAH'S STANDARD

Father Trenham stated: *"Zionism has no history in the Christian faith. It's not as though there are — you will search in vain for eighteen and a half centuries to ever hear of such things."* This is historically accurate within the Christian tradition.

But the covenant witness must go further. Christian Zionism is not merely a theological novelty — it is a covenant inversion. It takes the promise of the land in Bereishit (Genesis) and Devarim and detaches it entirely from the covenant conditions under which the land was granted. The Torah is explicit: the land was given on covenant terms. Vayikra (Leviticus) 18:24-28 and Devarim (Deuteronomy) 28 both establish that the people's continued presence in the land depends on their covenant faithfulness — including the treatment of the sojourner, the orphan, the widow, and the stranger within their gates.

***Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. So I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.***

— Vayikra (Leviticus) 18:24-25

The modern State of Israel is a secular political entity. It is not the covenant nation of **Yahweh**. This is not antisemitism — it is a covenant distinction. The covenant of **Yahweh** applies to any government claiming divine sanction. A state that documents the systematic use of sexual violence against civilians (see Miqdash Bethel Doc 59), the targeted killing of aid workers, and the deliberate destruction of civilian infrastructure is not operating under the covenant of **Yahweh** — regardless of the ethnicity of its leaders or the theological claims of its Christian supporters in America.

## 2.3 — THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CEREMONY TUCKER DESCRIBED

Tucker described a Holocaust memorial ceremony in the U.S. Capitol in which a uniformed military member lit a candle and said *"I remember"* — with no mention of the quarter million Americans who died defeating Nazism. He asked what this ceremony meant in secular terms.

The covenant witness adds the dimension Tucker did not: the command of **Yahweh** regarding memory is universal and bilateral. **Zachor** — remember — is one of the most repeated commands in the Tanakh. But what is to be remembered is the covenant, the deliverance, and the standard of **Yahweh**. Memory that honors one group's suffering while erasing another's is not **zachor**. It is the manipulation of memory for political consolidation — which is precisely the pattern Tucker identified.

The Torah's standard of memory is stated plainly in Shemot (Exodus) 22:21: "***You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.***" Suffering does not confer permanent exemption from the standard. It confers obligation — the obligation to recognize the suffering of others, because you have known it yourself. This is the Torah's definition of empathy as a covenant requirement.

## 2.4 — ON HANNITY, THE BOOK OF WARS, AND THE COVENANT CONDITIONS

Tucker correctly dismantled Sean Hannity's use of the Tanakh's war narratives to justify Israel's current military campaign. Hannity pointed to David and Goliath, King Saul, the wars of Yisra'el against the Amalekites and Philistines. Tucker responded accurately: those are not New Testament texts, and Yeshua's Sermon on the Mount goes in the opposite direction.

The covenant witness completes Tucker's answer from the Tanakh itself. Every war that **Yahweh** authorized in the Tanakh was specific, bounded, and carried covenant conditions. The wars of conquest in Yehoshua (Joshua) were executed under direct prophetic mandate with defined boundaries. The Tanakh does not contain a blank authorization for any state to conduct unlimited military violence against civilians in the name of **Yahweh**. Dani'el 4:17 establishes the standard that governs the rise and fall of kingdoms: "***the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will and sets over it the lowliest of men.***" This authority belongs to **Yahweh** alone — not to any geopolitical alliance.

## SECTION III: THE CIVIC RELIGION TUCKER DESCRIBED — ITS COVENANT NAME

Tucker named the current American civic religion "*Israelism*" — defined as unwavering loyalty to the political and military decisions of the Netanyahu government as the non-negotiable test for participation in the ruling coalition. He documented it through the treatment of Marjorie Taylor Greene, Thomas Massie, and Pope Leo XIV — the only common thread being their failure to align with that loyalty test.

The covenant name for this pattern in the Written Torah is "**servicing other elohim**" — Devarim 11:16. The Torah does not define idolatry only as carving a statue. Idolatry in the Tanakh is any system

that places a human institution, a political power, an ethnic identity, or a national interest in the position that belongs to **Yahweh** alone. When any government — American or Israeli — becomes the object of mandatory reverence enforced by blasphemy penalties, the Tanakh has a precise name for what has happened.

*Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other elohim and worship them; then the anger of Yahweh will be kindled against you.*

— Devarim (Deuteronomy) 11:16-17

Tucker's diagnosis is accurate. The covenant of **Yahweh** supplies the precise charge: a civic religion that requires loyalty to a political entity as a condition of participation in public life, enforces that loyalty with penalty law, and uses the Name of **Yahweh** to sanctify its military operations — while simultaneously mocking the actual covenant standard — is not a political phenomenon. It is a spiritual one. And the Torah names it.

## SECTION IV: WHAT THE COVENANT OFFERS THAT NEITHER TUCKER NOR TRENHAM OFFERED

### 4.1 — THE COVENANT IS NOT TRIBAL

Both Tucker and Father Trenham, for all their courage and clarity, are operating within a Christian framework that — however much it opposes Christian Zionism — still locates authority in the NT and the church tradition rather than in the Written Torah. Trenham acknowledged this implicitly when he stated that the Church considers itself *"the New Israel."* This is Replacement Theology — the belief that the covenant of **Yahweh** with the people of Yisra'el has been transferred to the church. The covenant of Miqdash Bethel stands on different ground: **the Tanakh is the authority. The covenant of Yahweh was never replaced. It was, is, and remains the single governing standard for every human being on earth.**

This means the covenant applies to Jewish Israelis and Palestinian Arabs, to American Christians and Iranian Muslims, to the Pope and to the President — with one standard, no exemptions, and no tribal loyalty tests. Devarim 1:17 applies universally: *"you shall bear the small and the great alike."* Shemot 22:21-24 applies universally: the sojourner, the widow, the fatherless child — any government that afflicts them faces the covenant of **Yahweh**. Not the political preferences of the evangelical lobby.

### 4.2 — YEchezkel 47:22-23: THE COVENANT MAP TUCKER DID NOT HAVE

Tucker named the Gaza question repeatedly — the killing of civilians, the displacement of Palestinians, the use of the word *genocide*. He did not offer a covenant solution. The Written Torah does.

*You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the sojourners who reside among you and have had children among you. They shall be to you as native-born children of Yisra'el. With you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Yisra'el.*

— Yechezkel (Ezekiel) 47:22

Yechezkel 47:22-23 is **Yahweh's** own covenant map for the land in the age of restoration. It is not a Christian theological position. It is not a Palestinian political argument. It is the Written Torah of **Yahweh** — spoken through the prophet Yechezkel — establishing that the sojourner who has settled in the land and raised children there receives an allotted inheritance alongside the native-born. This text was the first content of Elder Kepha Arcemont's opening letter to Tucker Carlson, dated March 4, 2026. It remains the only text that can resolve the covenant crisis Tucker described — because it does not resolve it by choosing a side. It resolves it by returning both parties to the standard of **Yahweh**.

#### 4.3 — THE COUNSEL OF PEACE: WHAT THE CIVIC RELIGION LACKS

Tucker ended his monologue with a question: *"What is the actual religion of the United States? What is the religion of Donald Trump?"* He answered: Israelism. Father Trenham added his Orthodox framework and called for a revival of genuine Christian discipleship.

The covenant witness of Miqdash Bethel Covenant Assembly adds the third voice that is missing from this conversation: the voice of Zekharyah (Zechariah) 8:16 — the covenant of truth and peace that **Yahweh** declared to the nations. Not the peace of geopolitical management. Not the peace of military deterrence. The **shalom** of the root Sh-L-M — wholeness, right relationship, covenant justice.

*These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for shalom; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares Yahweh.*

— Zekharyah (Zechariah) 8:16-17

Elder Kepha Arcemont is the co-founding voice of the **Counsel of Peace** (counselofpeace.org) — a covenant peace initiative grounded in the Written Torah of **Yahweh** and reaching Judaism, Christianity, and Islam simultaneously. The Counsel of Peace was submitted to the Trump Board of Peace in early 2026 with nine individually addressed cover letters. It stands as a documented alternative to the civic religion Tucker described — not a competing political program, but a covenant standard that holds every government to the same plumb line.

## SECTION V: COVENANT VERDICT AND WITNESS

### COVENANT ASSESSMENT OF TUCKER CARLSON'S BROADCAST

**WHAT TUCKER GOT RIGHT:** The identification of Israelism as the operative civic religion of the U.S. government, confirmed by documentary evidence (IHRA definition, treatment of Greene/Massie/Pope Leo, Capitol Holocaust ceremony, FISA advocacy). The naming of the blasphemy laws. The documentation of anti-Christian policy dressed as Christian nationalism. The identification of the AI Messiah image as mockery of the divine. Every major factual claim in this broadcast is accurate.

**WHAT TUCKER STOPPED SHORT OF:** Tucker did not name the Written Torah of Yahweh as the original and continuing authority that the civic religion of Israelism has displaced. He handed the theological framework to Father Trenham's Orthodox Christianity — which, while far better than Christian Zionism, still locates authority in the NT rather than the Tanakh. The solution Tucker seeks exists — but it is found at Sinai, not at Nicaea.

**WHAT THE COVENANT ADDS:** The tzelem Elohim standard of Bereishit 1:27 as the covenant foundation of universal human rights — predating Christianity and Islam. The Yechezkel 47:22-23 covenant map for the land. The Devarim 19:15 evidentiary standard for truth. The Zekharyah 8:16-17 covenant of peace as the alternative to Israelism. The Written Torah of Yahweh reaching all three Abrahamic traditions with one standard, no exemptions.

*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?*

— Mikhah (Micah) 6:8

*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.*

— Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 5:20-21

*You shall not allot the land for an inheritance among the sojourner... but you shall have one rule, for the sojourner and for the native, for I am Yahweh your Elohim.*

— Vayikra (Leviticus) 24:22

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