

## Myths of Israel and the Middle East

### **The Event of the 2023 War**

On 7th October 2023 the terrorist organisation *Hamas* ('*Islamic Resistance Movement*', founded in 1987) entered Israel and slaughtered soldiers and civilians, gang raping (some in front of family), torturing, burning, beheading, cutting off limbs, putting babies into ovens, ripping mothers open and slaughtering both...and unspeakable acts even to the dead. Hundreds, including babies, were taken hostage. These acts were substantiated with videos, by eye witnesses and backed by *testimonies from captured Hamas soldiers*. The brutality was on a scale not seen before, some say worse than the Holocaust, worse than the ISIS terror groups of years before.

Yet astonishingly, the media from nation after nation increasingly sides with the Palestinian cause. The myths and hypocrisy associated with this are *not natural*.

### **Hamas**

Hamas were doing what their charter clearly spells out - no peace with Jews and '*Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it*' (1988 charter). Hamas, with millions of dollars of funding from around the world supposedly designated for humanitarian efforts, have instead consistently built and fired thousands of rockets each year into Israel.

Hamas is a religious cult which slaughters with the mantra of '*Allahu Akbar!*' (God is great). Such groups have *rejected peace offer after peace offer - offers which Israel have accepted*. Hamas and Islam itself will not tolerate Jews in what they consider their land. The original Hamas charter quoted the Islamic *Hadith* and stated: '*The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Muslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him'*'.

### **The Myth of 'Palestine'**

Prior to the 1967 Arab-Israel War, there was *no serious movement for a Palestinian homeland*. In the six Day war, when Israel was attacked by Egypt, and Israel captured Judea, Samaria and East Jerusalem, *they captured them from Jordan's King Hussein, not from any Palestinians*.

'*Palestine*' never existed with its own identity, language or culture. The people are simply Arabs. The first time the name was used was in 70 AD when the Romans committed genocide against the Jews, destroyed their temple and declared the land of Israel no more. They named it 'Palastina' as an insult to the Jews, the name being derived from Israel's old arch enemy - the Philistines.

What is 'Palestine' today has been ruled by many foreign empires. *Today Israel has less than 1% of the Arab middle east!* Yet that is still too much for the Arabs.

### **The History of The Land**

#### *Abraham; Moses; Canaan*

God told Abraham that he and his descendents would be given the land *forever* (Gen.13:15). God made a covenant, not with Abram, who He put to sleep, but *with Himself*: '*for when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, He swore by himself*' (Heb.6:13). God promised that Abraham and his seed would possess *the land* encompassed by the rivers of Egypt in the south and the Euphrates to the north. In 1898 BC God confirmed His covenant as an *everlasting* one. '*And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your seed after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto you, and to your seed after you. And I will give unto you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God*' (Gen.17:7,8).

Patriarchs of the Jewish people settled in the land. Famine forced the Israelites to then migrate to Egypt. In the 13thc BC Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. The Israelites settled in the Land given to them by God, known as Canaan (which had independent cities at times under Egyptian or Hittite kings).

In 1000 BC Jerusalem was the capital of David's kingdom. Forty years later the first Temple, the national and spiritual centre of the Jewish people, was built in Jerusalem by King Solomon. Later the kingdom was divided into Judah and Israel.

#### *Assyrians/Babylons/Persians/Greece (722-142)*

In 722-720 Israel was crushed by the Assyrians and the 10 tribes exiled. In 586 Judah was conquered by the Babylonians and another exile followed. The land was later conquered by the Persians in 538, and then Alexander the Great in 332.

#### *Hasmonean Dynasty (140-37)*

The Hasmonean dynasty were descendents of the *Jewish* Maccabees family who ruled in the times of the Second Temple period from c. 140 BCE to 37 BCE.

#### *Roman Conquest/Byzantine (63-313AD; 390-637)*

The Roman general Pompey invaded and captured Jerusalem. The Romans named the Land 'Palastina' (derived from the 'Philistines') as an insult to the Jews. The Roman Empire later split. The east was known as the Byzantine empire.

#### *Arab Muslim Caliph*

In 638 CE, an Arab-Muslim Caliph took Palastina, adopting the Greco-Roman name (they pronounced it 'Falastin'), and made it part of an Arab-Muslim Empire.

#### *The Crusaders (1099-1291)*

In 1099, Crusaders from Europe conquered Palestina-Falastin.

#### *Mamluk Rule (1291-1516)*

The Mamluks were a military class ruling Egypt and Syria, including Palestine. Palestine was joined to Syria as a province of the Mamluks.

#### *Ottoman [Turkish] Empire (1517-1917)*

The Ottoman conquest in 1517 ruled from Istanbul. Jewish families lived in the country, mainly in Jerusalem, Nablus (Shechem), Hebron, Gaza, Safed (Tzfat) and the villages of Galilee. The rest were immigrants from North Africa and Europe.

#### *British Rule (1917-48); The Balfour Declaration*

The Ottoman empire, an ally with Germany, was dissolved following the first world war. The British captured Jerusalem in 1917 and British Foreign Minister Balfour supported a 'Jewish national home in Palestine'. The Balfour Declaration of 1917, confirmed by the League of Nations Mandate in 1922, committed the British to the principle of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. This mandate included all of what is now Jordan and now Israel, and territories between. Transjordan had three-fourths, one fourth was for the Jewish national home. Lord Balfour expressed hope that when the Arabs had been given so much, they would 'not begrudge' the Jews the 'little notch' promised to them.

#### *Balfour Declaration Broken*

When Great Britain's war time ally Emir Abdullah was forced to leave the Hashemite domain in Arabia, the British created an area for him that included all of Mandate Palestine east of the Jordan River. It became known as the Jordan kingdom. Jordan seized territory now known as the West Bank. (Later the 1967 war redrew that boundary). *The British cut more than 75% out of the Jewish National Home and restricted where Jews could live or buy land.*

During this period of the Mandate, *the Jewish population were known as 'Palestinians'* (even some who served in the British Army in World War II). By 1939 there was an end to admission of Jews to Palestine. Many Jews were thus left in Europe and died in the gas chambers. Yet at the same time immigration was occurring in massive numbers into west Palestine *from Arab countries.*

### *The United Nations (UN)*

In 1947 the United Nations proposed the establishment of Arab and Jewish states in the Land. The British mandate ended on May 14th 1948 and a state of Israel proclaimed the same day. *This resolution or partition was greeted with overwhelming joy in Jewish communities but with outrage in the Arab world.*

### *1948 War of Independence*

Following the UN resolution and Israel declared a nation, *Israel was invaded by five Arab states.* Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, and forces from Iraq took control of Arab areas. Trans-Jordan illegally took Judea and Samaria (West Bank) and Eastern Jerusalem, killing or driving out all Jews, banning them from Jewish holy places, destroying 58 synagogues, vandalizing 3,000 year old Jewish holy cemeteries. *Egypt and Jordan then controlled the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively until 1967.* For those 19 years, *there was never a bid for an independent state of 'Palestine'.* Until the late 1960s, the word 'Palestinian' meant Jews, and 'Palestine' the Jewish homeland. The Israel newspaper was called the 'Palestine Post', the Israeli Jewish orchestra was the 'Palestine Orchestra'.

### **The Myth of 'Displacement'**

Arab officials were often stating that there is no such country as Palestine and that 'Palestine' was a term the 'Zionists' invented. *'Our country was for centuries part of Syria. 'Palestine' is alien to us. It is the Zionists who introduced it'* (local Arab leader to British Peel Commission, 1937).

By more than 1,000 years, 'Israel' predates 'Palestine'. It is said that Arabs have long been established in Palestine, until the Jews 'displaced' them. But history shows the Jews have been in the land going back more than 3,000 years. It could well be argued Arab immigration into Palestine 'displaced' the Jews. (Israeli Jewish communities, 'settlements', comprise only 2% of Judea/Samaria).

In 1937, 1947, 2000, 2008, Palestinian Arabs *rejected two state solutions or proposals for an Arab State within the Jewish homeland. Each time Israel accepted but the Arabs rejected, wanting the riddance of Jews altogether.*

### *The PLO*

In 1964, the *Palestine Liberation Movement [PLO]* was founded. Ahmed Shukairy, the first chairman, had always *denied the existence of 'Palestine'.* *Their charter proclaimed its sole purpose was the destruction of Israel.* This is mostly where the propaganda began that the world came to believe concerning *the myth of an Arab nation whose territory was unlawfully 'occupied' by the Jews.*

### *Six-Day War (1967)*

In 1967 Arab states (mostly Egypt, Syria, Jordan) amassed on the borders of Israel. Israel made a pre-emptive strike on Egypt defeating the Egyptian air force on the first day. Israel then defeated three Arab armies and *returned the territory to Biblical Judea and Samaria,* occupied by Jordan since the 1948 Israel war.

### *2002-2005 Withdrawal*

In 2002 Israel began building fences to stop terrorists from killing Israeli citizens. In 2005 Israel *withdrew all Jewish presence in Gaza* as part of efforts towards peace with the Palestinians. *They did not 'occupy' any of Gaza since.*

### *Hamas Government 2006*

The Palestinians elected Hamas in 2006, which then took total control after a violent and brutal conflict with their rival political party, Fatah.

### **'Jerusalem'**

King David founded Jerusalem. The Koran has no holy sites in Jerusalem. Mecca never mentions Jerusalem (the Jewish Tenach mentions it 700 times), and no history has Mohammed ever going there.

For over 3,300 years, Jerusalem was the Jewish capital. The Arab Palestinians never had sovereignty over any of the Holy Land and never governed until Israel turned over control of some areas in Judea and Samaria under the Oslo Accords (1993-95), and then *left Gaza* in 2005.

### **The Contrasts in Hypocrisy**

Israel is composed of both Jewish *and Arab citizens* reflected in the nation's governing body, the *Knesset*. Elected representatives from *both Jewish and Arab ethnicities*, have *equal voices* in the *democratic* function of government. Israeli citizens are both Jewish and Arabic in ethnicity. Over 2 million Arabs live in Israel and enjoy the same rights as Israelis (most say they would not want to live elsewhere). *Israel is the most liberal, democratic nation in the Middle East.*

Israel cannot be blamed for the terrible conditions in Gaza when *they supplied electricity, water and aid for the Palestinians*, despite Hamas ceasing payments in 2017 (with over \$4.5 billion owing). Yet the supply continued. Billions of dollars of aid given to Gaza from around the world was not used for the improvement of Palestinians' daily life, but for *war machinery* and thousands of *bombs* which are constantly fired across to Israel *week in week out* (one clip by Hamas shows *thousands* in just weeks). (1) While Palestinians live in poverty, many Hamas leaders have amassed extraordinary wealth, living in luxurious palaces in Qatar.

The Israeli war ethics are to target terrorists, understanding civilians may be caught in collateral damage. They drop millions of leaflets, phone and warn civilians. The Hamas use civilians as shields, station war machinery in amongst civilians, including hospitals, and even shoot those who try to leave. Many of their tunnels are under such buildings, as substantiated by the terrorists themselves.

The Israel army do not engage in war crimes of rape, torture, beheadings and atrocities. The Palestinian groups and Hamas openly commit these crimes. Yet everything Israel does, they are guilty of 'war crimes', 'genocide'...

Many examples of hypocrisy and lies exist with the PLO and Hamas. As far back as the PLO, Yasser Arafat when he published his '*The Palestinian Vision of Peace*' in the *New York Times* - he wrote that Palestinian people yearn to live '*as an equal neighbour alongside Israel with peace and security for both*'. He even stated: '*I condemn the attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians...They are terrorist organizations, and I am determined to put an end to their activities*'...That was Sunday, in English. On Wednesday, in Arabic, Arafat addressed a rally in Ramallah, firing up the crowd with his call for '*a million martyrs marching on Jerusalem*'...That night, a Palestinian terrorist donned an Israeli uniform, infiltrated the small community of Hamra, and murdered three people - a 33-year-old Ethiopian immigrant and an unarmed mother and daughter, aged 45 and 11 years. The next morning Arafat's *Voice of Palestine* radio jubilantly reported: '*The man carrying out the operation...became a heroic martyr*'. The killer was from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Squad, a division of Fatah, the PLO faction led by *Arafat*...Arafat then addressed a rally in Ramallah: '*We will make the lives of the infidels Hell!...Millions of martyrs marching to Jerusalem!*' ('*What 'Peace' Means To Arafat*', Jeff Jacoby, Boston Globe, Feb.10, 2002).

The UN also have an astonishing hypocrisy in Israeli Arab conflicts. '*Of 175 Security Council resolutions passed by the U.N. before 1990, 97 were against Israel. Of 690 General Assembly resolutions before 1990, 429 condemned Israel. The U.N. is obsessed with Israel. And that is a great example of why we should treat the U.N. for what it is - an evil and irrelevant group of global busybodies. Israel is no threat to anyone except those who seek to destroy it...*' (Joseph Farah)

The U.N was silent while 58 Jerusalem Synagogues were destroyed when Jordanians systematically desecrated the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, when the Jordanians enforced an apartheid-like policy of preventing Jews from visiting the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

Many western nations are now added to this hypocrisy. Many Women's rights groups and in the UN are pro Palestinian/Hamas and silent on, even denying the rapes of the October massacre of Israeli women. Meanwhile, Palestinian children are brainwashed at school that Jews are to be killed and even shown how to do so.

The world fails to see that Israel has never hijacked a plane, a bus or a ship, or blown up crowded civilian centres, or taken hostages. The news media hardly ever reports the *thousands* of rockets indiscriminately fired into Israel, yet rather majors on the *responses by Israel*. In the various pauses

in the current war, Hamas released *civilian hostages* (women and babies included); yet Israel released more than twice as many hardened *criminals*. The western world has not understood the plight of Israel as spoken by Israel's Netanyahu: *'If the Palestinians put down their guns there will be no war; If Israeli's put down their guns there will be no Israel'*.

## **The Mystery of Anti Semitism**

There is a serious and mysterious anti-Semitism at work in governments and the populace of most countries. It is not natural, no matter how evil one thinks Jews are (and Israel has many of the evils and immorality of western nations). When Hamas people are saved and come to Christ by Grace through faith, many come to love Israel as God's elect nation! This is not 'normal', but supernatural!

*The hatred for the Jews throughout every age does not exist with any other race.* Anti Semitism is first a cosmic battle in the heavenlies perhaps explained by Israel being God's elect nation. No matter how evil they have been, He is coming back for at least a remnant of this nation as the scriptures teach! The mystery is further unveiled when one considers what the Bible says of the last days and Israel.

### *Is there a Future Israel?*

Increasingly today many see Israel as having been cast away by God in AD 70 when the temple was destroyed, that God has finished with the nation and the people. That theology defies many scriptures but also geopolitical events. If God has finished with Israel then why the livid hatred for the Jews, and why are the nations now all squabbling over Jerusalem? Why is God coming back to Jerusalem and not any other country? Why is there a future '*New Jerusalem*' Heaven with the names of the Jewish apostles written on the foundations?

The Major and Minor prophets speak of Messiah's return to Israel. The books of Acts and Revelation also explicitly place His place of return as national Israel. *Without Israel Christ cannot fulfil these prophecies.* To believe otherwise is to ignore a myriad of texts - most notably Zechariah chapter 14 which details the '*day of the Lord*' and Him '*gathering all nations against Jerusalem to battle...his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives*', with an '*earthquake*' following...'*and the Lord shall be king over all the earth...there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited...all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles*'.

The *detail, geography* and the *physical coming* of the Lord in this passage is surely literal. God has not finished with Israel (Mic.4:11-13; Jer.31:36,37).

Does God cast away His chosen 'elect'? If so can He cast us as individuals away too when we are His 'elect'? He says of Israel: '*For you are a holy people unto the lord your God, the Lord your God has chosen you to be a special people unto himself, above all the people that are on the face of the earth...*' (Deut.7:6-8 ); '*...He chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day*' (Deut.10:15); '*For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure*' (Ps.135:4); '*For Jacob my servants sake and Israel's mine elect, I have called you by your name.*' (Is.45:4).

The same phraseology is brought into the New Testament in 1Peter 2:9: '*You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people...*'.

God does not cast away His 'elect' for '*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies*' (Rom.8:33,34). Israel has been set aside, but only '*until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in*' (Rom.11:25). '*Has God cast away his people? God forbid...God has not cast away his people which he foreknew...there is a remnant according to the election of grace...Israel has not obtained that which he seeks for; but the election has obtained it...God has given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, ears that they should not hear; unto this day...Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles...blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved...For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins...as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance*' (vs.2-29).

But further, the New Testament covenant was first and originally *to Israel!* ‘**Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel...this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, says the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more...**

**The sun...the moon...the stars...If those ordinances depart from before me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever...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’** (Jer.31:31-37 cp Rom.11:26,27).

The Bible teaches that the Jews would return to their homeland (Zech.8:7,8; Is.43:5,6; Ez.17:11; Dt.30:3). Some 77 verses in Isaiah, 147 in Jeremiah, 60 in Ezekiel, 7 in Micah, 7 in Zephaniah, and 58 in Zechariah speak of a final restoration of national Israel prior to, and at the time of Christ's return. These promises are unconditional and confirm New Testament writings such as Matthew 24:15-28; Mark 13:14-20; Luke 21:20-24 and Revelation 16:13-16 which clearly depict Israel back in her land at the time of the end.

Why has Israel for so long been on a knife-edge for world war? ‘**Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it’** (Zech.12:2,3).

Could Israel have something to do with where the battle of Armageddon is fought? (Rev.16:14-16). Could it be this is where Jesus is to return (Zech.14) and reign for 1,000 years on the throne of David? (Ps.2:6-9; 22:27-31; Is.2:1-4; 9:6,7; 24:21-23; Joel 3:14-17,21; Mic.4:1-7; Zech.14).

The view put forth in this article is not new teaching but historic to the earliest of church fathers who were *mostly millennialists and saw a future Israel*. They took Bible passages to do with Israel and the last days as literal. They were followed by eminent scholars down the centuries such as Charles Spurgeon, Jonathan Edwards and other divines who believed in a *future literal reign of Christ*, a physical millennium and a *restoration of the Jews*. Spurgeon warned that the earthly reign of Christ is ‘*put so literally that we dare not spiritualise it*’. (2)

## The Solution

There is never a lasting solution to a charter of violence. The world needs to see truth with *The Land*, the *history* and the tiny nation of Jews who like no other *have been hated every century*. It is the Jews who will one day ‘**look upon Him whom they have pierced**’ (Zech.12:10) - the lamb slain for those who will believe.

The solution of peace will not come with man’s war but only with a war waged by the Lord Himself when He the *Prince of Peace* rescues Israel from imminent defeat and destruction and *physically returns to the mount of Olives* (Zech.13&14).

God has not forgotten His new covenant first *to Israel* (Jer.31:31-34). ‘**Thus says the Lord, which gives the sun...moon and of the stars...If those ordinances depart from before me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall 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’** (vs.35-37).

## Terry Arnold

(1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99eX5upR0Dw>

(2) ‘*Things to Come*’ 15:329. See also article/booklet on website [taministries.net](http://taministries.net) in ‘*Articles*’ section and ‘*Eschatology*’, titled ‘*The Millennium - Literal or Figurative? The Early Church and Beyond - Views on the Millennium*’.