



**JOE GOOD'S INTERVIEW
WITH
MOSHE KEMPINSKI**



JANUARY 6, 2009

INTRO: Shalom everyone. We had made an announcement that we were going to be doing a study on Herod tonight, but in the meantime, I spoke to several people in Israel and one in particular that I spoke to was Moshe Kempinski. We are going to do an interview that I did with him last night over the current Gaza situation.

We all have questions over the events that have been taking place in Gaza. We've seen CNN, we've seen Fox news, we've read different accounts and so forth, but a very close friend, Moshe Kempinski, who lives in Jerusalem and has a shop in the old city, Shorashim, is, to me, one of the most alert people, if I can say it that way. He watches what happens and analyzes what happens and is able to put it in a mixture between what we have in the scripture and what is happening in the world. I spoke to him yesterday and we talked about taping an interview, which we did last night. We started about 1:30 am Texas time and actually got started taping about 2:00 am, but it went until 6:00 am this morning. The interview is not four hours long. There were long breaks while we had dealings with equipment and so forth, but I want you to listen carefully to what he has to say and then we will have some discussion on all of these things following that.

JOE: Shalom everyone. I am doing an interview by telephone with a very, very good friend of mine, Moshe Kempinski, who lives in Jerusalem and is speaking as he is driving in to the old city of Jerusalem. He is coming into the Eye of the Universe, the Eternal Capital of the Jewish People. Moshe, I am so glad to be able to talk to you because I know a lot of people have a lot of questions.

MOSHE: Great pleasure to be hearing from you.

JOE: Let me mention that you have a letter that you send out by e-mail called Jerusalem Insight, as well as an update on the current situation, is that correct?

MOSHE: Yeah. We have been sending out a newsletter called Jerusalem Insight, which is a compilation of articles and things like that, over the last 10-12 years, a number of years. It has grown dramatically, but since the situation started in Gaza we

have actually been sending out a daily bulletin. We had a bit of a crash at the beginning of the week, but we're back on, and the daily bulletin just sort of keeps people updated once to even three times a day to what is going on because the situation just keeps changing dramatically from hour to hour.

JOE: How do people receive this if they would like to do that?

MOSHE: I think the best way to do that is to simply e-mail us at Shorashimshop@yahoo.com.

JOE: I have a number of questions to ask you about what is going on in Gaza and the latest related items. First off, I would like to know what is the real story behind the scene. Who is the real power going on here? Is it Hamas?

MOSHE: I think what is going on with Hamas is Hamas actually started to instigate a fire fight. They did not expect the response that they got, but they instigated a fire fight because almost in a very insidious way, Hamas is being prodded on by Iran. Iran, who are Shiites, believe in their hidden messiah being revealed. He has to be revealed amidst blood and turmoil, so blood and more turmoil, more messianic expectations on their part are being fulfilled, but they did not expect that Israel would react in the way that it did and, in fact, they had good reason not to expect it because Israel did not do anything positive or anything that probably any normal country would do to insure the survival and the safety of their people. So what essentially happened was that the election began moving and suddenly we are five weeks away from the election, I think. I can't say anything for sure, but the only thing that makes sense is to why it started so suddenly is that the defense minister, who is very low in the opinion poles, suddenly had an opportunity to prevent himself as the courageous leader of the Israeli people and the prime minister, who is lower than that, figured just before he goes down in disrepute in Jewish History, at least he will come across as the man who sort of made his name good after the disaster that was the second Lebanon war. The truth is, it does not really matter because obviously there is something else at play here, something much higher, much more spiritual, and the fact that these people are doing things for their own motives and their own reasons does in any way deter from the fact that this time they are doing the right thing at the right time and I believe doing what most, almost 90-95%, of the Israeli people feel is the right thing, which is to protect their own people and to not sit back and be battered again and again and again by enemy missiles.

JOE: Okay, the prime minister is Ehud Olmert, the defense minister is Ehud Barak.

MOSHE: That's right. The prime minister is Ehud Olmert and the defense minister is Ehud Barak. Barak is part of the labor party, which has really suffered badly in the poles and this has, in fact, brought their party back up in the poles. Olmert is the head of the Kadima party and the Kadima party is suffering badly, but holding its own, but I do not think he is too concerned about the Kadima party. He is more concerned about himself.

JOE: You mentioned that Iran is an instigator behind Hamas and all of this.

MOSHE: Very much so.

JOE: Let me ask me about the blockade. The thing that we are hearing over here is that the people of Gaza have no food, no medicine. One of the things my wife asked me is if Gaza is totally unable to have farms and supply food to themselves. What is the story on the blockade and why the blockade?

MOSHE: First of all, the blockade was not a blockade per se. If you have been watching the IDF footage on Utube, which you can access actually, you'll see that every single day jets are flying over the line that separates the border between Egypt and the Gaza strip, and every single day they bomb what is called "the tunnels," and you know when they hit a tunnel because the simple bomb that is used suddenly flares up into a mushroom of fire and smoke because what they have it is another weapons cache, so, in essence, it is almost like being blockaded with a slice of Swiss cheese. There are holes all across and if food and medicine were a problem, food and medicine could have been brought across through the Egyptian border daily. What they want is food and medicine to come across the Israeli border, which is a legitimate request, except that when missiles are being fired, the Israeli Army is saying, "Well, we can't allow these trucks going in, we have really no control, and we have no idea what is being sent in in addition to the medicines and everything else." So that was the reason to close off the things, not to starve the people and not to leave them without medicine. Even during the war, by the way, medicine and food are getting in all the time. There is a lull, one hour, two hours, and then the Israelis allow for another shipment and convoy of medicines and food to go in. So again, the last thing the Israeli's do, even

if you do not believe their good will, or you do not believe their good intentions, the last thing the Israelis need in a very cynical battle for public relations and the war is to starve a population, especially since the other side has been using that narrative of suffering as their greatest weapon, and so the last thing the reserves want to do is to give them more ammunition in there weapon as a narrative of suffering. So Israel will do everything possible to maintain that food and medicine go in, but that is not what has been going in, for example through those tunnels through Egypt, so what Israel has been trying to do is, in fact, insure that shipments go through and has been sending shipments through, but every time there are missiles being fired, the Israelis begin to worry because what is going through is not food and medical shipments, but rather weapons and missiles, so the Israelis close it down, but, what I was saying in order to understand the full context is that the biggest weapon the Palestinians have been using is something called "The Narrative of Suffering," meaning they want to show a starving and depleted population and that the starvation and depletion of supplies is a result of "evil Israeli intentions." In Israel, whether you believe them or not, whether you think they're cynical or not, whether you think they have good interests at they basis of their decisions or not, Israel does not want to feed that weapon. They do not want to give them - more ammunition, so the last thing that Israel would want to do is to be in a situation where the Palestinians will have more cause to decry their suffering, etc., etc. So their greatest interest is to make sure that medical supplies and food do get in. They would not be using the blockade as a weapon, but more as a way of defending Israel's citizens from more missiles and more grad rockets.

Utube IDF footage:

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=gaza&search_type=&aq=f

JOE: A couple of years ago, in August 2006, there was the invasion of Lebanon. There was a lot of disappointment in the outcome of that because their objectives were not achieved and Hezbollah in some ways were a pathological difference. What is different about this invasion of Gaza?

MOSHE: There are several differences. First of all, we are talking about a completely different mass of territories. We are not talking about a situation where we are attacking a strip on the Southern part of Lebanon and there was a whole gigantic country behind them to keep bringing supplies in and to keep

insuring that the enemy has places of refuge, holes for their weapons, etc., etc., and also a place where a constant supply of new weapons were able to be brought in through Iran to Syria into the Hezbollah. Here we are talking about a very closed in area where their power is limited, and their scope is limited, so what they are generally trying to do is to actually strip Gaza into three separate sections so that they can deal with each section separately and not allow the terrorists to rearm themselves and re-supply themselves. That has been successful. The difficulty though that makes it very different than Lebanon, in fact, makes it a little harder than Lebanon, is the fact that certain cities are overwhelmingly dense and, therefore, the battles that will go on there are going to be extremely difficult, and, in fact, that is what we have seen in the start of the next phase of the operation and that is where suddenly they have to deal with house after house, go house-to-house battle, and not know which house is booby trapped and which one is not. That is similar to what happened in parts of Lebanon, but not the full extent of Lebanon. Lebanon was a lot more clear area, easier to move through. Here, they fit the cities, now they are around the cities of Gaza, and a lot of the other cities around there, and that makes it much more difficult.

JOE: You told me earlier today when we spoke that you felt that Israel would actually do better in going into Gaza than they did in Lebanon. Why is that?

MOSHE: Because the supply routes are curtailed. There are no supply routes. There is a limit to what the Palestinians in Gaza can do. Second, it is an area they recognize. In fact, some of the soldiers that are fighting today are people that were kicked out of the Gaza strip three years ago, so they are going back to their home place and they know where they are driving. Thirdly, ever since the new general in charge, Major General Gabi Ashkenazi, has taken over, for three years they have been preparing themselves for exactly this operation to the point where they have even set up dummy little villages made with paper mache to match each of the villages they were about to enter, so it is almost as if they were coming into an area they had already been in and they have already practiced the drills of how to get into one house and to get out of one house into another, so that, in many ways, the army is more prepared, the army has shown itself to be more prepared in almost everything that they have done. In Lebanon, what happened they were told to go in and they really did not know what they would do after they would go in, so then they were told to go back and people were injured just in the foray in and the foray out, so that here we

are talking about a much more prepared army, a much more disciplined army, and a much more committed army. They sensed whether or not they trust their leadership, they know this is the right thing to do, and they know that the people behind them willing to let this go until it needs to be done in terms of the military leadership. That was not the case in Lebanon.

JOE: Right, in Lebanon was government run whereas this is army run.

MOSHE: Exactly. The real benefit of having Barak as the defense minister, is that he understands that the war has to be army run. In the Lebanon war, there were a bunch of three stooges running the government defense and the head of the army and the prime minister really had any sense of what they wanted to do. They wanted to flex their muscle without thinking what that would mean, what the implication of each move was. That is not the case here. Major General Gabi Ashkenazi and the general in charge of just the Southern area, Brigadier-General Moshe "Chico" Tamir, are the types of army people who believe in making sure that even the shoelaces are accounted for, and that is how they are dealing with this operation.

JOE: I understand that Major General Gabi Ashkenazi is a former commander of the Golani Brigade, which is a very famous infantry brigade, and that he is quite a fighter.

MOSHE: He is quite a fighter, and so is Golani; in fact, regrettably it was a Golani that was hurt very badly this morning, but the Golani are good fighters, but they are patient fighters. Golanis are known for taking their time, or thinking where their main focus is, the Golan Heights and everything else, hill by hill, rock by rock, and that is their approach and that is what they are taught as soldiers, from the commanders on down to the soldiers. The second thing is that Golanis believe, as all Israel used to believe, that commanders have to be out in the field, so the incident that happened this morning where three Golani soldiers were killed, regrettably, and several were wounded, one of the two major ones that were wounded was the commander of the whole Golani unit in the Gaza strip. He wasn't too seriously wounded, but he did not leave the field until every single one of his people were sent home, and then last night he escaped from the hospital. He did not want to stay in the hospital and went back into the field, and only about an hour ago was he convinced that his second in command would take over and that he should just rest first in order to be a better

commander later on. That is the type of thing we are hearing and seeing all the time.

JOE: One of the things that is different from Lebanon is that every time we turn on the news, there was an Israeli spokesman telling us what was going on. We do not see that with this. Why is that?

MOSHE: What was decided first on the part of Major General Gabi Ashkenazi, is that he would not allow a soldier to speak to anybody or any reporter even if the Prime Minister's office, which has happened, has asked him to send a soldier to sit next to them as they present their case. He says, "Our job is to do what we need to do, we are not here to baby sit the politicians. They can make the decisions. We have to fulfill the decisions, but we are not going to get involved in anything else but," so that is the first decision that was made. When he got into his post, he actually sent that decision all the way down to the foot soldier two years ago. Secondly, they realized that in order for an operation like this to go on, the Israeli people have to be behind it every step. The last thing the Israeli people need to hear every single hour, "Well, this unit is in this village, and this unit is in this village, and we suffered damages here," meaning once, G-d forbid, things like that happen, it takes us two, three, four hours, but then the people that need to know and then the people of Israeli who need to know know, but what was going on in Lebanon was a constant daily, almost hourly nail-biting, intensive, stressful situation where they felt they were in the battlefield _____ and battle fatigue eventually seeped into the Israeli people and they lost it. The second thing the army has done is they have appointed one spokesman and he has been superb, and then the politicians have sent several politicians, who are also being superb in their actions. The second thing that was dealt with was not really dealt with before and it seems that they have been doing this very well if they have set up a whole cadre of psychologists, social workers to deal with the people in Sderot, Beersheva, etc., etc., giving them everything they need to have the strength to withstand the barrage, because if they lose it, if they lose the ability to move further, remember, a lot of the soldiers that are in there today, in Golani especially, are from these cities, from Ashdod, Ashkalon, etc., etc., and from what used to be Gush Katif, so that they are the ones that need to be strong in order for their children to be strong enough to continue the battle, so the whole psychology of what is going on in this country is that it has changed dramatically. G-d willing that should continue!

JOE: Do you know how many rockets have been launched in the six days since this began?

MOSHE: I don't. You know they've talked about 3000 rockets since the Gazans decided to disrupt everything and before. Israel then reacted and I do not really have the numbers in front of me.

JOE: Okay. I want to switch gears a little bit. There is a lot that we are seeing here on CNN and Fox about the public demonstrations, public opinion. What is your take on that?

MOSHE: I am actually surprised to hear that you have heard a lot about a public demonstration. There was a demonstration in Tel Aviv where 100 people showed up, and there was this demonstration in Haifa, which is really where all the Arab-Israeli population live in that area, where 300 people showed up, neither of which are very dramatic demonstrations of anything. They really were only speaking for just the few people that were there. There is no active war movement. There is no anti-war feeling. There is concern, but there is no anti-war feeling. I am actually surprised, well I guess I'm not surprised at all, that CNN made out of it some dramatic story. Here it passed by without hardly a notice.

JOE: I guess I was not clear on what I was referring to. There have been demonstrations in London, Washington, New York, and all around the world.

MOSHE: The world is not happy with a vibrant Israeli that acts like an Israeli. The world is very supportive of Israel as a victim. The world is very supportive of the Jewish people as a victim. They rescued the Jewish people AFTER the holocaust, not during and not before. They are very supportive of Israel after what happened in Lebanon and the people who are being bombarded, but they are not very supportive of an Israel that acts like an Israel. I think they prefer an Israel to act like a Jacob. Jacob is a powerful person on his own, but he is a person that is not the Israel that he needs to be. When Israel acts like Israel and defends itself, that by the way is what any normal country would do, I mean just imagine 3000 missiles being fired into Texas from a neighboring country, and then the American Army reacts and tries to sort out where those missiles are coming from, even though they are coming from within villages, where even innocent people live, but after months of demanding or expecting the Mexican Government perhaps to eradicate these _____ from within

them, they don't, America would react with the full force of a country that is being besieged. When Israel does that, the world reacts in disproportionately, "this is the wrong thing, why should they be attacking innocent civilians," they are not attacking innocent civilians, they are doing everything possible to get only the terrorists wherever they are, but what has been happening for years now, the terrorists have been hiding within hospitals, within mosques, and in apartment houses, realizing that Israel being Israel would not attack them because they do not want to hurt innocent civilians. The game is over. So what Israel does, which I do not think any army has done ever in the world is they contact the people in those buildings by phone and with leaflets, warning them that there is going to be an attack. Unheard of anywhere else in the world and generally attack only after they have warned them, so the fact that there are demonstrations against Israel all over the world, Israel has sort of gotten used to that. They have gotten used to being replaced theologically and degraded militarily, and attacked physically. But that hasn't stopped Israel from being Israel for 3000 years and we will continue to be Israel regardless of what the world, or what parts of the world, think of it or not.

JOE: What is going to happen if this public opinion develops into a continuing public pressure for Israel to cease the fighting?

MOSHE: Because we are dealing with a government that is not the government that we need to have, that public pressure will eventually work. It will eventually bring Israel to bring about a cease fire. That is why Israel is doing as much as it can in a very careful way to deal with the Palestinian terrorist infraction as much as it can in the short period of time they may have. On the other hand, there is a growing understanding, even in the Arab world in states such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and in places such as Czechoslovakia, America, and in Canada, that this is something that has needed to be done. The fact that the Palestinians are screaming, "You hit me back first," is not necessarily a legitimate cry of anguish after being the aggressor for so long. So I think, in spite of what would have happened in other situations where the public opinion would have been almost impossible to counteract, you will notice it is taking a lot longer for it to happen this time and the nations have not really gotten together because really I do not know if all of them believe that what Israel is doing is not good as it is just everybody for their own internal reasons, like France and the president of France who was here yesterday, needs to be even-handed and even made the statement, "I am here for Israel's

security, but because Israel is strong, it should take the risk for peace." This statement is so ludicrous that it comes out of his own needs and his own Muslim population within France that Israel again should take Israel is the only one that has been taking risks and has been the one that is been the victim of this so-called peace again and again. Now that things have changed, people are concerned. That concern will increase, as you said, but it is increasing slower than ever before and as long as it doesn't lead to _____, Israel will continue to do what it needs to do.

JOE: Let me review just a couple of points that you made in our first half hour. One thing that you said is that there has been an intense amount of training for this action, that they literally built boxed cities.

MOSHE: Not only boxed cities and houses, they wanted them to know the terrain, the types of houses they would be going into, the pictures of the roads. It is almost like virtual villages that are very similar to the ones they were going to go into.

JOE: Excellent, excellent. So they are highly trained for this specific action.

MOSHE: Right.

JOE: Okay. I am going to switch gears. We have here in the United States where we are about to change our administration. Barak Obama is becoming president.

MOSHE: Uh-huh.

JOE: How do you think this might affect things?

MOSHE: You remember I am somebody that grew in the 60's and 70's and I am just as moved by the possibility of change and the possibility of reaching out and touching each other and relating to each other and looking for other modes of interchange. All that is amazing and it works probably very well in America. The problem is that when you try to transfer that to the Middle East, you are going to fail miserably. My concern is that it is that type of approach that will be attempted here in the Middle East and will fail miserably, but the people who will suffer most will be the Israeli's, but, regrettably, also the American people, because in the Middle East today, Islam and the politically correct Islam is the Islam of Jihad. Now is the time, if Islam can be very patient and submissive, because that

is what the word means, but not when the time has come for the final stages and the Shiite belief is really where it started with the conflict of the hidden messiah coming, the hidden Imam suddenly being revealed, is even overtaking the Sunnis, which make up the other gigantic segment of Islam, not so much about the hidden Imam Mahdi, but definitely that the thought that the time has come for the final conflagration and, if that is the case, any other type of discussion. In fact, that is the problem, reaching out and discussing things with them at this point for them is seen as a sign of weakness, a sign of the West falling apart, looking to discuss because they can't be victorious, and so that any of those types of things that will be attempted in the Middle East will blow up in everybody's faces and, regrettably, I think the ones that are going to be burnt first will be the ones here, so G-d in his infinite wisdom also created a situation where I believe that Barak Obama and America will be very focused on what is going there now more than what is focused on here. You have a lot to deal with in terms of the economic situation in the United States. I believe that that will preoccupy most of the time, but should he decide to use some of the approaches and techniques that he talks about and that he may have grown up with in terms of his own upbringing, here in Israel it is going to be very difficult.

JOE: In our conversation that we spoke of earlier, just yesterday, you had mentioned that there was a timing, that this commitment of dealing with Hamas was timed specifically for this holiday season and a lot of different factors. Would you elaborate on that?

MOSHE: Well, again these are suppositions. Nothing is known for a fact. No one is disclosing, but there are a lot of factors that went into the government's decision. The first factor was surprise. The Palestinians did not expect it. Second is the more personal and selfish motivations of political since the elections are five weeks away and this spells good, looks good, and sounds good to the electorate, especially by the weak politicians who put this into effect. Thirdly, the fact that the world, and it wasn't America they were concerned about or Europe. The fact that Europe was involved in the holiday season, etc., etc., was enough of a reason to say, "You know what, that will give us the opportunity to begin the process." The world is really too busy with vacationing and everything else to really put too much effort and thought into what is going on and it will allow us to do what needs to be done and get the process started. Once the process is started, then you have to deal with the case itself. Should Israel be in there, what are they doing,

and everything else. In fact, that was part of the thinking behind the planning.

JOE: Using the timing of all these things going on, it seems somewhat designed to gain time for the army to do its job.

MOSHE: That's what I feel.

JOE: Okay. Let's talk about Hezbollah, danger in the north. Do you think they are going to become involved?

MOSHE: They might be and they, in fact, would like to be, and they may have to actually just because of Iran, but there is a problem, and the problem is that the Lebanese elections are coming up soon. Hezbollah wants to do well in those elections and they do not want to be the reason that Israel has to react against a Hezbollah attack and cause great damage to Lebanon again, and so I think that is the reason we haven't seen a reaction until now, a lot of talk, but no action, and even today, even though the army is mobilizing, as of this morning they made a point of describing the mobilization is that they are concerned that Israel will attack first, which obviously it will not, so I am not sure. It fits their thinking that they would do something, but there are a lot of reasons to assume that they would be a little more careful at this time.

JOE: What about Judea-Samaria? Most of the Arab communities there are under Fatah leadership.

MOSHE: They are, but let me say something. Even though Fatah and Hamas are engaged in their own bitter struggle, it does not look good in Islamic eyes to be working in conjunction with the infidels, so they may allow certain things to _____. I know the army has taken that into consideration and part of the deployment of the reserves that have been called up is really to deal with that possibility. The regular army is dealing with the south and is in preparation in the north. The reserves pretty much are being called in to take up positions in Judea-Samaria, although Fatah would very much like to keep any fire on low flame. They may want to allow some steam off in order to show that they are supportive of their brethren in Gaza, but on the other hand they do not want it to go out of control because it is in their interest that Hamas gets destroyed.

JOE: What exactly is going on between these two terrorist organizations?

MOSHE: Fatah and Hamas. Fatah would be on the same side of the fence right now in this battle except that it sees a political opportunity. Both Fatah and Hamas believe that Israel should not exist. Both Fatah and Hamas believe the only way for peace to reign here is a one-state solution, and that one-state being an Arab state. The difference in Hamas and Fatah is personal and religious. Fatah are secular, although it is hard to define an Arab in this region as being secular. Every Arab is a religious Muslim in certain respects, but Hamas is more directed by Iran and Fatah more by Saudi Arabia and other groups, although they have been getting funding from Iran as well at times. So it is hard to distinguish between them, even ideologically. Both believe. Their differences seem to be tactile more than ideological or political.

JOE: Okay. The people of Israel, are they of one voice in support of everything that is happening, the invasion?

MOSHE: As it stands today, Israel seems to be standing with one voice. There are very few people that are standing against the war, very few to the point of almost being insignificant. There were almost 100 people at a demonstration in Tel Aviv and another 200-300 in Haifa and yet didn't make much of a stir and did not really move anybody. It didn't even, in fact, motivate anybody to be angry about these type of demonstrations going on during a war. Generally, the feeling is extremely supportive of the young men and women that are involved and that has not changed. The press is actually very supportive as well, and so, in general, the feeling in this country is of great unity and greater determination. How long will that be? Tough to say, people are people, and if you start hearing the stories of those who lost their children is difficult and lowers your ability to stand with resolve, but at this point we are talking about a people that are much more united than they have been for a very long time, much more resolved to see it through, and are not concerned whether it is Barak's war for political gains or whether it is Olmert's war or whether it is a just war. They all believe that what is being done, regardless of its motivation, is the right thing, and that has pulled pretty much most of the people together and, interestingly enough, and not surprisingly, they have moved more into positions of faith as well. The Israelis that maybe ostensibly seem more secular are being drawn into a much more faithful position and looking for strength in faith and there are the reports on speaking with the families of the soldiers that are in the hospital, a lot of them are religious young boys and listening to the families speaking

with great faith and determination has only increased that measure of faith in the people.

JOE: That's good. That is good. Is there fear of rockets hitting, say, Tel Aviv?

MOSHE: Yeah, there is. I mean we're not talking Tel Aviv. I think they're worried about Rehovot and the area that has already been hit by one rocket this morning. Everything is possible, but I am sitting here now in the old city, I am looking out onto the square in the old city, and people are sitting having coffee, relaxing. There is a group of soldiers here who are touring the old city. They are walking around with a guide. There are a whole bunch of children playing. Today is a fast day, the 10th of Tevet, so many of them were sent out from school early, so they are sitting here and playing, so there is a sense of people living their lives and the sun is shining, the sky is blue, and people are showing concern and there is sort of a heaviness, but on the other hand, I can't explain it, it is almost like a peaceful awareness that we are doing the right thing.

JOE: You had mentioned to me yesterday about a kindergarten that had been hit. . . .

MOSHE: Actually, there have been three. Since I spoke to you, another one was hit, and at all times the kindergartens were empty, in Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Beersheva, at all times they were empty, and no children were hurt except for people in the neighboring areas that went into panic. Other than that, nobody was physically hurt.

JOE: You said there have been lots of miracles that have happened.

MOSHE: We are watching miracles almost every day. People who normally stay in their house and do not go to the bomb shelters decide one day to go to the bomb shelter, and their house gets hit. A woman who was praying in the corner of her apartment. She was saying Psalms, and then all of a sudden a grad rocket hit and went through the house. Everything was destroyed except for the corner where she was and she went to the hospital for panic and everything, but she is 100% fine. A little baby was hurt from shrapnel and she is fine, miraculously, because everywhere around here were these little pieces of metal that blew apart from the missile. So, we're watching miracle after miracle. The key is to keep your eyes open and see it and not sort of nothing

in this world is random and nothing in Israel is ever random and, not only that, it is obviously not random. You have to just open your eyes and see one thing after another falling into place.

JOE: Okay, let me kind of switch here again. I am going to ask about some of the surrounding nations, whether or not they might get involved or how involved, and then war in the long term aspect. Syria, Egypt.

MOSHE: Egypt is frightened of Hamas, as anybody should be, because of their own Hamas within their country. Egypt's regime is holding on very strongly to the reigns of their country because they are concerned because Hamas represents complete turmoil and the opposite of everything that they believe in, which is sort of a secular Muslim state, so Egypt is concerned. Turkey is concerned. Saudi Arabia is concerned, though it is not a secular country by any means, but there is a real struggle going on between the powers, first of all Shiites and Sunnis, but also more fundamentalists as opposed to those that are less fundamentalist. So Jordan is concerned, Egypt is concerned. They are allowing things to happen here, but they also want it to be limited because they can only hold on to standing on this side of the fence for so long. None of them, though, show any signs, including Syria, of getting involved in the conflict. That may change dramatically unexpectedly from the side of Syria and Lebanon, but I do not really expect that, but none of them are showing any signs of getting involved because after everything is said and done, and I am hearing more and more since we last spoke about the demonstrations going on in the world, after all is said and done, there is a real sort of beginning of an understanding in the world that this isn't a battle that I want to lay my stake on, meaning this definitely was a battle between a terrorist thug nation who kept throwing missiles again and again and then suddenly when they get responded to are crying "wolf." It just does not read well, and so if they were going to get involved, they would want something a little more pure. This is not pure. And in the eyes of any of these neighboring nations, they see Hamas and the Gaza as just a thug terrorist state, but I do not have many concerns. Anything can happen in this part of the world, but I do not have many concerns, at least for now.

JOE: My next question is a really big one that we are asked all the time. What about Israel and Iran?

MOSHE: I don't know, but I will tell you one thing. Our sages tell us that in the end of days, all the enemies of Israel that have come up through the ages will reappear. The spirit of Nebuchadnezzar, Rome, etc., etc. It is interesting that Saddam Hussein believe himself to be the reincarnation of Nebuchadnezzar, and just like Nebuchadnezzar ended up groveling on the ground like an animal with long hair and long nails, it is interesting that is exactly how Saddam Hussein ended up. If you look to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad coming from Persia, the land of Haman, and see him as a reincarnation of Haman. Haman ended up killed, or executed, by exactly the same method he had created for Mordechai, so just like he who was hung on the tree that he built for Mordechai, I would say it would interesting to see if, in fact, the exact weapon that he is creating to come against Israel may end up being his own demise. I don't what that means. The sense I am getting from what I have been seeing until now leaves me to think that we may see unusual things happening in Iran. Beyond that, I do not know.

JOE: How about Russia?

MOSHE: That is a touch one because as much as Russia is becoming aligned in a new cold war stance, they have actually become very connected to their own small communities. They are concerned about losing control in their own communities. Russia is going to play the limit to the end, but just until the end and I do not think they want to cross the line. There isn't the same passion that existed in the Soviet Union in terms of the rightness of the cause and there is no dream of world wide communism. What there is now is selfish self interest and nationalism, but that won't take the people far enough along to cross the line as the Soviet Union was able, and maybe even willing to do, so I think they will stretch the envelope as much as they can, but they won't go beyond that.

JOE: Okay. Let's talk about the United States. What if the US were to pull out of Iraq, say within eight or nine months?

MOSHE: It will become bedlam.

JOE: And what would happen?

MOSHE: Remember that we are dealing with an Islam that believes they are winning the war and because they are winning the war, they are winning it because they are being patient, they are allowing for their own people to die and be killed in explosions, etc., etc. Why? Because that is part of the final

ingredients of the final situation. If they succeed because of that, because of their own people dying, if they succeed that the great nation of America retreats, as Israel did, by the way, from Lebanon, they will create their own Hezbollah in Iraq and that will be a threat to the whole world actually, not just to Israel and not just to the Middle East. I think an escape from Iraq would bring about great danger to the Middle East for sure, but I believe Europe and America as well, because it will be another indication that the final days have arrived. Iran would be very quick to gain control over the rest of Iraq, and then you will see the unification of Iran and Iraq, which is what they have been aiming for for a very long time and with that unification everything can happen.

JOE: Part of the ancient pattern.

MOSHE: Very ancient pattern.

JOE: Moshe, we have talked about a lot of things. Are there areas that we haven't talked about that really need to be addressed?

MOSHE: I think the main feature that everybody who loves Israel or has a passion for Israel, passion for G-d, passion for G-d's plan, is to know that the opportunity at this point is for every single person to be involved, meaning whatever little information you have, that is much more information than your neighbor, and that information and that standing for what is going on here, is standing for truth really, needs to be done, but it needs to be done gently, needs to be done without rancor, without anger. Anything with passion has to be done in a way that doesn't make your listener feel that he is worthless and ignorant and you are going to open up his eyes, but that most of your listeners have deep information and very insightful information into what is going on here that their neighbors do not have. It is important for them to share it. Destiny is being played out right before our eyes and each one of us has the opportunity to be a piece of the puzzle that puts all of it together, and so you can also ignore it and wait for it all to happen, but I think the way people face work, and G-d gives you an opportunity to be part of His language, to be the language of G-d to do the things that need to be done and to say the things that need to be said. I do not know if we have an opportunity to ignore it, so whatever has to be done has to be done with gentleness, with humility, but no one can sit back and not do anything at all.

JOE: One of the things is to have our eyes open as to what is happening, have our ears open to what is going on.

MOSHE: And to understand that the little picture is the big picture, not to try to change the world, but speak to your neighbors, your friends, and eventually if enough neighbors and friends are spoken to, then you can speak to your congressman. A lot of us can make a change in this world. The world is under a pall of great darkness and ignorance, and it is important to know that. You are not going to be used if you start telling everybody else that they are ignorant, but be aware that they are ignorant because they only know what they have been taught, and if you take the opportunity to share a little bit, "You know, I have just listened to this report, I found it fascinating," don't tell them what to think about the report, just tell them to listen to ideas. You may find that that will have a great impact on people because people really want to know the truth, they know that every story has two sides, and right now in the media they are only getting one side. And the rest we can leave to a Greater Director than all of us, and as long as people's minds suddenly open up a little bit, truth has a way of seeping in.

JOE: One of the things that I think that people can do is, in addition to letting their neighbors know, I think it would be good if people would directly respond to you or respond to Israel and say, "Hey! We stand with you!"

MOSHE: That would be great!

JOE: Again, Moshe's e-mail address is Shorashimshop@yahoo.com. You have Jerusalem Insights, as well as daily update on the events.

MOSHE: A daily update on the war, we have a newsletter that comes out by e-mail called Jerusalem Insights, and we have a web site that actually has the articles from time to time on what is going on here, <http://www.jerusaleminsights.com>

JOE: I think that the comments that you have made, the questions that you have answered have addressed any of the questions that the people have. I want to thank you.

MOSHE: It was a great pleasure speaking to you as well. I look forward to seeing you and anybody else in your listening audience here in Israel. The country would be blessed with your

arrival, but you would be doubly blessed, as you know, Joe, by being here.

JOE: Any of you that are going to Israel in the next month, next year, whenever, be sure to go by Shorashim in the old city. It is an easy place to find. Plan on spending some time there because everybody does. Everybody comes into the store and we talk.

MOSHE: Right. Thank you very much for letting me have the opportunity as well.

JOE: Tell your brother, Dov, that we all said "hi" and we are praying for you and I am hoping that people will take this interview and send it to their friends and just pass it around.

MOSHE: That would be great, and to all of our friends, those that have been here and those that we have been speaking to by e-mail, please send them our very best. Thank you very much. Shalom.

JOE: Shalom, shalom.

Footnote:

Islamic Organizations dedicated to destruction of Israel:

Hamas (Sunni) - an Army in Gaza. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas>

Islamic Jihad (Sunni)- Gaza

Hezbollah (sponsored by Iran) (Shiites)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hezbollah>

Samaria: Fatah (Sunni) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni>