

ORIGINS
of the
ARAB-ISRAELI
CONFLICT

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According to Palestinian intellectuals and leaders, the Jews have no historical connection to Jerusalem. They claim that the Jews have never lived there, never had a temple there, and never had a kingdom ruled by kings there. They make such statements in order to strengthen their claim on the city and to reject any rights the Jews may have, not only to the city, but also to Israel itself. They see the Jews as recent colonists and interlopers on their land, much like the white Europeans who invaded the New World. ¹

This would seem ludicrous to most people, and even laughable, if it were not so seriously believed by Palestinians, who read it in their newspapers, hear it preached from their Mosques, and teach it to their school children. There are 349 references to Jerusalem in the Old Testament (Jewish Scriptures) and 180 references to Zion, another name for Mount Moriah, on top of which Jerusalem sits. King David, who took Jerusalem from the Jebusites and made it his capital in approximately 1000 B.C., expressed his love for the city in Psalm 122: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, may they prosper who love you.* Later, he purchased the top of Mount Moriah from Araunah the Jebusite for 50 shekels of silver and built an altar to the Lord there as God commanded (2 Sam.24-25). David's son, Solomon, built the first temple on that same spot in 970 B.C. (2 Sam.24-25; 1 Kings 5). Four hundred years later, when the Jews were conquered and led captive to Babylon in 586 B.C., Jerusalem was burned to the ground along with the temple. Psalm 137, written by a Jewish captive in Babylon laments: *By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion... If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth – if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy.* And yet, with many more proofs on top of proofs of the Jews' historical connection to Jerusalem, the Muslims continue to deny this obvious fact. At the Camp David peace negotiations in 2000, Arafat's chief negotiator, Saeb Arekat, told President Clinton, "I don't believe there was a temple on top of the Haram, [Holy Site] I really don't". ²

It is important to point out that the Old Testament consists of 39 books written over a period of 1000 years by many different authors, beginning with Moses in approximately 1440 B.C. The last book is Malachi written in 450 B.C. In 250 B.C., the Old Testament was translated into Greek (the Septuagint) by 72 Jewish scholars at the request of Ptolemy of Egypt for the great library in Alexandria. Mohammed was not born until 570 A.D. – 1000 years after the last book of Malachi was written, and 800 years after the Septuagint. The Bible says that God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham unconditionally, and that his son, Isaac, was the child of promise whose descendants would ultimately possess the entire land (Gen.21:12):

But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

The Muslims, coming on the scene 1000 years after the Jewish Scriptures were completed, rewrote this version of events and said that Ishmael, Abraham's first son by Hagar, was the child of promise, Ishmael being the father of the Arabs, and thus the land belongs to them. Throughout their history, the Muslims have shown no hesitancy to re-write history and Scripture in order to benefit their religion. Just as they deny the overwhelming evidence of the Scriptural support for Jewish founding of Jerusalem and control of Israel for 400 years, they also deny in our times the overwhelming evidence of the Holocaust.

The Abrahamic Covenant

In order to know the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict, we must go back to the very beginning. We must go back to the Abrahamic Covenant in the Bible. A covenant in the Bible is a sacred promise or agreement made between people, and often times between a king and his subjects. The covenant may be conditional, meaning that its terms depend on some demands being fulfilled by the inferior party to the agreement, or unconditional, meaning that there are no terms or conditions required to keep the covenant in force. In Genesis 12: 1-3, we have God initiating a covenant with Abram. (Later God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many nations").

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

And in verse 7, God appears to Abram and says:

"To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

And in chapter 13, verses 14-15:

And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;¹⁵ for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.¹⁶ And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.¹⁷ Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

And in Genesis 16:18:

And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—¹⁹ the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites,²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

Notice here God is confirming the covenant again and adding more detail about the size of the land. It is actually much larger than present-day Israel, taking in territory from the Nile River in Egypt all the way to the Euphrates River in what is now northern Iraq, all of which Israel will inherit in the Kingdom Age. The "smoking oven" and "burning torch" passing between the pieces of animal sacrifices bear explanation. In Abraham's day, covenants were made or "cut" in the following manner. The parties would kill animals and cut them in halves, placing the pieces opposite and parallel to each other forming a path between them. Then each party, or the inferior party if a king was involved, would walk between the pieces declaring a self-maledictory oath – that if they broke the covenant they would be destroyed as the animals were. In this covenant with Abram, God puts Abram in a deep sleep and then walks between the animal pieces Himself – "a smoking oven and a burning torch passed between those pieces." In this way, God, even though He is the superior party, humbles Himself and goes through the

pieces. By so doing, He is taking the self-maledictory oath that He will be destroyed if He does not fulfill the promises to Abram, and since God cannot lie or be destroyed, the covenant cannot be annulled.

This is the only time in man's history that land was ever given to a person and his descendants by God. The Muslims deny all of this, and since they also claim Abraham as their father, and because they hate the Jews so intensely, they even deny that Abraham was a Jew. But in Genesis 14:13, written 2500 years before Mohammed, Abram is called a Hebrew:

Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram. ¹⁴

As for Ishmael, from whom the Arab Muslims are descended, here is the prophetic description of him and his descendants given to his mother, Hagar, by an angel (Gen.16:12):

“Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has heard your affliction. He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”

A Little History

The next key to understanding the modern-day conflict between the Jews and the Muslims is to take a brief look at the history of the Jews and the land of Palestine, or Canaan as it was known in Bible times. King David ruled over all Israel in approximately 1000 B.C., and the kingdom reached its zenith under his son, Solomon. Solomon built the magnificent Temple, and under his reign Israel was known the world over for its power and wealth. But Solomon mixed worship of God (Yahweh) with pagan worship which he learned from his many wives, and God was so angry that when Solomon died in 930 B.C., He divided the kingdom into two sections – the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom – thus limiting the rule of Solomon's successor.

The northern kingdom consisted of ten tribes and was called Israel, and the southern consisted of two, Judah and Benjamin, and thus was called Judah after the largest tribe. Samaria was capital of Israel and Jerusalem was capital of Judah (later known as Judea). Israel's kings were all corrupt, so after 200 years God used Assyria, the super-power of that day, as a rod of punishment against them. The prophets Isaiah, Hosea, and Amos prophesied for many years that Israel would fall to the Assyrians if they did not repent and that they would be led away captive. Their pleas were in vain, and in 722 B.C. the Assyrian King Shalmaneser captured Samaria and led all the Israelites away to his capital of Nineveh (now in northern Iraq). He then transplanted thousands of Assyrians to Israel who took possession of Samaria and the other cities of the northern kingdom (2 Kings 17:24). These became the hated Samaritans of Jesus' day, who were so despised by the Jews because, among other things, they were a mixed breed of Gentile and Jewish blood. Since all the Israelites were gone from the land, the inhabitants were no longer called by that name. Instead they were known as Jews – the inhabitants of Judah, the remaining southern kingdom.

Isaiah and Amos also prophesied that the southern kingdom of Judah would fall later, and Isaiah accurately predicted in King Hezekiah's reign that it would be to the Babylonians, who did not become a world power for over 100 years. He said that the Babylonians would take the Jews captive, but that a king named Cyrus would let them return to their homeland. Thus, unlike the permanent captivity of the Israelites, the Jewish captivity would be

temporary. This indeed did happen because the Jews also began going after pagan idols, especially during the reign of the evil king Manassah. In approximately 630 B.C., Jeremiah began warning the Jews that if they did not turn back to God, they would be conquered by the Babylonians and led away captive to Babylon. He also added more detail saying that they would be allowed to return after 70 years. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, demanded tribute from the kings of Judah, and began taking Jews captive in successive waves beginning in 606 B.C. In 586 B.C., he captured and burned the city along with the temple and led many more captives away. In 538 B.C., Cyrus, king of Persia, (whose very name Isaiah had predicted 100 years earlier) defeated the Babylonians and allowed the Jews to begin returning to Judea in 536 B.C., 70 years after the first deportations, and thus fulfilling the prophecies. They rebuilt the temple, known as the 2nd temple, in 515 B.C., but it was not nearly as magnificent as Solomon's temple. From that time, the Jews have been ruled by other nations such as the Persians, Greeks, Romans and Turks, and it would be 2500 years before Israel would again be a sovereign state ruled by Jews. This occurred in 1948 when Israel declared its independence and was recognized by most of the world's leading nations. (As a point of interest, even though the northern kingdom of Israel ceased in 722 B.C., the Bible still referred to the land in general as Israel, and its inhabitants as the children of Israel. That name came from Isaac's son Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel, which means one who wrestles or prevails with God and men, i.e., a prince with God. Israel was the father of 12 sons whose descendants were known as the 12 tribes of Israel).

In Jesus' day, the land was ruled by the Romans, and less than 40 years after Jesus' death and Resurrection, in 70 A.D., the Romans put down a large Jewish revolt, and again Jerusalem and the temple were burned to the ground. The Jews were massacred, but thousands were shipped as slaves to various locations throughout the Roman Empire. In two booklets which are also on this website, *The Bible Time Machine*, and *More Fulfilled Prophecies*, it is shown that many of the prophets predicted that the Jews would be scattered to countries throughout the world for their disobedience against God, but that in the end times God would return them to Israel and give them their land back just prior to the Messiah's appearing. This scattering and re-gathering of the Jews was prophesied by Moses, Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and even Jesus Himself. One of the most familiar prophecies in the Bible is the valley of dry bones. In Ezekiel 37, Ezekiel is shown a vision of a large valley full of dry bones. The bones lie in open graves, and the Lord tells Ezekiel to prophecy to the bones so that they may live again. So Ezekiel prophesied as the Lord commanded and there was a rattling sound as the bones began coming together – bone to bone. Then, as Ezekiel continued to prophecy as the Lord directed him, sinews and flesh came on them, then skin, and finally breath came into them and they stood on their feet, “an exceedingly great army.” Then God explained to Ezekiel the meaning of the vision – that the children of Israel will be scattered (i.e., “buried”) among the nations, but that God is going to bring them back to their land:

Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’”¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.”¹³ Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.¹⁴ I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,” says the LORD.’”

After approximately 150 years of Persian rule, Israel was ruled successively by the Greeks, the Syrians, and then the Romans when Pompey conquered it 63 B.C. As mentioned previously, in 70 A.D., the Romans burned the city and the temple and shipped the Jews off as slaves to their other colonies around the world. Every building including the Temple was dismantled stone by stone and Jerusalem was reduced to rubble. In 135 A.D., the

emperor Hadrian decided to rebuild Jerusalem as a Roman pagan city, but first he had Jerusalem plowed over. These two events fulfilled the prophecy of Micah in 730 B.C.:

Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field; Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest.

Hadrian hated the Jews and wanted to obliterate their name from history. Therefore, he re-named Jerusalem Aelia Capitolina, and, to further insult them, re-named Judea “Palaestina”, a word derived from the Phillistines, the long-time enemy of the Jewish people. This is where the name Palestine originates.

The Times of the Gentiles

As mentioned above, Jesus had prophesied to His disciples that Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed and this took place in 70 A.D. He told them:

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

For the next 2000 years, Jerusalem has been “trampled by the Gentiles.” In 313 A.D. Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity, and then began rebuilding the wall of Aelia (Jerusalem) in 324 A.D. He also began building the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and opened the city to Christian pilgrimage. In 476 A.D., the last emperor of Rome was deposed by the barbarians, and the western empire came to an end, but the eastern half of the empire, ruled from Constantinople (the re-named Byzantium) continued for 1000 more years until 1456 A.D. However, in 638 A.D., the Muslim armies captured Jerusalem and this began a long period of Muslim control of the Holy Land for most of the next 1300 years. In 1517, the Ottoman Empire of the Turks conquered the city and ruled Palestine for 400 years until 1917, when the British defeated them in World War I and gained control. At this point, the modern history of Palestine begins.

The battle for Jerusalem was noteworthy because the British, under General Edmund Allenby, were able to march in and take the city without firing a shot, and God’s hand is clearly seen at work here. Just prior to the battle, the British dropped leaflets from planes on the enemy soldiers which told them to lay down their arms. It was signed by General Allenby, who thought of this in a desperate attempt to preserve the holy sites in Jerusalem from destruction by artillery shells. The Arab Muslims, most of whom had never seen airplanes (remember, this was 1917 and airplanes were so new that much of the world had never seen one), were shocked. But they were further astounded due to the fact that Allenby’s name in Arabic is “Allah-beh” which means “son of God.” Believing that the son of God was demanding their surrender, they threw down their weapons and allowed the British to simply walk in and take the city. ³

General Allenby, a devout Christian, dismounted and entered the city on foot out of respect for the Holy City. This was the first time that Christians had controlled Jerusalem for centuries. This divine victory was prophesied by Isaiah in 700 B.C.:

So the LORD of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion and for its hill. Like birds flying about, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it; passing over, He will preserve it (Isaiah 31:5).

Zionism -- The Bones Begin to Rattle

Toward the end of the 19th century, God began to fulfill the prophecy of “the Valley of Dry Bones” which He had shown to Ezekiel 2500 years earlier. The first rattling of the bones began with the desire arising in the hearts of Jews the world over, (a desire placed there by God), to return to Israel, and the movement known as “Zionism” was born. As early as the middle of the nineteenth century, some Jewish rabbis and thinkers began to write about the necessity of the Jews returning to their homeland. They also began to discuss this idea with their Jewish leaders. Yehuda Alkailai published “The Third Redemption” in 1843, and in 1862, Zvi Kalischer published “Seeking Zion.” The movement gained momentum during the 1880’s with the violent Russian attacks on the Jews known as “pogroms.” In 1882, a group of Jewish exiles who called themselves “Lovers of Zion” met in Constantinople and issued a manifesto calling for a return to Israel.

This idea of the Jews was not unfeasible at that time. Palestine had been a barren, deserted wasteland for centuries, and many Jews believed that much of Palestine could be purchased from the Turks. In 1867, Mark Twain visited the Holy Land on a tour and was surprised how desolate it was. In his book about his travels, The Innocents Abroad, he wrote that he did not see one human being on his route to the city, and that Jerusalem was “mournful, dreary, and lifeless” and “covered with weeds.” He was amazed that Jerusalem was so small one could walk around it in a few hours.

In 1897, Theodor Herzl, an Austrian Jew, published a pamphlet known as “The Jewish State,” and the Lovers of Zion group evolved into the Zionist Congress – the first session being held that same year. As stated previously, the Jews had been scattered to every country on earth – a dispersion known as the “Diaspora.” For 1800 years they had hoped and dreamed of returning to Israel, but never before had it seemed like a reality. But now their desire was fervent enough to move them to action, and thousands of Jews began to immigrate to Palestine, mostly the poverty stricken Jews of Eastern Europe. It is estimated that between 1880 and 1914, 60,000 Jews moved to Palestine and began farming the land.

Prophecy Unsealed – Christians Support Zionism

Daniel, a prophet living in exile in Babylon in 580 B.C., was given a panoramic view of world history, covering events into the distant future, even to our time, when travel and knowledge would be greatly advanced (Dan.12:4). But the angel told Daniel that his visions would be understood only by the people living in the distant future:

But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end...

During the mid 19th century, some Christians began to look at Bible prophecy in a new light. They began to wonder if the prophecies of the Jews returning to Israel were actually literal prophecies, and not just a collection of allegories. The allegorical interpretation of prophecy had begun in approximately 450 A.D. with St. Augustine's commentaries on the Bible entitled City of God. Augustine was a great theologian, but when it came to prophecy, he simply believed that it was too fantastical to believe that the Jews would ever return to Israel. After all, the Diaspora was in full effect, and the Jews seemed to be permanently cut off from God as a people and a nation, without their city and temple, and all their sins un-atoned for by their rejection of Christ. Thus, Augustine taught that the prophecies of blessings on the Jews had been transferred to the Christians, who had now replaced the Jews as God's chosen people. This was the beginning of what became known as "Replacement Theology" -- that the Christians had replaced the Jews, and that all the earthly promises which God had promised the Jews had now been inherited by the Christians as spiritual promises.

With this view of prophecy, the Jews' return to the earthly city of Jerusalem became the Christians inheriting the heavenly Jerusalem; God fighting for and giving victory to Israel became Christ leading the Christians (the new Israel) to spiritual victory; Christ returning to earth in the future and ruling the earth from the earthly Jerusalem for 1000 years (the Millennium), became Christ ruling now from heaven in the heavenly Jerusalem for a millennium -- the latter term being symbolic for a long period of time. In other words, all future prophecy was relegated to allegory, symbolism and spiritualism, and the Jews being cut off from God forever by not accepting Jesus as their Messiah, were replaced by the Christians who now were inheriting far greater heavenly promises than the Jews' earthly ones. The Catholic Church adopted Augustine's symbolic interpretation of prophecy, known as "Amillennialism" (for no Millennium), especially since the Pope with his cardinals, bishops, and priests now became Christ's earthly rulers during the "Millennium" which they believed was now underway, and which therefore gave them all power as co-rulers with Christ over even the kings of the earth. Thus, after the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 A.D., the empire continued in a spiritual form for centuries as the "Holy Roman Empire," with the kings being subservient to the Popes as Christ's rulers on earth. The Catholic Church had become the millennial Kingdom. This was the beginning of the Dark Ages.

Prior to Augustine, most Christians were believers in literal prophecy. They believed Jesus would one day return and rule the earth in the Kingdom Age. This literal view is now called "Premillennialism," meaning that Jesus would return before the Millennium, but at that time it was called "Chiliasm," from the Greek word meaning "thousand." The Amillennial view is based on the belief that Christ will return after the symbolic millennium for the judgment and to usher in Eternity. Many famous theologians in the past believed in Chiliasm, even as early as Polycarp, Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus and others.⁴ But as the Catholic Church advanced in power and prestige, Chiliasm declined in direct proportion.

When the Reformation began in the 1500's, Luther and the reformers returned to Bible literalism with respect to salvation and justification through faith in Christ as opposed to the external religious rites of the Catholic Church, but continued Augustine's method of symbolic prophetic interpretation. This also became the official position of the later Protestants such as the Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Methodists as well as Lutherans. However, there were some theologians such as the Puritans' Increase Mather and his son Cotton Mather, who held to Premillennialism, but they were in the minority.

In the mid-1800's, God began to unseal the prophecies, by moving on certain Christians to recognize that the prophecies concerning the Jews had not ended, but had merely been postponed. This revelation was illuminated in

the minds of Christians as they began to see the Jews espousing Zionism and returning to their ancient homeland in fulfillment of the prophecies – prophecies which they now began to see as literal.

Britain during the nineteenth century was a godly nation, and a number of Christian preachers and theologians became prophecy literalists. Richard Graves, a professor in Dublin Ireland at Trinity College, was an advocate for the Jews' re-gathering to their homeland which he saw confirmed in prophecy, and gave many popular lectures on the subject in Britain and the United States. John Nelson Darby, an Anglo-Irish evangelist, became the most well-known preacher, lecturer, and writer on the subject. He, like Graves, saw that the Church was a parenthesis in God's dealing with the Jews. The prophets had missed seeing the Church age as Paul said, when he wrote of the mystery of the church that had been "hidden from the ages and from generations" (Col.1:26). The word "mystery" used by Paul does not mean something that is unknowable as we define that word. Rather, it comes from a Greek word meaning something formerly hidden that is now being revealed. In the U.S., James H. Brookes, the well-known pastor, author, and Bible teacher of Walnut Street Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri, convinced himself of premillennialism from a careful study of the Old Testament prophecies and the New Testament prior to hearing of Darby's views.⁵ Brookes became one of the leading premillennialists and later mentored Cyrus Scofield, author of the popular Scofield Reference Bible, a study Bible which taught premillennialism and which showed a distinction between the Christians and Jews in prophecy.

Darby used an analogy to explain how the prophets missed the church age. He said that prophecy was like a traveler looking at two mountains in the distance, one behind the other, and concluding that they were close together. But upon arriving at the first mountain, the traveler sees a large valley between the two, and realizes that the mountains are actually far apart. The first mountain was the First Coming of Christ, the second mountain is the Second Coming, and the valley is the church age with God showing mercy to the Gentiles and including them in His offer of salvation. This was the mystery which God revealed to Paul (Col.1:26-27; Eph.1:9). The following prophecy of Zechariah is an example of how the prophets saw the coming of Messiah and the commencement of the Kingdom Age as just one event -- entirely missing the church age between them (Zech.9: 9-10):

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; he is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey; a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; his dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.'

Thus, Darby and others began to see that the prophecies about the Jews ran parallel to the prophecies about the Christians – the former being earthly (temporal), and the latter being spiritual and heavenly. They took a second look at the Abrahamic Covenant and concluded correctly that it was an unconditional promise to the Jews which was confirmed by many other Scriptures as well (see *More Fulfilled Prophecies* on this website). Here is an example in Jeremiah (Jer.31:35-37):

Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (the LORD of hosts is His name): "If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."

Thus says the LORD: "If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done," says the LORD.

The Evangelicals and Dispensationalism

This Bible literalism regarding prophecy carried over to the whole Bible and there was a resurgence of interest in the Scriptures as Christians began to have more faith in God's Word in general. This was the beginning of the Evangelical Movement and the Missionary Movement, both of which resulted in thousands of people in America, Britain, and other countries either being saved or renewed in the faith. No longer were Bible stories considered fables that merely taught a moral lesson, but rather, they were seen as real experiences of ancient people in their dealings with their fellow man and with God. Christians began studying prophecies that had already come true – hundreds of them – (see booklets on this website for examples), and those fulfilled prophecies gave credence to those of future events. Many people even today mistakenly believe that only the book of Revelation contains future prophecies, when actually, most of the Old Testament books contain prophecies – about the earth, Israel, other nations, the Messiah, the end-times, and even the Kingdom Age. In fact, one fourth of the Bible is prophetic, and this caused a good deal of excitement in evangelistic circles and churches, as prophecy Bible studies began springing up everywhere.

Darby introduced the concept of "Dispensationalism," showing that there were distinct time periods in man's history – dispensations -- in which God was accomplishing His purposes, and therefore they were able to see where they were in the great scheme of things. No wonder people in many previous centuries had thought their generation was the last one. Because of Amillennialism, they did not realize that the Jews must literally return to a re-born state of Israel before Jesus could return, bring about the end of the age, and start the Millennium. Now they could see one of the greatest, most prophesied miracles in the Bible begin to unfold right before their eyes – the re-gathering of the Jews to their homeland. And furthermore, they were seeing another one of Daniel's prophecies coming true also – the Scriptures were being unsealed. The "Times of the Gentiles," a dispensational period also referred to as the Holy Spirit dispensation, was coming to an end, and God was turning His attention back to the Jews. This would be the final dispensation before the end of the age and the Second Coming – the beginning of the "latter days."

The Balfour Declaration

After World War I, Zionism received more impetus and again Britain was behind it. A brilliant Jewish scientist named Chaim Weitzmann had helped Britain and the allies win the war by developing synthetic acetone, a chemical which was then used to make smokeless gun powder. This was vital, because when the British fired their artillery, the smoke gave away their position to the German gunners whose artillery range was much greater, and thus the British gunners were sitting ducks for the Germans to pick off. The British wanted to reward Weitzmann for his help, and asked him what he would like. Instead of requesting something for himself, Weitzmann asked Britain to help his people acquire a homeland in Palestine. In the providence of God, Britain was very agreeable to this request, and on November 2, 1917, a formal statement of policy was issued by the British government in the form of a letter by the British Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, to Baron Rothschild, a leader in the British Jewish community, which became known as the Balfour Declaration. This declaration gave Britain's approval and encouragement to the Zionist movement, and the movement picked up more steam.

This was more than just encouragement from the most powerful nation on earth at the time. Britain was also responsible for defeating the Turks in the war under the brilliant leadership of General Edmund Allenby along with the help of T.E. Lawrence, aka, “Lawrence of Arabia,” thus liberating the Middle East from the Ottoman Empire. (The Turks had joined the other Central Powers of Germany and Austria against the Allies -- Britain, France, and Russia -- prior to many other nations being drawn into the war). The Turks were Muslims but not Arabs, and the Arabs, eager to gain their independence, joined the war against them with the Allies. The League of Nations, which had been established at the Treaty of Versailles by the victorious Allies in Paris when the war ended, gave Britain formal rule of Palestine under a legal instrument known as the British Mandate, which was drawn up by the victorious Allied nations. The mandate was for a period of 31 years, from 1917 to 1948. It also stipulated that Britain was expected to establish a homeland for the Jews in Palestine as set forth in the Balfour Declaration.

Conflicting Promises

But there was a big problem. Britain had made earlier promises and agreements which conflicted with the Balfour Declaration. In a secret agreement with the French in 1915, the Picot-Sykes Agreement, Britain agreed to divide up the Middle East into French and British spheres in order to gain France’s help in fighting the Turks. Britain’s purpose for the agreement was to protect the Suez Canal from falling into German hands. While this was going on, Britain made another agreement with the Arabs to enlist their help in fighting the Turks, and thus gain their independence from the Ottoman Empire. In the McMahon-Husayn agreement, Sir Henry McMahon, the first British High Commissioner in Egypt, acting on behalf of the British Government, engaged in extensive correspondence with Sherif Husayn ibn Ali of Mecca (in Saudi Arabia) from 1915 – 1916. In the correspondence, Britain agreed that Husayn would govern most of the Middle East, but excluded “land that cannot be said to be purely Arab.” Husayn understood that Palestine would be included in the governed area, but Britain saw Palestine as not purely Arab since the Turks had allowed different religious groups to settle there.^{6,7}

It is important to note that the Arab Muslims of Palestine had never expressed interest in a Palestinian state. As mentioned earlier, the area of Palestine was a wasteland for centuries, and Jerusalem is not even mentioned once in the Koran. After the war, Husayn’s sons, Abdullah and Faisal ruled much of the Middle East. Abdullah became king of Transjordan (now Jordan), Faisal became king of Syria and Iraq, and Britain controlled Palestine under the British Mandate, much to the objection of the Arabs. As a result, the Jews increased their immigration to Palestine because of what they believed was promised them in the Balfour Declaration and the British Mandate set up by the League of Nations. During the early 1920’s, the land of Palestine began to show the effects of the Jewish agricultural methods, and was slowly being transformed from a desert to a fruitful, desirable land, showing promise of what was to come:

Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit (Isaiah 27:6). The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom like a rose... (Isaiah 35:1). Today, Israel has truly blossomed and has become the second largest exporter of fruit and one of the largest suppliers of roses in the world.

In the providence of God, David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Britain in 1917, and his Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, were both Christians who believed in Zionism, having become Bible prophecy literalists due to the ministry of John Darby, and thus were agreeable in 1917 to issue the Balfour Declaration. However, over the next two decades, Britain’s leaders lost much of their sympathy for the Jews and Zionism, as Arab oil, along with

growing anti-Semitism, influenced them increasingly to be partial to the Arab Muslims. In a desire to appease Muslim outrage over Jewish immigration, Britain began to restrict Jewish travel to Palestine. Moreover, they turned a blind eye to the great influx of Arab Muslims pouring into Palestine illegally and taking advantage of the better living conditions. In an effort to account for the rapidly increasing Arab population, Britain took the Muslim position that a large Arab population had been in Palestine for centuries, and the Arab growth was due to “natural increase” which benefitted from the better health conditions brought about during Britain’s control. Actually, it was illegal Arab immigration from Transjordan, Egypt, and Syria which was unreported by the British. The Jews had brought with them capital, technology, and farm productivity, along with the blessing of God on the land now that His covenant people were coming back. Whenever there are disparate economies, there will always be migration of workers to find jobs and a better standard of living. The Arab Muslims want the world to ignore the obvious.^{8, 9, 10}

It is interesting that after centuries of not caring a bit for the barren land of Palestine, Muslims now found it so desirable that they encouraged Arab Muslims to immigrate there in large numbers. In so doing, they would eventually so outnumber the Jews as to gain world-wide support for an Arab Palestinian state to govern the entire area. It was recognized by the Muslims that Arab immigration was a weapon that could be used against the Jews to deny them their homeland and statehood, and thus gain sovereignty for the Arab Muslims over the Holy Land.

The Fishermen and the Hunters

During the 1930’s, the Jews of Western Europe were too comfortable to leave their homes and go to Palestine to become immigrant farmers. After all, many had become settled in European cities for generations and had become wealthy. How would God induce these prosperous Jews to go back to their barren homeland? Jeremiah says the following (Jer.16:16-17):

“For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishermen,” says the LORD, “and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes.¹⁸ And first I will repay double for their iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable idols.”

The “fishermen and hunters” are the conquerors. Notice that God will repay the Jews double for their sins. For centuries the Jews have not been protected by God as they were before they were cursed for rejecting their Messiah, and all God has to do is lift His hand of protection a little more, and they will suffer even greater evil. This is what God did to drive them out of their comfortable homes and back to Israel. Hitler was a hunter who could rise up as God’s restraint of evil slackened for a while.

Where Was God?

The Jews and the unbelieving world continue to ask “why” or “Where was God” regarding the Holocaust. It is a wonder that the Jews don’t ask themselves, ‘What great sin did we commit shortly before 70 A.D. that caused our

city and temple to be destroyed; that caused our expulsion from our land and our dispersion all over the earth; that caused us to suffer persecutions for 2000 years; and then on top of that to suffer the Holocaust?’ The answer is that the Jews rejected their Messiah. Concerning this, Jesus said (Luke 21:22-24):

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Notice the word “until” in the above prophecy. This means that the trampling of Jerusalem by the Gentiles has a limitation set on it. The Apostle Paul said that the Jews have been partially blinded to the Gospel because of their sin (Romans 11:25-26):

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. Notice again the word, “until,” which means that the partial blindness on the Jews has a limitation set on it. When the “fullness of the Gentiles has come in,” God will again turn His attention back to the Jews.

And in Romans 11: 22-23 Paul said:

Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Here is what Moses said regarding God’s punishment on the Israelites if they disobeyed Him (Deut.28:62-68):

You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.⁶³ And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.

⁶⁴ *“Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.⁶⁵ And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.⁶⁶ Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.⁶⁷ In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.*

And through the prophet Jeremiah, God said (Jer.29:17-19):

...thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, I will send on them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like rotten figs that cannot be eaten, they are so bad.¹⁸ And I will pursue them with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence; and I will deliver them to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth—to be a curse, an astonishment, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them,¹⁹ because they have not

heeded My words, says the LORD, which I sent to them by My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; neither would you heed, says the LORD.

The Jews have indeed become “a curse, an astonishment, a hissing, and a reproach” among all the nations of the earth where they have been driven. Anti-Semitism has resulted in persecutions and pogroms against the Jews for over 2000 years. For example, as Columbus was departing from the Spanish port Palos to discover the New World, he saw the Jews leaving in ships from the same harbor, having been expelled from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella, and forced to leave all their possessions behind. Thus anti-Semitism has waxed and waned over the centuries in every country where the Jew has settled. But Jeremiah follows his prophecy of cursing, like the other prophets, with God’s promise to bring the Jews back to their land in the latter days and have compassion on them once more (Jer.31:10):

Hear the word of the LORD, o nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.’ For the LORD has redeemed Jacob...

The Holocaust Renews Zionist Sympathies

During the rise of the Nazi’s and the increased anti-Semitism, some Jews began to leave Europe and go to other countries, including Israel. As the Nazi’s plans for the Jews became more discernable, however, Jews began to realize that survival was more important than clinging to worldly possessions, and they began trying to leave Germany and other European countries in large numbers. Since anti-Semitism was on the rise the world over, and many countries forbade their entrance, the Jews now desperately needed to go to Palestine. It is a dark page in Britain’s history that just as the Jews needed a sanctuary in Palestine, Britain issued a Government policy, known as the White Paper of 1939, which severely restricted Jewish immigration to 75,000 over five years, and greatly undermined the intent of the Balfour Declaration for a Jewish homeland.¹¹ In May, 1939, over 900 refugees on board the German transatlantic liner, St. Louis, mostly Jews fleeing the Third Reich, were denied permission to land in Cuba, and also in the U.S. The ship had to return to Europe where many of the refugees ended up in Nazi concentration camps.¹²

Such was the anti-Semitism that was prevalent in much of the world. Hitler did not start it, but he fueled the flames until it reached unprecedented levels of evil. Only after the war, when the world saw in actual photographs the horror of the Holocaust, did anti-Semitism give way to sympathy for the Jewish people and their desire for a homeland in Palestine.

The United Nations, which was created after World War II as successor to the League of Nations, issued Resolution 181, proposing a plan for the partition of Palestine into Israeli and Arab states, with Jerusalem under the control of the UN. The Arabs were to receive the best land areas including the West Bank, the Gaza strip, and the high lands. The Jewish portion was much inferior, 50% being the Negev desert which was unsuitable for farming. The Jews were very dissatisfied with their portion, but accepted the UN plan. The Arabs rejected the plan. As the termination of the Mandate drew near on May 15, 1948, civil war broke out in Palestine. On May 14, the Jews declared independence for their new state of Israel based on the UN partition plan, which had never been rescinded, and the next day five Arab armies invaded Israel from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq.

War and the Palestinian Refugees

It was 100 million Arabs against 650,000 Jews, and the world waited in suspense for the inevitable destruction of the fledgling new state of Israel. The object of the Arab armies was stated by Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League: "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades." ¹³

But such was not the case. To the shock of the Arabs and the world, Israel defeated the Arabs in what the Muslim world now calls "al-Nakba" (the "Catastrophe"). It was a true modern-day miracle, reminiscent of Bible days when, with God's help, Israel defeated enemy armies many times larger than herself. As a result, Israel increased her land area; the Palestinians lost land, but Jordan captured the eastern half of Jerusalem which included the Temple Mount and the coveted West Bank, which includes Judea and Samaria. At this time, Jordan changed its name from Transjordan to Jordan, since it now controlled land on both sides of Jordan River.

The Palestinian refugee problem began as a result of the 1948 war. In the weeks before the war, the Arabs repeatedly told the Palestinians to leave the Israeli sector for safety, assuring them they could return after the Jews were exterminated. ^{14, 15} However, the Arabs had not conceived of the possibility that the Israelis could win, and when they did, the Jews did not want Palestinians, whom they considered enemy combatants, to re-enter their newly acquired land for security reasons. This left the Palestinians in limbo.

The Arab Muslims could have just given the Palestinians land in their Muslim countries, but instead, over the years since the 1948 war, they have used the Palestinian refugees as pawns to garner world sympathy and stir up anger against the Jews. They describe the Jews as intruders on land that the Palestinians have occupied for centuries, and have thus described the Jewish victory as the "Israeli Occupation." The liberal world media continually presents to their audience a distorted picture, ignoring the attack of the Arabs which at the time was condemned by the UN and most of the world's nations, and emphasizing the plight of the Palestinian refugees, a problem for which the Arabs are totally responsible. They apparently accept the Arab rules of war when it comes to starting a war with the Jews: 'if you (the Jews) lose, we can take your land, but if we lose, you have to give our land back.' No nation on earth conducts war by these rules except the Arab Muslims.

The fact that so much of the world sides with the Arabs in this matter shows that this is a spiritual war with the real enemy, Satan, fighting against God's promised restoration of the Jews to the land He gave them and promised Abraham He would restore to them in the latter days. Satan knows that the re-gathering of the Jews starts the prophetic, final countdown to the end of the age in which he will be imprisoned and afterwards tormented forever in the Lake of Fire. Therefore, he continually fights against God's plans to bring about His Kingdom on earth, and stirs up people to obstruct God's purposes: "He... shall intend to change times and laws" (Dan.7:25). But even though he is drawn inexorably to his destruction, he will make a final stand when he indwells the Antichrist and actually fights against the Lord Jesus as He comes in the sky to end the Battle of Jerusalem – the final phase in the War of Armageddon – and will be "destroyed by the brightness of His coming" (2Thess. 2:8).

In 1967, the Arabs again attacked Israel – this time stirred up by Abdul Nasser, president of Egypt, who wanted to avenge the "Catastrophe" and "drive the Jews into the sea." This time Israel was attacked on three fronts by the armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan, and what took place next can only be described as a miracle – or rather a series of miracles – as God again delivered His people as in Bible days. In fact, a West Point general once remarked that the US Military Academy does not study the Six Day War because they are concerned with strategy and tactics, not

miracles.¹⁶ In the Bible, there are many accounts of God causing Israel's enemies to hear and/or see an illusion of a far greater Israeli army coming against them, causing them to flee. For example, in the days of Elisha the prophet, a huge Syrian army was besieging Samaria until the Israelites were starving to death. Four lepers decided to exit the city at night and go to the Syrian camp, surrender, and ask for food -- reasoning that they would soon die anyway if they stayed in the city. As the lepers walked toward the Syrian camp, God performed a miracle to deliver the Israelites (2 Kings 7:6):

And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there. ⁶ For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!” ⁷ Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives.

During the war in June 1967, which has become known as the Six Day War, there are documented stories of similar miracles. On the second day of the war, an Egyptian tank commander in the Sinai with a vastly superior tank squadron inexplicably surrendered to only a dozen Israeli tanks. When asked why he surrendered, the Egyptian commander said that he saw hundreds of Israeli tanks. On the third day of the war, Jordanian forces welcomed Israeli tanks under the command of Colonel Uri Ram into Sheshem because faulty Arab communications misled them to believe they were Iraqi tanks coming to reinforce them.^{17,18}

During the Six Day War, Israel captured the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the east (ancient) section of Jerusalem, gaining control of the entire city for the first time in 2500 years. It is noteworthy that during the 19 years in which Jordan had possession, the PLO never accused the Jordanians of being occupiers, and never asked for their own state. It was only after Israel gained the West Bank while fighting against the Arabs for their survival, that the PLO began demanding statehood, and surprisingly enough, based their right for a state on the UN's Resolution 181 which the Arab's had rejected just prior to attacking Israel in 1948.

There are numerous eyewitness accounts of miracles related by the Israeli soldiers and their commanders in a video entitled “Against all Odds,” which includes miracles from all the Arab-Israeli wars.¹⁹ On October 6, 1973, Israel was attacked again on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement and their holiest day of the year, when the Arabs knew that even the soldiers would be worshiping in their synagogues. It is known as the Yom Kippur War, and once again it looked hopeless for Israel as the Arab forces seemed invincible. Egypt and Syria made a coordinated attack, aided by nine other countries, some of which were non-Arab. Once again, against all odds, the Jews miraculously won that war also, and there are numerous eyewitness accounts of miracles. Once, when a small group of Israeli soldiers were imperiled by a large mine field they had to cross with the enemy close behind them, a full moon came out and a strange, powerful wind arose which blew the top layer of dirt off the mine field, allowing the soldiers to see the position of the mines and walk right through the field. This episode of “Against All Odds,” a reenactment, may be viewed on YouTube.²⁰

The prophet Zechariah, prophesied that in the latter days, when the Israelites are re-gathered to their land, Jerusalem will become a big problem to the world, but that God Himself will defend Jerusalem (Zech.12:1-3):

Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone

for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

And the prophet Joel prophesied that, in the latter days, God will judge the nations which try to divide the land of Israel, which He calls “His land” (Joel 3:1-2):

For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.

This also reveals a pattern of God’s dealings with Israel throughout history and shown repeatedly in the Bible – that of using other nations as a rod of punishment against disobedient Israel, but then also punishing the nations who mistreated them. *To Abraham God had said, “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you, and in you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.”* The blessing would be the coming of the Messiah, who is Jesus, and through whom salvation would be offered to all people, not just the Jews. However, any nation or person who curses the Jews would fall under the curse of God. In 1900, Britain was the greatest nation on earth upon which “the sun never set” so far-flung was its empire. But when they turned on the Jews and began supporting the Arabs, they lost God’s blessing, and today Britain is only a shadow of what it once was. This could also be the reason why Britain suffered so terribly in the bombing of London by the Nazis. And George W. Bush, a Christian, but one who seems unknowledgeable of prophecy, unknowingly endangered the US by promoting his “Road Map for Peace,” which backed a two-state solution by dividing Palestine (see Joel’s prophecy above), a policy which Obama is continuing. By not supporting Israel in her hour of greatest danger as a modern state, a nation runs the risk of being cursed by God, and this applies to individuals as well.

The Arab Muslims occupy lands in the Middle East and north Africa totaling over 13 million square miles versus Israel’s tiny 20,770 square miles, or 640 times Israel’s size.²¹ And yet they are not satisfied. They claim they want a Palestinian state, and a return of Palestinian refugees to their land which was “illegally” taken by the Jews in the “Occupation.” But this is a ruse to turn the world against the Jews. The Arab Muslims do not actually want a two-state solution – they want it all. They turned down a two-state deal in 1949, in which the UN offered them all the best land. Instead, they are motivated by an everlasting hatred in their hearts for all Jews, and most of the world does not understand this – that their main purpose in life is not a Palestinian state, but the annihilation of Israel and the Jews.

Moreover, the UN has long supported the Muslims and shown a bias against Israel. After enduring 12,000 Hamas rocket attacks on civilians over 8 years, Israel finally launched a military attack on Gaza in self defense. (They had given the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians in a unilateral peace initiative in 2005, and forcibly removed their own citizens, but the Palestinians promptly turned the beautiful seaside community into a war camp and began launching missiles from there). After exhausting all avenues of peace, and with the UN standing by doing nothing, Israel finally launched a defensive operation in December 2008. But first, they dropped leaflets and made automated cell calls to thousands of Palestinians, notifying them for their safety to leave targeted areas.²² In addition, they used highly accurate smart bombs to further reduce any civilian casualties. The Muslim terrorists, however, have been known to force civilians to stay put, use them as human shields, and then use their deaths as propaganda against the Jews. It worked. On September 15, 2009, the UN issued the Goldstone Report accusing the Jews of war crimes against humanity as well as Hamas during the war, but not mentioning the 8 years of Hamas rockets intentionally aimed at Israeli civilians.²³

The Jews have a divine right to the land based on the Abrahamic Covenant which is everlasting and unconditional; they have a legal right based on the British Mandate from the League of Nations and Resolution 181 of the United Nations; they have a right of possession (actually re-possession) to conquered land acquired by defense against enemies who have tried to exterminate them; and they have divine confirmation for their cause seen in the miraculous deliverance from their enemies on repeated occasions. It is every general's nightmare to have to fight an enemy on two fronts, but Israel has had to fight an enemy on three, four, and five fronts that outnumbered them 10 to 1 on each front. It is time the Muslim world, and the world in general wakes up to the fact that fighting against Israel; speaking against Israel; writing against Israel; and reporting slanted news against Israel is actually fighting against God, and will bring on God's curse.

It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem (Zech.12:9).

EPILOGUE

Will Jews Go To Heaven?

You may be wondering why God would care so much about returning the Jews to their homeland if, when they die, He is going to send them to hell if they have not accepted Jesus as their Savior. Does God have a separate plan for the salvation of the Jews? Will they go to heaven even if they reject Jesus?

The answer is no, there is no separate plan for the Jews. They must receive Jesus as Savior in order to make heaven. But God does have a plan for national Israel in the millennium kingdom, and prior to that, He is going to be removing the "partial blinding" of the Jews, which they largely brought on themselves by rejecting Jesus, so that they can begin recognizing Jesus as their Messiah. This will be occurring when the Jews are back in their land in the latter days and as the full number of Gentiles to be saved is nearing completion. After WWI, there were only about a dozen Jews in the world who believed in Jesus as Messiah. Today, there are about 100,000 Jewish believers who call themselves "Jews for Jesus" or Messianic Jews. In fact, there are a growing number of Messianic Jewish churches in Israel and Jerusalem today, and Jewish believers such as Sid Roth and Jonathan Bernis are continuing to evangelize Jews at an increasing rate on Christian TV and in numerous mercy missions to their Jewish brothers and sisters. Therefore, as God is keeping His promise to Abraham by bringing the Jews back to Israel, He is also bringing increasing numbers of them to Jesus. Notice that the Lord says He will put His Spirit in them. This means they are born again through faith in Jesus (Ezekiel 36: 24-28):

For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Moreover, the prophet Jeremiah prophesied that God would eventually bring the Jews into the New Covenant – which we call the New Testament (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Later, during the Tribulation, large numbers of Jews are

saved due to the preaching of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists – 12,000 from each tribe of Israel. They also convert large numbers of Gentiles, so that the number of people saved during the Tribulation is so large that they cannot be counted (Rev.7: 9-17).

Jesus was rejected in Jerusalem at His first coming, but regarding His second coming He said:

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵ See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’” (Matt.23: 37-39).

Learn the Parable of the Fig Tree

Jesus said that no one will know the day or the hour of His return (Matt.24:36), but that Christians will know the season when they see all the signs of His coming (Matt.24; Luke 21, I Thess. 4:4). And He said, *Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near* (Luke 21:28). Then He said, *Now learn this parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! ³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away* (Matt.24:32-34).

The fig tree is the symbol of Israel in Scripture (Jer.24:1-6; 29:17; Hos.9:10). Jesus is saying that the generation that sees the Jews returning to their re-born homeland is the final generation that will see His return to the earth. Just as we can tell that summer is near when the fig tree begins to blossom, so also we can tell that His Second Coming is near when Israel comes back to life.

Notes

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