

Israel Is God's Land And Jews Are God's People

'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"' (Genesis 15:18).

"I will make of you (Abraham) a great nation and I will bless you and make your name famous, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse him who curses you. In you, will all the families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:2 & 3).

'God said to Jacob, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel"' (Genesis 32:28). 'Again God said to Jacob, "You shall not be called Jacob any longer, but Israel shall be your name." So the Lord God called him Israel' (Genesis 35:10).

When the Israelites accepted the Covenant of Moses, that marked their birth as a nation. They became a separate people in the eyes of the Lord, and they knew they were special in God's sight. 'For what shall it be known that Your people have found favour in Your sight? Is it not in Your going with us so that we are distinguished from all other people upon the face of the earth?' (Exodus 33:16). The Lord said, "You are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a special people to Himself out of all the nations on the earth. The Lord did not set His love upon you and choose you because you were more in number than any other nation, for you were the fewest in number, but because the Lord loves you and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your forefathers" (Deuteronomy 7:6 to 8).

When the Lord God of Israel makes a statement, it always comes true because He has spoken it. God's covenant with Abraham guarantees that the boundaries stated in Genesis will one day hold true. God promised to Abraham and his descendants, as a perpetual inheritance, the land between the Euphrates and the Nile Rivers, and God cares about all of that land because it belongs to Him. 'A land for which the Lord your God cares. The eyes of the Lord your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year' (Deuteronomy 11:12). The Lord promised Abraham a huge swathe of land for his descendants and one day, as the Lord promised, Israel will include all of this land.

The land of Israel is deeply embedded in the hearts of the Jewish people. 'For your servants take pleasure in the stones and favour her dust' (Psalm 102:14). Israel is their land, given to them by God and every non-Jewish person needs to realise that. "Yes, I (the Lord) will rejoice over them (the Jews) to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with My whole heart and with My whole soul" (Jeremiah 32:41). We can see that the Lord has indeed 'planted' His people back into the Holy Land and they will stay there. God is calling Jews from all over the world to return to their land. Why is Israel the 'Holy' land? Because the Lord has chosen to establish His holy name there. 'I will gather them and will bring them to the place where I have chosen as a dwelling for My Name' (Nehemiah 1:9). 'Your people (the Jews) shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of My (God's) planting, the work of My hands, that I might be glorified. The least of them shall become a tribe and the small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its appointed time' (Isaiah 60:21 & 22).

The Holy Land of Israel is not Palestine and the land has never ever belonged to Arabs, Moslems or the descendents of Ishmael, so we should never call the land Palestine. In the Bible it is called the land of Israel and that has never changed. Palestine means the land of the Philistines and it was named that by the Romans. Israel and Judea had been nations for over 1,000 years but were defeated by the Roman Empire. The Romans exiled or murdered hundreds of thousands of Jews, then in order to obliterate any connection of the Jewish people to their land, renamed it Palestine after the Jews' Biblical enemy, the Philistines. For the next 2,000 years no other national group developed in that land and no ruler ever chose Jerusalem as its capital. Instead, different peoples came, colonised, ruled then disappeared. Jews remained a constant presence throughout these changes, and always kept Jerusalem as their capital because Jews were always the majority. The number of Jews slowly grew as exiled Jews returned in periodic waves of immigration; their numbers growing and at times, falling. The region was an impoverished, barren and thinly populated area. There was plenty of room for returning Jews to settle in Israel, without displacing the few Arabs who lived there. It is important for people to know the facts about Israel, given the misinformation sent to us via the media who are almost always biased in favour of Israel's enemies. Some of the people who promote the most negative attitude towards Israel are journalists with their own agenda. They are wickedly biased against the Jews. Shame on the media and shame on their organisations for allowing such biased reporting. Now we will read the truth about God's promises to Abraham regarding Israel, and then we will look at the disputed territories.

Abraham was the father and founder of the Jewish people and they are still God's chosen people and always will be. God planned for salvation to come to the Gentiles via the Jews (John 4:22). Gentiles are not terrible people; they are simply non-Jews. 'In you (Abraham and his descendants) will all the families of the earth be blessed' (Genesis 12:3) ... all families – both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus was a Jewish Man descended directly from Abraham, and the promise made to Abraham by God in that scripture was fulfilled 2,000 years later when Paul took the Gospel message of salvation through the blood of Jesus to the Gentiles. Paul and

Barnabas spoke out boldly saying, "It was necessary that God's message should be spoken to you (the Jews) first ... and now we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46).

Israel was promised to Abraham and his descendants (the Jews) so it is their land and will always be their land. It was originally known as Canaan (Genesis 11:31), then as the land of the Hebrews (Genesis 40:15). What is now known as the West Bank, was once divided peacefully between the original tribes of Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali, Gad and Manasseh and was later called Judea and Samaria, which were cities within ancient Israel. Gaza was known as Gaza way back in Genesis 10:19 and was owned by Noah's son Ham, Ham's son Canaan and his descendants. The Canaanites became a wicked people and through the judgement of God, were ejected from the land of Canaan by the Israelites (Deuteronomy 9:4 & 5). The land allotted to Judah was from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea (Joshua 15:1 to 12). Gaza became part of the territory owned by the tribe of Judah, so it was part of the land of Israel from the beginning. The Lord changed Jacob's name to Israel and his twelve sons, who fathered the twelve tribes and all of their descendants, were known as the children of Israel.

Jewish habitation in the land of Israel has been continuous ever since the twelve tribes moved there. Even after the Romans exiled or murdered much of the Jewish population, many remained in Israel and flourished throughout the region. While in the Diaspora, Jews always promised to rejoin those who had never left Israel. Judaism was the majority religion in Jerusalem. Throughout history, much has been written about the exiled Jews, but little was known about the Jewish families who have lived continuously in Israel for thousands of years. Only 160 years before the birth of Jesus, the Jews warred against the might of the Greek/Syrian Empire (the War of the Maccabees) and won, securing Israel once again as the land belonging to the Jews. That happened before the Roman Empire invaded Israel. No Arab Palestinian nation had ever existed in Israel. After Rome fell, Israel became a minor district ruled by a succession of empires. Arabs living in Israel were Syrians left over from the Greek/Syrian occupation prior to 160 BC. These Arabs did not have a distinct Palestinian identity prior to the 1967 war, so until then, they never demanded their own land. Because the Jewish settlements were built on uninhabited land, they did not displace Arab families. Over a million Arabs currently and contentedly live in Jewish Israel, and most do not want a separate 'Palestinian State'.

After the Balfour Declaration in 1917, Article 80 states that Israel's only impediment to settlement building was self-imposed. The territories of the West Bank and Gaza were never allocated to a sovereign nation nor were they assigned any fixed boundaries. That means both Jews and Palestinian Arabs legally have equal claim over all of that land and the Israeli's can put their security fence wherever they want to. Israel's boundary once included all of what is now Jordan, which was the original 'Palestinian State'. So we can see that Israeli control of the disputed territories is not an 'illegal occupation' and Israeli settlements do not violate any international laws. The media reporters who make such claims are lying, simply for reasons of anti-Israel/anti-Semitic political propaganda. Israel has given vast swathes of land to the Palestinians just to make peace and that highlights Israel's willingness to make significant compromises for the sake of peace in their region. Every time Israel tries to make peace with the Palestinians, it is the Palestinians who reject it.

Palestinians are actually a 'made up' race. Today's 'Palestinians' are actually Arabs, and are close relatives of those living in neighbouring countries, and from where most of them or their ancestors came from. Until recently, Arabs did not consider the land of Israel theirs and they refused to call themselves Palestinians. During the British Peel Commission in 1937, an Arab leader said there was no such place as Palestine. In the Anglo-American Committee during an inquiry in 1946, another Arab leader said there was no such thing as Palestine in all of history. To the UN Security Council in 1956, yet another Arab leader Ahmed Shukairy, said Palestine was nothing but southern Syria. Then eight years later, the very same man, Ahmed Shukairy became the founding chairman of the PLO and said he would drive the Jews into the sea. The land of Canaan was never promised to the Arabs nor did they live there in any great numbers until modern times and they make a number of conflicting claims. The Arabs could not have descended from the original Palestinians – the Philistines who were giants in stature; nor could they have descended from Abraham's eldest son, Ishmael. They make these claims to try to 'prove' they are the legitimate heirs of the land God gave to Abraham. Arabs are a mixed race of several people from that region. They are made up of the ancient descendants of Noah's three sons. As we have already read, the people in the area were Ham's descendants. As they broke away into various family groups, they called themselves Kenites, Kenizites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizites, Rephaims, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, Jebusites or Egyptians but never Palestinians. There is no direct genealogy tracing today's Arabs back to Ishmael, and they could not be descended from the land's original inhabitants. God promised the land to Abraham before Ishmael was born. Since it already had many Canaanite inhabitants, how could Arab descendants of Ishmael be at the same time, descendants of the Canaanites? That is quite impossible! Further to that, Abraham was not from Canaan, he was from Ur of the Chaldees and had immigrated to Canaan. Ishmael's mother Hagar was an Egyptian. Neither Abraham nor Hagar were among the original inhabitants of Canaan and are not even remotely related to the Canaanite people. As we know, Hagar and Ishmael were banished from the Promised Land to live permanently in the Wilderness of Paran (Genesis 21:21), which is near Beersheba (Genesis 21:14). The Lord told Abraham to send Ishmael away so he would not be an heir with Isaac and therefore could have no claim on the land (Genesis 21:10 & 12; Galatians 4:30). Ishmael's descendants never lived in Canaan but settled in the Arabian Peninsula. They did not live in Israel when it was called Palestine so they cannot with any honesty claim to be the 'original inhabitants'. Today's so-called

'Palestinians' are promoting a lie but it is the lie, encouraged by the secular media that the world loves and gladly uses as a 'cudgel' against Israel.

It wasn't until about the seventh century AD, when the rather despicable false religion based on the demonic 'dreams' of a mentally sick man called Muhammad took hold in Mecca and Medina. If 'Palestine' is so important to the Moslems, why is it not once mentioned in the Quran? The Bible talks about the peoples of the area being afraid of the Israelites and they included the 'inhabitants of Philistia' and the 'inhabitants of Canaan' who melted away (Exodus 15:14 to 16). The Prophets Isaiah and Joel also mention Philistia but never refer to Philistia as the land of Canaan or Israel (Isaiah 14:29 & 31 and Joel 3:4). Philistia was where the Philistines lived and it was where Gaza was then and is today. This is true history not mentioned in the Quran. Even the Philistines were not the original inhabitants of the land; they were an Aegean race. Arabs living in Israel today cannot claim ethnic, linguistic or an historical relationship to the Philistines and cannot justify calling themselves 'Palestinians'. Those who claim to be Palestinians are in fact Arabs by birth, language, Islamic religion and culture and have emigrated from surrounding Arab countries. Most are attracted by Israel's prosperity, created by Jews returning to their Promised Land.

Even though a great deal of the Quran is plagiarised from the Bible, there is no mention of Jerusalem even once. King David established Jerusalem as the capital of Israel more than 3,000 years ago. Islam has been around for about 1,200 years, so it was the Jewish capital more than a thousand years before the religion of Islam was invented. Even when Moslems controlled the Middle East, Jerusalem was not given any importance and was largely ignored. The population of Jerusalem was mostly Jews, some were Christians but only a very few were Arabs. As late as 1964, there was no reference to Jerusalem in the Palestinian National Covenant. Suddenly and inexplicably, the Moslems began to insist that Jerusalem belonged to them as much as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and had always belonged to them. Moslem writers only very recently began to pretend that Jerusalem was as holy as Mecca or Medina, and even call Jerusalem 'our most sacred place'. The Palestinians demand the 'return' of Jerusalem as their capital, when it has never in history been their capital. Even when the mosque was built in Jerusalem, the area was not given any special significance in Islam. Yasser Arafat's grandfather, Amin Mohammed al-Husseini was a Jew-killing partner of Hitler, was a terrorist in his own right and he was also Arafat's mentor and guide. The PLO was formed in 1964, not in Israel but in Cairo by Egypt's President, Nasser. The Moslems have invented a 'history' to suit themselves.

False religions actually worship the devil and he loves that. Buddhists, Hindus, Islamists and other religions that bow down are not worshipping God the Father – they are worshipping the devil and they will all end up together in the lake of fire unless they turn to God for forgiveness, repent and are saved by the blood of Jesus. The Islamist word Allah does not mean God at all ... far from it. That is a lie perpetuated by the devil. Allah was one of Muhammad's 360 gods, and to fall in line with the 'trend' of monotheism back in the year 622, Muhammad simply chose the 'chief god' of their 360 gods and made it the main object of worship. It had been the official god of Muhammad's tribe for centuries before he was born. His so-called 'revelations' were so strange and terrifying to him, he knew they could only come from the devil; he knew he was possessed by the devil and he acted like he was. Muhammad attempted suicide several times; he was a false prophet; he married a little girl of just eight years old – and that makes him a paedophile. Most Islamists are ignorant of these facts about their own religion and continue to be hopelessly deceived and continue to worship their god, the devil. Jesus our Messiah is their only hope. However, the devil does not want these false religions to stop worshipping him, so there is an immense struggle in the spiritual realm to keep these people bound in their sin – hence the persecution of Jews and Christians. Moslems are sometimes murdered if they turn away from worshipping the devil and desire to worship God.

Jerusalem is the capital of God's chosen land. It is loved by God and was lamented over by Jesus. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, murdering the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused! You would not! Behold, your house is forsaken. For I declare to you, you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Matthew 23:37 to 39).

Jesus said He would not come back until the Jewish people could say of Him 'Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord'. In other words – to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah. The Jewish people have to be made ready to welcome Him back. God is at present, preparing Israel for that great event. The way the Lord gave Israel back to the Jews, and the gathering of the exiled Jewish people back to their own land is nothing short of a miracle. Our Jewish Messiah will one day return to the Jewish capital, Jerusalem. Jerusalem does not and never ever did belong to the Arabs. Moslems do not want the Messiah to come because He would prove their religion to be false, and so they are resisting the return of Jews to Israel and they are resisting the return of Jesus. Anybody who resists the regathering of the Lord's people, resists the return of the Messiah. This is God the Father speaking, "For behold, the days are coming when I will release from exile My people Israel and Judah, and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it ... In the latter days you shall understand this" (Jeremiah 30:3 & 24). That verse makes it clear that this prophecy is about the latter days, which is now. All of Jeremiah chapters 30 & 31 tell us all about the return of the Jews to Israel, which precedes the return of the Lord Jesus.

The Jews have been exiled into different nations around the world for thousands of years, yet by a miracle, they have remained Jews. There are Jews still living in Iran and Iraq who are the descendants of the Jews that lived in Persia during the time of King Xerxes (Esther 2:6) after being forced there during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 1:1 & 2). They still live there and know their ancestry. If we took an ancient tribe and exiled them to far away lands for only three generations, their bloodline, culture, religion and beliefs would assimilate into the countries where they lived, but the Lord has shepherded His chosen people, the Jews, and kept them as they are. They have always remained Jews in spite of terrible persecutions, vast distances and thousands of years. They are still a distinct people with their own customs, language, culture and music. That in itself is an amazing miracle and only the mighty hand of God could have achieved that. 'Hear the word of the Lord, O you nations ... He Who scattered Israel will gather him and will guard him as a shepherd guards his flock' (Jeremiah 31:10). Another amazing miracle is their return to the land promised to Abraham. Modern Israel is like a melting pot, blending the new arrivals into one people with one culture, one language and their own unique holidays, feasts and celebrations. That verse is a message from God to nations all over the earth, that He is gathering His people back to Israel. This prophetic scripture is being fulfilled in our time. Despite all the pressure, opposition, wars and struggles, Israel will continue to be populated by Jews in their own land. God has decreed it, spoken it, and is performing it, and there is nothing anyone can do to stop God's plan for His people. 'Jerusalem shall not be plucked up or overthrown any more, forever' (Jeremiah 31:40). "I will bring back the exiles of My people Israel, and they shall build the ruined cities and inhabit them, and they shall plant vineyards and drink the wine from them. They shall also make gardens and eat of the fruit of them. I will plant them on their land and they shall no more be plucked up out of their land which I have given them." says the Lord your God' (Amos 9:14 & 15). This prophecy from Amos is being fulfilled right now. The Jews have made their deserts and wastelands profitable farmlands that produce food for Israel in abundance, so they are able to export some of it.

When God set Israel apart, He set them apart as a nation, not as individuals. When God forgave them and reconciled with them, He reconciled with them as a nation. God has reconciled with them in the exact same land as He once disowned them, then once in their own land, they will appoint themselves a head or in modern language, a Prime Minister, which they have done. 'The number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea which cannot be measured or numbered; and instead of it being said to them, "You are not My people" it shall be said to them "You are sons of the Living God." Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together and appoint themselves one head, for they shall go up out of the land, and great shall be the day for the reborn Israel' (Hosea 1:10 & 11). 'Just as the Lord says in Hosea, "Those who were not My people I will call My people, and her who was not beloved I will call My beloved. And it shall be in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people' they shall be called Sons of the living God'" (Romans 9:25 & 26). The regathering of Israel is one of the main themes of Biblical prophecy. The above scriptures are just a few but there are many more following the same theme.

There is no place named Palestine: it is Israel, it has been Israel since the Israelites moved there and it will always be Israel, occupied by Jewish people. Israel was erroneously and temporarily called Palestine by pagans, who did not believe in God the Father or our Saviour Jesus. If there ever is a Palestinian state, it will wither before it grows. 'Let them all be put to shame and turned backward who hate Zion. Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withers before it grows up' (Psalm 129:5 & 6).

Through the sacrifice of Jesus Who was Jewish, we can have eternal life. There are hundreds of scriptures mentioning our Messiah, in various ways, way back in the book of Genesis, right through to Malachi. Through the writings of God-fearing, righteous Jews, we know we Gentiles can be adopted into the eternal Kingdom of God, and therefore receive the same inheritance originally given to the Jewish people; and God blesses us if we receive the word given to us. 'Blessed are your eyes because they do see and your ears because they do hear' (Matthew 13:16). Jews are, and will always be God's chosen people, just as Israel was and always will be, God's chosen land.

We non-Jewish people, have a lot to thank the Jews for. It can't be stated strongly enough, how much we need to appreciate Jewish people. God's chosen people who live in His chosen land brought us our salvation ... our eternal life. Thank God for the Jews! Praise God for them! They brought us the whole Bible. The Lord spoke to Moses face to face like a man speaks to his friend, and the Lord told Moses to write everything down (Exodus 24:4; 33:11; Numbers 33:2). From that humble beginning in the desert, we have the wonderful salvation message, written by Jews as they were inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16). Other Jewish men, the prophets and later the apostles, wrote more of God's instructions down, which has been recorded for us to learn the way of salvation so we can obey the Lord and be saved.

Amen and God bless you.

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