

As we slog through the presidential primaries and rhetoric from both sides, most people focus on the economy, health care, and the war in Iraq.

But they are not the issues foremost in God's eyes.

Now wait, I'm not speaking about politics, though this has become a political issue. I'm speaking about God's plan through the sweep of thousands of years of history and page after page of the Bible.

Isaiah 62 contains a famous passage quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:18 where He announces a time of preaching the gospel, healing, deliverance, and liberty. Those promises were ultimately for all people.

But the original focus, seen by reading all of Isaiah 62, was not the whole world. Verse 12 reads, "And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken."

Which city? The city of Jerusalem. Why is there such conflict over Jerusalem and the tiny nation of Israel? What is the fundamental problem? While the common people on both sides want peace, we should have learned the lesson from World War II that appeasement with terrorists does not work.

These terrorists will only be satisfied when Israel no longer exists.

Israel's re-emergence in modern times as a national entity is not just a curious quirk of history. The prophet Jeremiah prophesied that there would be a massive *aliyah*, or return of Jews to the land, eclipsing the Exodus. Jer. 23:7-8 says that the deliverance of Israel from Egypt will pale in significance to the deliverance of the Jews from the "north country."

Currently, the population of Israel is about 7 million. Almost 1 million of those Jews and non-Arabs not born there are from the former Soviet Union. What would we do if fully one-seventh of our population came with foreign customs, inadequate training and limited communication skills? Yet Israel accepts all of them with Jewish heritage, from anywhere, so that they may have one safe place to live.

But it's not so safe right now.

While the Holocaust is in living memory, how can we deny them a homeland? The existence of the state of Israel and the survival of the Jews are pivotal to upcoming world events. Yet from the Garden of Eden, Satan has fought to

destroy God's plans to bless the world through His chosen people.

Now is the time to support the people of Israel as never before. At stake is our own future. Psalms 122:7 says "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." Believe in the miracle. Pray for peace.