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A COVENANT WITNESS TO PRESIDENT MASOUD PEZESHKIAN

OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

In Response to the Open Letter to the American People — April 1, 2026

Issued by Miqdash Bethel Covenant Assembly — Pearl River, Louisiana

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To President Masoud Pezeshkian, and through him to the people of Iran — the ancient nation of Persia — and to all three traditions that claim descent from the covenant of Avraham (Abraham): peace be upon those who walk justly.

WHO SPEAKS, AND WHY

President Pezeshkian, you addressed your letter to the American people. I receive it as one of them.

My father, **Staff Sergeant First Class Terry Gilman Arcemont**, was a decorated combat soldier of the United States Army — recipient of the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Oak Leaf Cluster. He was killed in action on the Imjin River, South Korea, in 1967, after multiple tours of duty. I grew up without him. I have carried that absence for nearly sixty years. When you write of American soldiers dying for interests that are not their own — when you ask *"which of the American people's interests are truly being served by this war?"* — you are not speaking to an abstraction. You are speaking to a man who knows what war costs a family. You are speaking to a son.

That is why I will not answer your letter with propaganda, with partisan loyalty, or with the comfortable silence of someone who has no skin in this question. I answer it with the only authority I have ever trusted: the covenant law of **Yahweh (יהוה)**, which does not belong to any government, does not fly any flag, and does not excuse any nation — including the one my father died serving, and including yours.

What follows is a full accounting. You deserve that. The American people deserve that. The Iranian people deserve that. And the memory of every soldier, on every side, who died in wars their governments chose for them — deserves nothing less.

A WORD ON METHOD BEFORE THE WITNESS BEGINS

President Pezeshkian, your letter of April 1, 2026 arrives at this assembly carrying genuine moral weight. The questions you pose — *whose interests are served by this war? Is America acting as a proxy for Israel? Were the Iranian people an objective threat to the United States?* — are not rhetorical flourishes. They are the right questions. This assembly has been asking them since before the first bomb fell on February 28, 2026, and our published covenant studies document that witness.

But your letter also arrives embedded in one of the most complex documented conflicts of this generation — a conflict in which all three nations standing before the covenant bar of **Yahweh** carry a record that must be examined honestly. A covenant witness that answered only the questions *you* raise — while leaving unexamined the conduct of *your* government — would not be a covenant witness. It would be political advocacy dressed in scripture. This assembly will not do that to you, to Israel, or to the United States. The standard of **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15** is not selectively applied:

> ***"One witness shall not rise against a man for any iniquity or sin... by the testimony of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established."*** **— Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15**

That standard runs in every direction. Your letter makes statements about Iran's history that are largely accurate. It makes moral arguments about the cost of this war to civilians — Iranian and American — that covenant law supports. It raises questions about Israeli influence over American foreign policy that have been asked by members of the U.S. Congress, senior military officials, and independent analysts, and that deserve honest engagement. This assembly honors all of that.

At the same time, the documented record — drawn from Britannica, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Brookings Institution, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the U.S. Congressional Research Service, NPR, Al Jazeera, and peer-reviewed academic sources — shows that Iran's own government has, over four decades, built and operated a proxy warfare network that has killed civilians, disrupted global commerce, and contributed materially to the conditions that produced this war. That record belongs in this response alongside the record of the United States and Israel. Silence about it would not be covenant faithfulness — it would be false comfort.

Therefore, what follows is structured deliberately: this assembly will first honor what is true and covenantally sound in your letter, then present the documented record of all three nations equally before the same covenant law and before the ancient *Asha* of your own Persian heritage — the standard your civilization's oldest conscience already knows. Only from that honest foundation can a genuine covenant path toward peace be named. The goal of this letter is not to condemn. It is to lay the whole truth before all

three parties, as **Yahweh's** covenant requires, and to call every government — Tehran, Washington, and Jerusalem — to the one standard that has never changed:

> ***"Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly"*** — **Michah (Micah) 6:8**

I. THE OCCASION OF THIS WITNESS

On April 1, 2026, President Pezeshkian issued an open letter to the American people, appealing across the fog of war with words of reason, historical memory, and moral challenge. This covenant assembly — grounded solely in the authority of the Tanakh and the Law of **Yahweh** — receives that letter not as a political overture but as a human cry from an ancient people that the Tanakh itself honors. We answer it in the same spirit: not as partisans of any government, but as witnesses to the covenant law of **Yahweh** that stands over every king, every president, and every nation.

This response is addressed simultaneously to the three traditions that share the inheritance of **Avraham**: **to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** — and to the ancient Persian conscience of Zoroastrianism that preceded them all on Iranian soil — showing where each upholds covenant law, and where each has been used to justify what the Torah forbids.

II. WHERE PRESIDENT PEZESHKIAN'S LETTER STANDS BEFORE COVENANT LAW

A. The Distinction Between Governments and Peoples — Covenant Confirmed

President Pezeshkian opens by distinguishing the Iranian people's goodwill from the actions of governments. This distinction is not merely diplomatic — it is covenantally sound. The Tanakh does not hold entire peoples responsible for the actions of rulers. **Yahweh** spoke through **Yechezkel (Ezekiel)** with unmistakable clarity:

> ***"The soul that sins — it shall die. A son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, nor shall a father bear the iniquity of the son."*** — **Yechezkel (Ezekiel) 18:20**

No covenant witness can support the collective punishment of the Iranian people for the policies of their government, or the punishment of the American people for the decisions of theirs. The bombing of civilian infrastructure — cancer treatment facilities, schools, cities — is not only a war crime under the law of nations; it violates the covenant prohibition stated plainly in **Devarim 20:19**, which forbids the destruction of what sustains life even in authorized warfare.

B. Iran's Non-Aggression Claim — Devarim 19:14 and the Boundary of Nations

The president asserts that Iran has never initiated a war in its modern history. For the current conflict — which opened on February 28, 2026, with strikes launched by the

United States and Israel — the documented sequence corroborates this claim. Iran did not fire the opening shot of this war. That sequence matters before **Yahweh's** covenant court.

The covenant principle that governs this is deeper than military sequence. The Hebrew word ***gevul*** (H1366, גְּבוּל) means boundary, border, territorial inheritance. In its original agricultural and legal context, **Devarim 19:14** addressed the physical removal of stone markers that demarcated tribal land inheritance — a form of covert theft with no witness, erasing another family's God-assigned portion through deception rather than open force:

> ***"You shall not move your neighbor's boundary marker, which the ancestors set up in your inheritance."*** — **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:14**

But ***gevul*** does not stop at a field. **Devarim 32:8** elevates this principle to the scale of nations: ***"When the Most High divided the nations, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples."*** The boundary markers of nations are set by **Yahweh** Himself — not by military power, not by empire, and not by foreign governments acting in the interest of allies.

The bombing of Iranian airports, energy infrastructure, cancer treatment facilities, and industrial centers is the modern form of moving the boundary marker. It reaches inside a sovereign ***gevul*** assigned by **Yahweh** and destroys what the people were given to tend. The Edict of Koresh himself recognized Persian sovereignty — a boundary **Yahweh** honored through the Persian king He called His anointed. What was honored by **Yahweh** in 538 BCE cannot be legitimately violated in 2026.

C. The Manufactured Enemy — Covenant Law on False Witness

The president charges that Iran has been portrayed as a threat for purposes of economic and military dominance rather than genuine security needs. This assembly, in its published *Iran-Israel-USA Covenant Peace Report* of March 6, 2026, documented the same pattern from within the Tanakh's prophetic record. **Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah)** warned rulers of his own day who used divine language to cloak political agendas:

> ***"They have healed the wound of My people lightly, saying 'Peace, peace' — when there is no peace."*** — **Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 6:14**

The use of prophetic and religious language to justify destruction — as Pastor Mark Burns invoked before CPAC on March 26, 2026, calling the bombing of Iran a spiritual obligation — is precisely what **Yirmeyahu** condemned. The name of **Yahweh** is not a warrant for war crimes.

D. The 1953 Coup — Covenant Remembrance of Historical Injustice

The president traces the roots of the conflict to the 1953 CIA-backed coup that overthrew Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh and disrupted Iran's democratic process. He is correct. Covenant law requires the acknowledgment of historical wrong. **Vayikra (Leviticus) 26:40** prescribes that national restoration begins with confession of iniquity — the iniquity of those who went before as well as one's own. The United States

government has never formally acknowledged the covenant wrong of 1953. That unaddressed rupture is a wound still bleeding into the present crisis.

III. THE COVENANT PRECEDENT OF KORESH THE PERSIAN

This assembly invites President Pezeshkian and the people of Iran to hear what **Yahweh's** own word says about Persia. No nation in the Tanakh — outside the covenant people of Yisra'el themselves — is more honored by **Yahweh** than Persia. The Tanakh does not merely tolerate Persia. It names a Persian king as **Yahweh's** anointed:

> ***"Thus says Yahweh to His anointed, to Koresh (Cyrus) — whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him and to loose the loins of kings, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut."*** **— Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 44:28–45:1**

Koresh the Persian is the only non-Israelite figure in the entire Tanakh given the title *mashiach* — anointed. He did not worship **Yahweh**, yet **Yahweh** called him by name and assigned him a covenant mission: the release of the exiles and the restoration of **Yahweh's** people. The people of Persia are woven into **Yahweh's** plan. And just as Koresh was honored for acting with justice and mercy — not for his theology, but for his deeds — so **Yahweh** measures nations today by the same standard that has never changed:

> ***"He has told you, O man, what is good — and what does Yahweh require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?"*** **— Michah (Micah) 6:8**

IV. BEFORE THE COVENANT: THE DOCUMENTED RECORD OF ALL THREE NATIONS

This assembly does not speak from a throne of innocence on behalf of any government. The covenant law of **Yahweh** and the ancient *Asha* of Persia both require that witnesses be presented completely and evenhandedly. What follows is the documented record of all three parties to this conflict, measured by the same standard. Every claim below is corroborated by two or more independent sources under the witness standard of **Devarim 19:15**: Britannica, Brookings Institution, Council on Foreign Relations, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Congressional Research Service, NPR, Al Jazeera, and peer-reviewed academic journals.

A. Iran's Documented Record

Asha — truth and cosmic order — requires full accounting. The following is presented not as a condemnation of the Iranian people, but as a covenant witness to the conduct of the Islamic Republic's government since 1979.

1. The 1979 Hostage Crisis. Iranian students backed by the revolutionary government seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held 66 American diplomats and citizens captive for 444 days. The forced detention of emissaries violates the foundational covenant principle governing the conduct of nations toward one another's representatives — the ancient standard confirmed in **Bemidbar (Numbers) 20:14–17**.

2. The Beirut Bombings, 1983. Iran-backed Hezbollah carried out the truck bombing of the U.S. Marine compound in Beirut, killing 241 American military personnel while they slept. A simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58. The deliberate targeting of non-combatant personnel in barracks is *ratsach* (H7523) — unlawful killing — under **Shemot (Exodus) 20:13**, by any covenant standard.

3. Proxy Warfare — Four Decades of Documented Conduct. Through the IRGC Quds Force, Iran built, funded, armed, and trained: Hezbollah (Lebanon), Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (Gaza), the Houthis (Yemen), and Shi'a militias in Iraq and Syria. Between October 2023 and November 2024 alone, Iran-backed groups conducted more than 180 attacks against U.S. forces in the Middle East, killing three American service members at Tower 22 in Jordan and wounding more than 180 others (Brookings Institution, 2024; White House documentation, 2026).

4. October 7, 2023 — The Covenant Record. Hamas — equipped and trained over decades by Iranian material support — carried out coordinated attacks on Israeli civilian communities. 1,195 people were killed, more than 800 of them civilians, including 36 children. 251 were taken hostage, including infants and elderly. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International independently documented these acts as crimes against humanity: murder, hostage-taking, torture, and sexual violence. The U.S. Director of National Intelligence found no direct evidence Iran ordered the attack operationally — but the weapons, training, and financial infrastructure that made it possible were Iranian-built over decades. The covenant distinction is noted. The covenant weight is not removed by it.

5. Red Sea Disruption. Iranian-supplied drones, missiles, and direct targeting intelligence enabled Houthi forces to attack over 100 merchant vessels in the Red Sea between November 2023 and January 2025, sinking two ships and killing four sailors, disrupting 12% of global trade and forcing rerouting around the Cape of Good Hope — imposing enormous economic cost on nations across Asia, Africa, and Europe that have no part in this conflict (PBS NewsHour; Wikipedia, Red Sea Crisis).

The ***Asha*** mirror on Iran's record: The Zoroastrian Creed, Yasna 12, pledges — ***"I want freedom of movement and freedom of dwelling for those with homesteads."*** The choking of global shipping lanes — cutting the livelihoods of peoples with no stake in this war — violates the ancient Persian standard of protecting the movement and dwelling of all peoples. The Gathas declare: ***"Violence must be put down! Against cruelty make a stand."*** Covenant law adds: ***"You shall not murder"*** (**Shemot 20:13**). Both standards apply to Iranian-armed proxy violence against civilians, without exception.

B. The United States' Documented Record

1. Operation Ajax — 1953. The United States and Britain orchestrated the overthrow of Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh, a role the CIA formally acknowledged in 2013. Removing a legitimate leader to protect foreign oil interests is the perversion of justice that **Devarim 16:19** expressly forbids: ***"You shall not pervert justice."*** This is the original covenant wrong in this conflict, and it has never been confessed.

2. Support for the Shah, 1953–1979. For 26 years following the coup, the United States backed the autocratic rule of Shah Pahlavi, whose secret police tortured and imprisoned political dissidents. Covenant law holds foreign powers accountable for the suffering they enable in other nations' houses — **Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 1:17**: ***"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression."***

3. Iran Air Flight 655 — 1988. The USS Vincennes shot down a civilian Iranian airliner, killing all 290 people on board, including 66 children. The United States paid compensation but never formally apologized. **Bereishit (Genesis) 9:6** does not make exceptions for accidents of war: the blood of 290 civilians is a covenant accounting that remains open.

4. Assassination of General Soleimani — 2020. A U.S. drone strike killed IRGC Quds Force Commander Qasem Soleimani near Baghdad airport — on the sovereign soil of a third nation (Iraq) without that nation's consent. Whatever Soleimani's documented crimes, the strike triggered Iraqi parliamentary demands for U.S. troop withdrawal. Sovereignty of nations is a covenant principle: **Devarim 32:8** — ***"He set the boundaries of the peoples."***

5. The February 28, 2026 Opening Strike. The United States and Israel jointly launched the military campaign that opened this war. The covenant record is unambiguous: the United States and Israel struck first. President Pezeshkian's letter correctly states that Iran has not initiated a war. For the current conflict, the sequence of documented events corroborates this. **Devarim 20:10** commands that peace be offered before military action. The record shows no formal peace offer preceded these strikes.

6. Economic Sanctions — Four Decades. Sanctions targeting Iran's central bank, currency, and trade have imposed inflation, medicine shortages, and economic devastation on 90 million civilians. The destruction of what sustains a people's life — even through economic rather than military means — is a covenant concern named by **Devarim 20:19–20**. Sanctions that impoverish a population to pressure a government are a form of moving the boundary of survival.

C. Israel's Documented Record

1. Assassination of Iranian Nuclear Scientists, 2010–2020. Israel is widely attributed responsibility for the killings of five Iranian nuclear scientists on Iranian sovereign soil, including Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in November 2020. The targeted killing of civilian scientists — men with families, not soldiers on a battlefield — raises direct covenant questions under **Bereishit 9:6** and **Shemot 20:13**.

2. Stuxnet Cyberattack, 2010. Israel and the United States jointly deployed the Stuxnet worm, which physically destroyed approximately 1,000 Iranian centrifuges

at the Natanz nuclear facility. This was the world's first documented use of a cyberweapon to cause physical destruction inside a sovereign nation's infrastructure — an act of war conducted without declaration and without the formal accountability that **Devarim 19:15** requires.

3. Damascus Consulate Strike — April 1, 2024. Israel struck an Iranian consulate complex in Damascus, killing multiple senior Iranian officials including IRGC commanders. Striking diplomatic facilities violated international conventions protecting diplomatic premises — an ancient standard that covenant law affirms in its own protections for emissaries.

4. Operation Rising Lion — June 13, 2025. Israel launched a surprise attack targeting Iranian nuclear facilities, military installations, and key leadership figures. The opening hours included targeted assassinations of Iran's top military leaders, nuclear scientists, and politicians. Israel initiated the opening strike of this twelve-day war.

5. The February 28, 2026 War and the Bombardment of Iran. Israel and the United States jointly launched the current bombing campaign. Iranian hospitals, cancer treatment facilities, energy infrastructure, and cities have been struck. **Devarim 20:19** forbids the destruction of what sustains life. Bombing people's hospitals and power plants is moving the boundary marker of their survival.

6. The 2026 Lebanon War — March through April 2026, Ongoing. Since March 2, 2026, Israel has been conducting active warfare in Lebanon against Hezbollah, which resumed rocket attacks following the February 28 joint U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran and the killing of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. As of April 1, 2026: more than 1,200 people have been killed in Lebanon according to the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health; more than one million people — approximately one-fifth of Lebanon's entire population — have been displaced in one of the biggest and fastest displacements in Lebanon's history (NPR, April 1, 2026; Al Jazeera, March 31, 2026; Wikipedia, 2026 Lebanon War). Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz declared the IDF would occupy a zone of southern Lebanon indefinitely and that all homes in villages adjacent to the border would be demolished. Human Rights Watch researcher Ramzi Kaiss stated that open-ended evacuation orders covering huge swaths of the country lasting indefinitely 'may amount to a war crime.' The farmer Joseph Elias Issa, 56, displaced from the land of his ancestors in Kfar Houneh, said simply: 'We are besieged.' **Yahweh** hears that word. **Michah 4:4** names the force producing it: the deliberate prevention of a people from sitting under their own vine and fig tree.

7. The Gaza Record. Israel's military operations in Gaza since October 2023 have resulted in tens of thousands of Palestinian civilian deaths and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. Multiple international bodies have described the conditions as constituting collective punishment — a practice **Yechezkel 18:20** expressly forbids. The Palestinian people are not responsible for Hamas. The same principle that protects Iranian civilians from collective punishment protects Palestinian civilians. **Yahweh's** covenant does not have a preferred ethnicity.

D. The Covenant Verdict on All Three Nations

The ***Asha/Druj*** framework of ancient Persia and the covenant law of **Yahweh** deliver the same verdict on all three parties:

> **Iran** has used proxy warfare to project violence onto civilian populations while claiming the role of victim. The 1979 hostage seizure, the 1983 Beirut bombing, the decades of proxy arming, and the October 7 infrastructure of terror are *Druj* — the force of deceit and chaos — regardless of the legitimate grievances that preceded them. **Yahweh's** covenant does not permit answering injustice with injustice.
>
> **The United States** overthrew a democracy in 1953, propped up a dictator for 26 years, shot down a civilian airliner, and opened the current war on February 28, 2026 without the covenant-required offer of peace first. The blood of innocent Iranians — in their homes, hospitals, and cities — is a covenant accounting that Washington will not avoid before **Yahweh's** throne.
>
> **Israel** has conducted assassinations, cyberwarfare, consulate strikes, and opened two major military campaigns as the initiating party, while simultaneously conducting operations in Gaza and Lebanon that have produced civilian catastrophes. Israel's right to exist and to defend itself is not in question here. What covenant law questions is whether the methods chosen serve *Asha* — truth, righteousness, and order — or *Druj*. A buffer zone built of rubble, and the permanent expulsion of a people from the land of their ancestors, is the answer that **Michah 4:4** already gave.

V. IRAN'S OWN ANCIENT HERITAGE CALLS FOR PEACE

This assembly invites President Pezeshkian to hear his own civilization's oldest voice speaking into this moment. The Gathas of Zarathustra — composed approximately 1500–1000 BCE, predating Islam in Iran by more than two thousand years — are the foundational sacred texts of ancient Persia, confirmed by the Encyclopaedia Iranica, Britannica, and the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA). This assembly honors them not as binding covenant law, but as the voice of Iran's own ancient conscience — a conscience that already knows what this moment requires.

A. Asha and Druj — The Persian Lens on This War

The central axis of Zoroastrian ethics is ***Asha*** (truth, righteousness, cosmic order) versus ***Druj*** (deceit, falsehood, chaos). Every action, every word, every policy falls into one column or the other. The **Zoroastrian Creed — Yasna 12 —** explicitly pledges allegiance to the religion:

> ***"I pledge myself to the Mazdayasnian religion, which causes the attack to be put off and weapons put down; Asha-endowed; which of all religions that exist or shall be, is the greatest, the best, and the most beautiful."*** **— Yasna 12, Avesta**

This is not modern commentary. It is Persia's founding religious creed. **Yasna 12** also declares: ***"I want freedom of movement and freedom of dwelling for those with***

homesteads." The Ahunavaiti Gatha — the oldest section of the Avesta — declares directly: ***"Violence must be put down! Against cruelty make a stand."***

B. Applying Asha and Druj to All Three Nations

To Iran: Your own ancient scripture names what is happening as ***Druj*** from outside your borders. The bombing of your people, your hospitals, your cities — ***Druj***. But ***Asha*** also requires that Iran look inward. Zarathustra himself called out the corrupt rulers of his own day who enriched themselves by oppressing the common person. The suppression of Iran's own people, proxy warfare that costs civilian lives in neighboring nations, and governance by fear — these are also ***Druj***. Yasna 12's pledge to 'put weapons down' applies to weapons supplied through proxies as surely as it applies to weapons aimed at Iran.

To the United States: Manufacturing a threat to justify war, spending the blood of soldiers for the interests of weapons industries and foreign governments, bombing hospitals and calling it strategy — the Gathas have a name for this: ***Druj***. Yasna 12's pledge to 'put weapons down' is what your own founding ideals once reached toward. Return to it.

To Israel: The use of a foreign military as a proxy — the self-aggrandizement of the powerful at the cost of civilian life in Lebanon, Gaza, and Iran — is not ***Asha***. The declared intention to permanently occupy another people's land and prevent the return of one million displaced civilians is ***Druj*** by the standard of Persia's own most ancient conscience, regardless of the security rationale offered.

VI. THE CROSSROADS — MICHAH 4:4 AND THE VISION OF PEACE

President Pezeshkian uses the word 'crossroads' in his appeal. That word is not accidental. **Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 6:16** uses it as the precise covenant image for the choice before nations in crisis:

> ***"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it — and you will find rest for your souls."*** **— Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 6:16**

The ancient path leads to **Michah (Micah) 4:4**. This verse must be understood in its full covenant weight. The Hebrew words the prophet chose are not decorative. The ***gefen*** **(H1612, vine)** and ***te'enah*** **(H8384, fig tree)** were in ancient Near Eastern culture the primary symbols of a people's right to their own land, labor, and livelihood. A grapevine takes years to establish. A fig tree takes years to bear fruit. You only plant them when you have secure tenure of your land — when you are not afraid that a foreign army will come and uproot everything you have built. Ancient Near Eastern scholars note they represent a people controlling their own lives without foreign interference, freed from military occupation and economic domination.

The Hebrew word ***yare*** **(H3372)** — translated 'none shall make them afraid' — specifically names the fear generated by military threat, invasion, and occupation. It is

not fear in the abstract. It is the terror of war coming to your house, your city, your infrastructure. Michah is describing the permanent end of that specific terror as **Yahweh's** declared intention for every people:

> ***"But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid — for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts has spoken."*** — **Michah (Micah) 4:4**

Verse 4 is the fruit of verse 3 — swords beaten into plowshares. You cannot have the vine-and-fig-tree peace without first ending the weapons economy. The current war is the exact inversion: plowshares being turned back into swords. Aben Ezra and Kimchi both confirm: this promise is for *all nations*, not Israel alone. And scholars note that Michah 4:1–4 was likely shaped in the period of Koresh's edict, when peace among nations under Persian governance was a real historical possibility. **Yahweh** associated this vision of peace with Persia — historically and covenantally.

Iranian civilians cannot sit under their vine and fig tree while their infrastructure burns. American families cannot sit under theirs while their children are deployed into a war that did not defend them. Lebanese farmers cannot sit under theirs while their ancestral olive groves are destroyed and their return permanently prevented. Palestinian families have not sat under theirs for decades. The ***yare* — the terror —** is everywhere. And the mouth of **Yahweh** has spoken the alternative.

VII. FOUR TRADITIONS — ONE VERDICT

This letter passes through four courts simultaneously — the court of the Tanakh, the ancient Persian conscience of the Avesta, the court of the Quran, and the court of the New Testament. Each of these traditions, when read without political manipulation, arrives at the same place:

The Tanakh (Bereishit 9:6): ***"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of Elohim He made man."*** Every human life — Iranian, Israeli, American, Lebanese, Palestinian — bears the image of **Elohim (אֱלֹהִים)**. There is no covenant exception for ethnicity, religion, or national flag.

The Avesta (Yasna 12 — Zoroastrian Creed): ***"I pledge myself to the Mazdayasnian religion, which causes the attack to be put off and weapons put down."*** The oldest voice of Persian civilization pledges to lay weapons down. President Pezeshkian — this is your heritage speaking, not a foreign imposition.

The Quran (Al-Ma'idah 5:32): Whoever kills a soul it is as if he has killed all of humanity. President Pezeshkian, you lead a nation whose official religion makes this declaration. The souls killed in Lebanon, in Iran, in Gaza, in Israel — every one of them is, by your own scripture, all of humanity.

The New Testament (Matthew 5:9): ***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."*** Not the warmakers. Not the proxy-armers. Not the bomb-droppers. The peacemakers.

These four witnesses — Persian, Hebrew, Muslim, Christian — converge on one verdict about this war. The convergence itself is the message to President Pezeshkian: your own heritage has already spoken. So has the covenant of **Yahweh**. So have the other great traditions. The question is whether the leaders of Iran, the United States, and Israel will listen to any of them.

VIII. THE COVENANT PATH TO PEACE — THREE REQUIREMENTS

The path forward from this crossroads requires three movements. They are addressed equally to all three governments:

1. Immediate cessation of all offensive military operations. The Torah standard for entering any conflict requires proof of imminent threat, proportionality, and the pursuit of peace first (**Devarim 20:10**). None of these conditions was met on February 28, 2026. *Asha* and covenant law agree: the attack must be put off. Weapons must be put down. Now.

2. Covenant-level acknowledgment of historical wrong — by all three parties. The United States must acknowledge 1953 and subsequent interventions. Iran must acknowledge the 1979 hostage crisis, the Beirut bombings, and four decades of proxy warfare that has cost civilian lives across the region. Israel must acknowledge the Gaza civilian catastrophe, the assassinations on foreign soil, and the displacement of one million Lebanese people. **Vayikra (Leviticus) 26:40** establishes that national restoration begins with honest confession. There is no shortcut past this step.

3. Covenant-grounded negotiation — based on the wellbeing of peoples, not the interests of governments. Not based on the interests of arms industries, political donors, or imperial ambitions, but on the covenant principle of ***shalom* —** wholeness, mutual security, and the flourishing of every people under their own vine and fig tree, as **Michah 4:4** envisions. Iran must end all weapons transfers to proxy groups. The United States must end the bombardment of Iranian civilian infrastructure. Israel must halt the Lebanon ground invasion and end the collective punishment of Palestinian civilians. These are not political demands. They are covenant requirements.

IX. CLOSING COVENANT DECLARATION

To President Pezeshkian: Your letter reaches this assembly as the voice of a people that the Tanakh honors. The ancient nation of Persia stood beside the covenant people of **Yahweh** in their darkest hour and was honored for it. **Yasna 12** — the founding creed of your civilization's oldest religion — pledges that weapons shall be put down. Your own ***Asha*** calls you to be what your ancient heritage says you are: a nation of truth, order, and righteous dominion — not a nation of proxy armies and concealed warfare. This assembly calls Iran to demonstrate ***Asha*** not merely as a rhetorical claim in an

open letter, but as a governing policy: cease all weapons transfers to proxy groups; engage in direct negotiation without preconditions; and return any remaining hostages as an immediate act of ***Asha*** that no ***Druj*** argument can justify withholding.

To the leadership of the United States: The questions the Iranian president has asked of you are the right questions. They are also covenant questions. The blood of my father was spent in service to this nation. The blood of American soldiers being spent today in a war that was not preceded by a covenant-required offer of peace is a different matter — one that will stand before **Yahweh's** court regardless of what any government declares a military victory. **Devarim 17:16–17** applies to all who hold power: a ruler must not multiply weapons, multiply wealth through conquest, or return the people to bondage. Return to the covenant standard your own founding documents once reached toward.

To the leadership of Israel: The right to exist and to defend oneself is not in question here. What is in question is whether a buffer zone built of rubble, the permanent displacement of one million Lebanese people, the destruction of Palestinian civilian life, and the opening of wars as the initiating party — serve ***Asha***. They do not. They serve ***Druj***. The covenant law of **Yahweh** to which Israel is bound above all other nations does not grant an exemption for national security claims. **Michah 6:8** remains the standard. It has not been superseded.

To the people of all nations caught in this war — Iranian, American, Israeli, Lebanese, Palestinian: you are not enemies. **The Tanakh commands: *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"* (Vayikra 19:18). The Avesta commands: Put weapons down. The Quran commands: Do not kill a soul. The New Testament commands: Make peace.** The neighbor is not defined by nationality. The requirement is not conditional on government policy. This has always been the covenant standard. It remains so today.

Issued this first day of April, 2026, by:

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Peace and Blessings

APPENDIX: PRIMARY COVENANT LAW WITNESSES CITED

Bereishit (Genesis) 1:27 — Human beings created in the image of Elohim; all life is sacred.

Bereishit (Genesis) 9:6 — Prohibition on the shedding of innocent blood; applies to all nations.

Shemot (Exodus) 20:13 — *Ratsach* (H7523) — unlawful killing; no covenant exception for ethnicity or flag.

Bemidbar (Numbers) 20:14–17 — Covenant governing the conduct of nations toward one another's representatives and emissaries.

Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:18 — Love your neighbor as yourself; the neighbor is not defined by nationality.

Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:34 — The stranger who sojourns with you shall be as a native; love him as yourself.

Vayikra (Leviticus) 26:40 — National restoration begins with honest confession of historical iniquity.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 16:19 — You shall not pervert justice; applies to foreign intervention in sovereign governance.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:16–17 — A ruler must not multiply weapons, wealth through conquest, or return the people to bondage.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:14 — You shall not move your neighbor's boundary marker; extends to the sovereign borders of nations.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 — No matter shall stand on a single witness; two or three witnesses are required.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 20:10 — Peace must be offered before military action; the covenant precondition for authorized warfare.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 20:19 — You shall not destroy what sustains life; applies to civilian infrastructure, hospitals, agriculture.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 32:8 — Yahweh set the boundaries of the peoples; sovereignty of nations is covenant-fixed.

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 1:17 — Seek justice, correct oppression; foreign powers are accountable for suffering they enable.

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 44:28–45:1 — Koresh (Cyrus) of Persia named as Yahweh's anointed for covenant purposes; Persia honored in the Tanakh.

Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 6:14 — False prophets who cry 'peace' when there is no peace are condemned.

Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 6:16 — Stand at the crossroads; ask for the ancient paths.

Yechezkel (Ezekiel) 18:20 — No child bears the iniquity of the parent; no people is collectively guilty for its ruler.

Michah (Micah) 4:4 — Every people shall sit under their own vine and fig tree; none shall make them afraid. Confirmed for all nations by Aben Ezra and Kimchi.

Michah (Micah) 6:8 — The covenant measure for every ruler and nation: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly.

APPENDIX: ZOROASTRIAN SOURCES CITED

Yasna 12 (Fravarane — The Zoroastrian Creed) — 'I pledge myself to the Mazdayasnian religion, which causes the attack to be put off and weapons put down.' Trans. J.H. Peterson, 1997. Avesta.org.

Ahunavaiti Gatha (Yasna 28–34) — 'Violence must be put down! Against cruelty make a stand.' Oldest section of the Avesta, composed by Zarathustra approximately 1500–1000 BCE.

Asha and Druj — The ethical axis of Zoroastrianism: truth, righteousness, and cosmic order versus deceit, falsehood, and chaos. Sources: Encyclopaedia Iranica; Britannica; FEZANA; Theosophical Society of America.

Yasna 12:3 — 'I want freedom of movement and freedom of dwelling for those with homesteads.' The ancient Persian standard of protecting the movement and livelihood of all peoples.

APPENDIX: EVIDENTIARY SOURCES — DEVARIM 19:15

All factual claims in this document are corroborated by two or more of the following independent sources:

Britannica — Axis of Resistance (2026); October 7 Attack; Gatha; Asha

Council on Foreign Relations — Iran's Regional Armed Network

Brookings Institution — The Path Forward on Iran and Its Proxy Forces (2024)

Human Rights Watch — October 7, 2023 Report (July 2024); 2026 Lebanon Displacement

Amnesty International — Targeting Civilians: October 7 (December 2025)

Congressional Research Service — Israel and Hamas Conflict in Brief (2024)

NPR / Lauren Frayer — Reporting from Beirut, Lebanon (April 1, 2026)

Al Jazeera — Iran War Updates; Lebanon Invasion (March–April 2026)

Axios — Israel Planning Massive Ground Invasion of Lebanon (March 14, 2026)

Wikipedia — 2026 Lebanon War; Iran–Israel Proxy Conflict; Red Sea Crisis; Axis of Resistance

Centre for Information Resilience — Escalating Israeli Military Activity in Lebanon (March 9, 2026)

Encyclopaedia Iranica — Gathas (Texts)

FEZANA — Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America — History of Zoroastrianism

White House — The Iranian Regime's Decades of Terrorism Against American Citizens (2026)

PBS NewsHour — Iran Nuclear Timeline; Red Sea Crisis

IJHSSM — Iran's Proxy Network: The Role of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis (2025)

Avesta.org — Yasna 12; Yasna Sacred Liturgy and Gathas

Livius.org — Avesta: The Zoroastrian Creed