

Israelis Are Entitled To Live In Their Own Land Of Israel

'The Lord God said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives and your father's house and go to the land I will show you. I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you. In you will all of the families of the earth be blessed ... I will give this land to your descendants" (Genesis 12:1 to 3 & 7). 'The Lord said to Abram after Lot was separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and from the place where you are, look north, south, east and west, for all the land you can see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as numerous as the dust of the earth ... Arise, walk through the length and breadth of this land for I will give it to you" (Genesis 13:14 to 17). 'The Lord God made a covenant with Abram saying, "To your descendants I have given this land (Israel), from the river of Egypt (Nile) to the great river Euphrates"' (Genesis 15:18). 'Behold, My covenant is with you. You will be the father of a multitude of nations. Your name will no more be Abram but your name will be Abraham for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful and I will make nations of you. Kings will come out of you. I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God to you and to your offspring after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land where you are travelling, all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession. I will be their God" (Genesis 17:4 to 8).

'The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go to Egypt. Live in the land I will tell you about. Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands and I will establish the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the sky and will give to your descendants all these lands. In your descendants will all the nations of the earth be blessed because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My requirements, My commandments, My statutes and My laws"' (Genesis 26:2 to 5). God said to Jacob, "I am YHWH, the God of Abraham and Isaac. The land where you are resting, I will give to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth and you will spread abroad to the west, east, north and south. In you and in your descendants will all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you again to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken of to you" (Genesis 28:13 to 15). God made it very clear, the land of Israel was given to the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob (who was renamed Israel, Genesis 35:10) and most definitely not through Abraham's other children (Genesis 21:10 to 13).

These promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob sealed the land of Israel for the Hebrews, later known as the children (descendants) of Israel then called Jews after Jacob's son, Judah. '(Israel is) a land the Lord your God cares for. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year' (Deuteronomy 11:12). Israel is a very special nation to God (Psalm 135:4), not only geographically but also spiritually. Jesus lamented over Jerusalem (Luke 13:34 & 35). Just how important the land of Israel and Jewish people are to God and indeed to all mankind, can be revealed through the scriptures. Before Jews existed as a people, when their ancestors were still in Mesopotamia, the Lord set the borders of all Gentile nations based solely on His future purposes for the Jewish people according to the numbers of Jews that would be living around the world. Have a close study of this verse. 'When the Most High gave allotments (lands) to the sons of Adam (Gentiles) as their inheritance, when He separated the children of Adam, He stationed boundaries of the (Gentile) peoples according to the number of the (future) children of Israel' (Deuteronomy 32:8). That is absolutely incredible! This verse teaches us, in His foreknowledge God gave Gentile nations their lands according to the future plans He had for a people yet unborn. Jewish people did not yet exist when the Lord set the boundaries of each nation, yet He knew His future chosen people would one day be scattered around the world. God knows the end from the beginning and knew He would one day choose a race of people for His own possession to bring forth His oracles and our Saviour to the world. At the time the Lord God revealed this fact to Moses, the children of Israel were still one cohesive nation, long before they were scattered. This verse is both historical and prophetic. If we can comprehend the enormity of these amazing facts and the vast length of time since the Lord first decided to create His special land and His special people for His own special purposes, we should be able to fully cooperate with the Lord as His plans and purposes for Israel are brought to pass. Numerous prophecies given to us by God's prophets inform us what His plans are, and the plans He made thousands of years ago are being fulfilled in our lifetime. How privileged we are to be part of God's eternal plan! It is both exciting and breathtaking to see the events written about thousands of years ago, happening before our eyes!

About two thousand years after creation, God chose Abraham from the Hebrew race to fulfil His eternal purposes. The Hebrews were the descendants of Shem and Eber (from where we get the name Hebrew and their language) and Peleg was Eber's son. It was during the days of Peleg (his name means 'divided') when the Lord divided up the lands on the earth (Genesis 10:25; 1 Chronicles 1:19). All the dry land on earth after Noah's flood was one vast land mass. In a cataclysmic event that took place during the days of Peleg, the

Spirit of Wisdom divided up that land mass into what we have today, divided into oceans, seas, mountains, dry land and islands (Proverbs 8:23 to 29). It was after the tower of Babel when the Lord scattered and separated all Gentile people on earth, giving them new languages (Genesis 11:8 & 9). This was when the Lord set the boundaries of all nations on earth as an inheritance to each group of people as they settled around the world. The dividing of the land on earth, then the separating of all people on earth after Babel, was part of God's eternal master plan. God kept the descendants of Eber in Mesopotamia where Abraham was born, then He moved Abraham and his family to the land that would later be named Israel. Over a thousand years later, the Lord Himself set the borders of Israel in detail according to the size of the individual tribes of the children of Israel. It is the Lord Who is in charge of Israel's borders, not the Israeli leaders and certainly not any outside government body. It was the Lord Himself Who set the borders of Israel and when world leaders move those borders, they will be held accountable (Deuteronomy 27:17; Proverbs 22:28). We can see by reading these Bible verses, the Lord had plans and purposes for Israel and the Jewish people long before they existed as a nation.

Before the Lord laid the foundation of the earth, that is before creation, He had in mind the salvation message that was to come through His chosen people who lived in His chosen land. Salvation to all nations began with the Jews in Israel (John 4:22), making the holy land the house of God and the only gateway to heaven, and it was Jacob who realised that fact. "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God and this is the gateway of heaven" (Genesis 28:17). 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in the Messiah, as God chose us in Jesus before the foundation of the world, so we would be holy and without blemish before Him in love, having predestined us for adoption as children through Jesus to Himself according to the good pleasure of His desire' (Ephesians 1:3 to 5). 'We who have believed (in the Messiah) will enter into the heavenly rest as God has said, "I swore in My wrath they will not enter into My rest," although the work (of salvation) was complete from the foundation of the world' (Hebrews 4:3).

The children of Israel fought long and hard for their Promised Land. Tribe by tribe they entered into their own territories, filling the land God had promised to them but only after everyone who had left Egypt had died – all except Joshua and Caleb. The judgement of God falls on all who slander the land of Israel. It is a holy land chosen by God and when people slander it, they are slandering the Lord's choice of location for His future habitation with His people. 'I (John) saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, God's home is with people and He will dwell with them. They will be His people and God Himself will be with them as their God"' (Revelation 21:2 & 3). 'The spies brought an evil report to the children of Israel, of the land they had spied out saying, "The land is a land that devours its inhabitants"' (Numbers 13:32). What happened to people who slandered Israel? The Lord threatened to wipe out the entire population of all twelve tribes but Moses pleaded for their lives (Numbers 14:12 & 19). Then the Lord said He would destroy everyone except Joshua and Caleb. Their descendants would inherit the land along with only the children of the original tribes (Numbers 14:23 to 38). We must be very careful not to slander the land of Israel.

When the Lord said, "In you will all the families on earth be blessed," and "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you again into this land," the Lord was not talking about Abraham, Isaac or Jacob. He was talking about their descendants, hundreds of years into the future. For example, "In you (Abraham's bloodline) will all the families on earth be blessed," God meant through the sacrifice of Jesus, a Descendant of Abraham, all people on earth have the opportunity of the blessing of salvation, although as we know most people choose to reject the salvation message. God was not only talking about salvation, He was also talking about the way the Lord blesses any country where Jews are. They are exceptionally innovative and have blessed the whole world with their clever inventions, with their compassion during times of crisis and in many other ways. Jewish people everywhere and Israel really are God's Light to the nations, and Gentiles the world over should wake up and realise that and not persecute them. "I am with you (all of Abraham's descendants) and will keep you (the Hebrew/Jewish people) wherever you (the Jews) go, and I will bring you (the descendants of Jacob) again into this land," was a spoken miracle and future prophecy. Throughout the thousands of years the Jews have been scattered all over the world, they have maintained their religion, culture, feasts, calendar and in many cases, their own language of Hebrew. That would have been impossible if the Lord had not miraculously kept them as Jews wherever they went in the world. The Lord told Jacob, He would bring him (meaning the Jewish people) back to the land called Canaan long before it was renamed Israel and long before Jacob's family ever left there. That prophecy has been fulfilled three times; the first time was when Jacob returned to Canaan from Haran (Genesis 31:13). The second time was when the Israelites left Egypt and returned to Canaan, and again in our modern times as they return to Israel from all over the world. Isaac was told not to go to Egypt. Abraham's Egyptian mistress Hagar and her son Ishmael went to live in Paran, Egypt and Assyria (Genesis 21:21; 25:18). Abraham's other six children born to his second wife Keturah were all sent away to the Far East (Genesis 25:6) so the whole of Canaan was to be inherited by Isaac, Jacob and their numerous descendants.

The Lord's description of Ishmael fits the enemies of Israel perfectly. 'Ishmael will be like a wild donkey among men. His hand will be against every man and every man's hand against him. He will live opposite all of his brothers' (Genesis 16:12) 'Ishmael lived opposite all of his relatives' (Genesis 25:18). Living opposite all his brothers and relatives means to oppose them all; not only Isaac's offspring but all of Keturah's offspring too and we can see the conflict in the Middle East is not just between Israel (Jacob) and one other nation (Ishmael), but some Middle Eastern nations are at war with each other and some have internal conflict. Sunni, Shia, Turkmen, Kurds and other Arab ethnic groups constantly fight amongst themselves and so the wild donkey Ishmael was, has influenced all his descendants, plus all the offspring of his relatives' descendants, the six sons of Keturah. They most certainly are the aggressive wild donkeys who oppose each other, raising their hands against each other, just as the Lord said they would be.

It is not only Ishmael's descendants and Keturah's descendants who are at war with Israel but Esau's offspring became enemies of Israel too. Ishmael and Isaac were half-brothers who seemed to reconcile their differences when Abraham died but it was only superficial and temporary (Genesis 25:7 to 10). After Abraham died, the twin sons of Isaac (Jacob and Esau) had a disagreement and they began a feud that lasted for twenty-one years. Afterwards they too seemed to reconcile and once again it was superficial and temporary (Genesis 25:21 to 33:20). Esau's nickname was Edom, which means 'Red and hairy'. From Esau/Edom came the Edomites who were enemies of Jacob. It is the descendants of Esau/Edom who want the Promised Land of Israel for themselves but God will never allow that to happen again. They had their chance when the Ottoman Empire took control of the land but it has been wrested from the descendants of Esau and given back to the descendants of Jacob. 'Thus says the Lord God, "In the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the nations and against all Edom that have appointed My land to themselves for a possession ... But you mountains of Israel, you will shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel for they are at hand to come home"' (Ezekiel 36:5 & 8). Lot was the nephew of Abraham and the two sons of Lot, Moab and Ben Ammi also became enemies of Israel. Lot had two very wicked daughters who had survived the destruction of Sodom only to produce a son each in the vilest possible way (Genesis 19:30 to 38). Moab and Ben Ammi grew up to become leaders, produced two evil tribes, the Moabites and the Ammonites and claimed lands of their own. From their beginning, the Moabites and the Ammonites were always jealous of the children of Israel.

Modern Israel has enemies on five fronts due to family feuds and jealousy that happened thousands of years ago. The area called Arabia was first called Arabia and the people, Arabians during the reign of King Solomon (2 Chronicles 9:14; 17:11). They were a troublesome peoples even back then, and they formed alliances with the Philistines and other neighbouring tribes, all collectively called Arabs. The descendants of Keturah, Esau, Moab, Ben Ammi and Hagar's son Ishmael, plus the other Arabs, all resent the descendants of Jacob (the Jews). These peoples (excluding the Jews) are called 'Hagar in Arabia', they have to answer to Jerusalem and are all in spiritual bondage. 'This Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and answers to the Jerusalem that exists now, for she is in bondage with her children (descendants)' (Galatians 4:25). The Arabs were in spiritual bondage before the false religion called Islam ever began about 1,500 years ago and obviously they are not all descendants of Abraham, although most of them claim to be. It is foolish for Arabs who want to be proud of their connection to Abraham, to deny the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Lord God spoke audibly to each of these three men, promising the land to them and their descendants indefinitely, and the Lord made it very clear the land was not to go to Ishmael, the six sons of Keturah or to Esau, but solely to Isaac and his descendants, and because of that promise, the land belongs to them. Also because of that same promise, we have been blessed with eternal salvation through Abraham's Descendant, Jesus. This is more than an earthly story. It is a long parable of 'types'. Abraham represents the Father. Isaac represents the promised Son. Jacob and Esau represent Jews and Gentiles growing up in this world together. The battle over Israel is a spiritual battle. We as Bible believing Christians must stand with Israel as they fight for their own land. If we are prepared to accept the blessing of salvation through Abraham's Descendant, then we must also accept the rest of the promise and help Abraham's current descendants keep their land. We must stand with Israel and especially Jerusalem. This is how we ought to pray for Israel as written in Psalm 122:1 to 9. 'I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of God!" Our feet are standing within your gates Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city compact together and where the tribes go up, even Yah's tribes according to an ordinance for Israel, to give thanks to the name of YHWH. There are set thrones for judgment, the thrones of David's house. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Those who love you will prosper. Peace be within your walls and prosperity within your palaces. For my brothers' and my companions' sakes I will now say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good'.

We must seek the good of Israel. There is a call being heard throughout the nations of the earth from the voice of God Himself, calling for a dedicated Body of Believers who truly believe His promises to Israel will be fulfilled and who believe His covenant relationship with the descendants of Abraham is eternal (Luke

1:55). It is a directive from God for genuine believers to accept the reality, Jews are God's chosen people (Deuteronomy 7:6), Israel is His chosen land and God has promised to restore the Jews to their Promised Land where they will stay (Amos 9:14 & 15). We must stand in solidarity with those He loves. The Lord is calling genuine believers to, "Comfort, comfort My people. Speak comfortably (kindly) to Jerusalem and call out to her, her warfare is accomplished and her iniquity is pardoned" (Isaiah 40:1 & 2). Gentile people within the nations have been called to help bring the sons and daughters of Abraham home to Israel. Many Christians really love the Jewish people and will do all they can to help Jews return to Israel and the following prophecy reveals the love we have for the Jews. 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I will lift up My hand to the (Gentile) nations and set up My banner to the peoples. They (the Gentiles) will bring your sons in their hearts and your daughters will be carried on their shoulders"' (Isaiah 49:22). 'The Lord remembered His holy Word and His servant Abraham ... He gave them the lands of the pagan nations' (Psalm 105:42 & 44). Over three thousand years ago (circa 1320 BC), Israel was recognised as a legitimate independent nation and three hundred years later (circa 1020 BC), had its own royal family from whom Jesus has descended as the Son of David. The whole of the Old Testament is the history and the prophesied future of Israel, the Jews and their eternal destiny. All Christians have a common origin with the Jews. Christianity came out of Judaism and we owe them a debt for what we have gained through them. 'If the Gentiles have been made partakers of the Jews' spiritual things, they (the Gentiles) owe it to them (the Jews) to serve them in earthly things' (Romans 15:27). Christianity was started by Jesus Who was Jewish, then continued and was spread around the world by the Jewish apostles (Romans 1:8) before any Gentiles became involved (Acts 11:18). Abraham was the Jews' biological forefather but when Gentiles accept Jesus, Abraham becomes our spiritual father in the faith (Romans 4:16). Just like the Hebrews were a holy nation, a kingdom of priests, a chosen race and His own possession (Exodus 19:5 & 6; Deuteronomy 14:2) so the Gentiles who accept Jesus are individual parts of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and God's own possession (1 Peter 2:9) as we are grafted into the olive tree (Romans 11:17).

The Bible is full of references to Israel and God often speaks of Himself as the God of Israel or the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who were the ancestors of all modern Israelis. There have been Hebrews/Jews living in Israel consistently since the days of Abraham and for most of that time, were the largest population (except when they went to Egypt for 430 years). Even during the exile to Babylon, many Jews remained in Israel to tend the farms and produce food (Jeremiah 52:17). After the sacking of Jerusalem in 70 AD some Jews stayed there. Census records show towns that were considered to be mostly Arab were in fact mostly Jewish. In April 1920 the San Remo Peace Conference recognised the continuous, unbroken Jewish possession of Israel (then called Palestine) for aeons. The Jews could not possibly have 'stolen' the land from the Arabs because they already own it and have done for thousands of years. The lost 'ten tribes' have never been lost. The dedicated Jews from the ten tribes moved south during Israel's civil war, strengthening the tribes of Judah and Benjamin with their numbers (2 Chronicles 11:16 & 17). By doing that, the Lord has miraculously preserved Jews from each of the twelve tribes except the tribe of Dan who has been replaced by Manasseh and their whereabouts will be revealed in God's time (Revelation 7:4 to 8).

'The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable' (Romans 11:29) and when the Lord called the Jews, it was forever. Many Jews have not yet accepted Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) as their Saviour but that is because the Lord has partially closed their hearts until the last of the Gentiles has been saved, then all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:25 to 27). In 70 AD Jerusalem fell to the Gentiles just as Jesus prophesied. "Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). That meant Jerusalem would be overruled by Gentiles until the time came for the Lord to intervene and return Jerusalem to the Jews and that happened in three stages last century (1917, 1948 & 1967) as part of God's plan for Israel. God's plan is world peace and He will achieve that from Jerusalem when Jesus returns to earth. Weapons will be made into farm tools and there will be no more wars. 'Many (Gentile) peoples will say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of God, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us of His ways and we will walk in His paths." Out of Zion the law will go forth and the Word of God from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will decide concerning many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they war any more. House of Jacob, come and let us walk in the Light of the Lord' (Isaiah 2:3 to 5).

Christians need to study the Bible to read for themselves what the Lord says about Israel's future. Pastors need to teach their congregations about God's plans for Israel, His love for His Biblical people and His love for Jerusalem. We all need to share the Gospel with our Jewish friends wherever they are in the world and show them the scriptures that reveal their God-ordained destiny, including the fulfilled prophecies that fit Messiah Jesus perfectly. Jesus considers the Jewish people His biological family and nothing will ever change that. When people persecute the Jews, Jesus takes that persecution personally. When Saul/Paul was persecuting the Jews who had accepted Jesus He said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting ME?" (Acts 22:7). 'Those who touch you (the Jews) touch the apple of His eye' (Zechariah 2:8). When people persecute the Jews, it is as irritating to God as though someone is poking Him in the eye. All Christians

should refuse to support any anti-Semitic talk or actions. Where possible, we should inform our politicians about the promises of God regarding the Jews, from the promises spoken to Abraham which are still relevant, right through to the prophecies regarding the land of Israel today.

Christians need to make reparation for two thousand years of cruel anti-Semitism where people have made terribly disparaging remarks, ridiculed, mocked, discriminated and even killed millions of Jews for no reason. People who claim to be Christian and followers of our Jewish Messiah are sometimes the worst perpetrators. This is the reason many devoted Jews reject Jesus. When Jews realise there are two very different kinds of Christians, they come to realise the genuine believers in Jesus love them, embrace them, help them, support Israel and pray for them. It is the people who are Christian in name only, 'religious' people who reject the Jews. They are the ones who teach the unscriptural lie about the church replacing Israel. The church will never replace Israel. Wicked people who do not believe in God also persecute Jewish people. Opposition to Israel's right to live in their Promised Land and to fulfil their God-ordained purposes is one of the worst forms of anti-Semitism in the world at this time. The Lord said, "Ah, the uproar of many peoples who roar like the roaring of the seas and the rushing of nations that rush like the rushing of mighty waters ... but God will rebuke them and they will flee afar off and will be chased like the chaff of the mountains in the wind and like the whirling dust before a storm. At evening behold, terror! Before the morning they are gone. This is the lot of those who plunder us (Israel) and the lot of those who rob us' (Isaiah 17:12 to 14). The phrases 'people roaring like the seas' and 'rushing of many waters' is often used to describe the sound of many voices of dissent and today many nations are stirred up by Israel as anti-Semitism grows louder around the world but their lot in the end will not be good.

Gentile leaders who are trying to give Israel back to the Arabs are at odds with the Lord. All those who seek to divide Israel up will be judged. 'All those who devour you (Israel) will be devoured. All your adversaries, every one of them will go into captivity. Those who despoil you will be a spoil and all who prey on you will I give for a prey ... I will punish all who oppress you' (Jeremiah 30:16 & 20). For the leaders of the nations who demand Israel be divided so there can be a Palestinian state, God has a special judgement set aside for them. The whole land of Israel belongs to God and He does not want it divided up. 'Behold, in those days and in that time when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I (the Lord) will gather all nations and will bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat and I will execute judgment on them there for My people and for My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations. They have divided My land and have cast lots for My people and have given them as slaves' (Joel 3:1 to 3). The Lord has never changed His mind about Israel and Jerusalem. For Christians to think it is all right to carve up Israel, reveals their lack of knowledge of scripture. It is not merely a difference of opinion, it is the spoken words of God Himself as He made the covenant with the Hebrew people solely through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants forever and God told them, the all of the Promised Land is for them.

Any Christian who wants the land to continue to be called Palestine needs to read their Bible to see what the Lord is saying about Israel. Not one verse in the Bible ever calls Israel, Palestine! The Roman Emperor Hadrian named the land Syria Palaestina after the enemies of Israel, the Philistines, who were an exceedingly evil tribe. The people who call themselves Palestinians have accepted the name of that very evil tribe of ancient people and should be ashamed of wanting to take that name, not proud of it. Hadrian changed the name of the holy land in an attempt to sever all connection Jews had to their land which they love (Psalm 102:14). The area called Syria Palaestina, then shortened to Palestine was overcome, conquered, sacked, pillaged, captured and burned by numerous marauding empires but not one of these empires established the region as their own nor did any empire want Jerusalem as their capital. Apart from Jews who have always been in Israel, the non-Jews who lived there were Arabs. When Israel was re-established as the Promised Land, the Jews did not displace any Arabs, they were told to leave by their own Arab Higher Committee. Two forms of media stated; "Advice was given to Arabs to leave the land (Israel), homes and property and go to stay in neighbouring States, lest the guns of the Arab armies mow them down." ... "It must not be forgotten the Arab Higher Committee encouraged the Arabs' flight from their homes (in Israel)." Jews are still being blamed for the exodus of Arabs since 1948 but they are not to blame. The Arab families who chose to ignore the directive of the Arab Committee to leave Israel, have been accepted and treated well by the Israelis and Arabs prefer to live in Israel than any Arab nation.

There are many lies and false propaganda being repeated about Israel, mostly through the media but also by the enemies of Israel. Around the world in Middle Eastern countries, Asian countries, African countries and even in both North and South America, terrible crimes against humanity are being perpetrated every day and those crimes seldom rate a mention in the media, but all Israel has to do is place a few caravans on a hilltop or take the tiniest action to defend itself and the whole world condemns them in the strongest possible terms. Despotic leaders around the world can murder thousands of innocent civilians and nobody does anything but if Israel defends itself against enemies who are trying to kill Israeli civilians, we can be sure they will be immediately vilified and the global protests would be loud and vociferous. Israel has even been accused of

apartheid, which is utterly ludicrous. Israel was condemned for carrying out archaeological work in East Jerusalem and their enemies tried to stop Israeli restoration of ancient Jewish mosaics on their own land. They want to make sure Israel does not rebuild their own Mughrabi Bridge up to Jerusalem's Temple Mount. There have only ever been ten 'Emergency Special Sessions' in the UN General Assembly – five were against Israel and one was to condemn Israel, but the despots around the world who murder and maim children go unpunished. Israel was condemned when they tried to destroy Hamas' missile bases and arms depots in Gaza to defend itself against years of relentless attacks. During the six-day war, there were many Arab reports on television and radio, diametrically opposite to the reports from Israel. The Arabs boasted about ongoing victories while the Jews reported about defeating the enemies. At the end of the war it became clear the Arabs had used the lowest form of propaganda to boost the morale of their soldiers but there was no truth in their reports. We all know in six amazing days, Israel decisively defeated five Arab armies. Israel has enemies on five fronts due to the ancient feuding of the descendants of Abraham as mentioned above and in the six-day war Israel defeated five armies. Was the number 'five' a coincidence or was God telling the other descendants of Abraham He meant what He said when He told Abraham, Israel is solely for the offspring of Isaac, not for the offspring of Ishmael, Esau, Moab, Ben Ammi or the six sons of Keturah?

Today, lies are still being spoken as truth. The Arabs make up silly stories and broadcast their lies around the world. Media manipulation is evident, but journalists the world over are sticking to their false stories in an effort to delegitimise Israel and to accuse the IDF of war crimes. Truth is irrelevant to some people in the media. Some misguided people believe as fact, moslems have always been good to Jews. That is untrue. Certainly, there are some individual moslems and some individual Jewish people who superficially get along well together, but if it came down to war, they would soon forget their friendship. Some people believe the two sides got along well until the Zionist movement began in earnest. That is untrue. Moslems murdered Jews in acts of terrorism from the time Islam got a foothold about 1,500 years ago and that continues today. Around the year 1,000 AD, so many Jews and other people living in Jerusalem were massacred by moslem hoards, the blood flowed down some streets of Jerusalem as deep as the bridles of the horses. Another massacre of Jews by moslems took place in Hebron in 1929. During the time of the Ottoman Empire and all over the world, moslems have treated Jews like second-class citizens, sometimes violently. People believe Jews forced moslems out of Jerusalem. That is untrue as we read earlier. The Arabs told them to leave. Jews are forbidden to enter their own holy places in Jerusalem and Hebron. It is not just moslems who attack Jews. There has been a terrible increase of anti-Semitism all over Europe where violence against Jewish people is commonplace. There is a new kind of international warfare against Jews and Israel. It is called 'lawfare'. It includes spurious lawsuits against Jews by moslems for a variety of false 'war crimes' all over the world. Incidences that either never happened and have been staged, or incidences where the truth is completely corrupted, are causing IDF soldiers to be sued. That could never happen with any other army, anywhere in the world. These spurious and false accusations against the IDF should always be thrown out of court. This is what Israel is being subjected to all over the world. The IDF consistently goes out of its way to avoid civilian casualties. Sadly, it is well known, many moslems cowardly use civilians like women, children, the elderly and the disabled as human shields. Israel has been accused of withholding medical treatment from patients in Gaza. That is untrue. Israeli doctors treat everyone in their hospitals, and that includes the terrorists who recover, only to attack the very people who saved their lives.

For years Israel has been attempting to create peace in their land. They have suffered painful withdrawals and concessions with patience but instead of peace they have received nothing but terrorism, bombs, abductions, international condemnation, international isolation, media lies and propaganda. International condemnation has focused incessantly on settlers in Judea and Samaria (West Bank), but these areas belong to Israel. The areas are central to Biblical Israel. They did what the scriptures said they would do (Ezekiel 36:1 to 12), make that arid, empty, mountainous land bloom again. They have built schools, businesses, factories, libraries, universities, synagogues, medical clinics and shopping centres. Many international leaders are calling for withdrawal from Judea and Samaria but Israel knows what would happen if they did withdraw. After Israel withdrew from Gaza in an attempt to appease their critics and bring peace, Hamas launched hundreds of attacks from the areas in Gaza killing many Jewish people. If Israel withdrew from Judea and Samaria the same thing would happen again because the moslems do not want peace. They only ever want to destroy every person that is not moslem, and especially the Jews. That is the basis of their religion – to steal, kill or destroy (John 10:10). The moslems pretend to want peace to deceive the world's leaders and to cause Israel to be blamed when peace does not happen. It is in the moslem code of conduct to allow seducing, marauding, trickery and lying to 'fake peace' so they can wait for a better time to conquer their enemies. The Oslo Peace Accord was signed nearly twenty years ago. The PLO agreed to conduct negotiations with Israel that would lead to a peaceful resolution to end the conflict. In twenty years, the PLO is yet to keep one of its obligations. The PLO used the accord to gain control over some of Israel's land then launched aggressive attacks against Israel. Their aim is to obliterate the nation of Israel completely. We must identify evil and fight against it and we must turn to God to help us in our battle. We

need to stand up for Israel as an Egyptian woman recently said, "What is so difficult about accepting only five million Jews in an ocean of 1½ billion moslems?" Jordan was created to be a 'Palestinian State' so they certainly do not need another one. Due to terrorism from missile attacks sent by Hamas, offering sovereignty to another terrorist state is ridiculous and would be suicidal for Israel. Israel cannot compromise on their security. The Palestinians never had legal claim over any land in the first place and besides that, their claims have been forfeited by their actions over the last twenty years. The Palestinians are Arabs and the Arabs already have twenty-two states. Let them go to one of them instead of playing the poor victims and continue to live in camps. They are free to leave the camps at any time but choose to stay there to make Israel look incompassionate. Many Arabs carry Jordanian passports, refusing Israeli citizenship.

Truth has become a rare commodity in Israel's fight for survival. Twisting the truth, ignoring evidence to the contrary, fabricating incidences, withholding facts, making horrific accusations against highly moral people have become a touchstone of the moslem/Arab propaganda war against Israel and Jews everywhere. Just a few decades ago, these lies were seen for what they were – lies, and they were largely ignored by the general public. Today however, through the media's constant bombarding these lies to the public, the filthy muddy lies are beginning to stick to the detriment of Israel. All supporters of Israel must fight this any way that is open to us. We must get involved in the battle for the truth and do our best to make a difference. If hostility against Israel is not countered with the truth, the 'cancer' of anti-Semitism will continue to grow. The Lord said, "These are the things you will do; speak every man the truth with his neighbour. Execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates and let none of you devise evil in your hearts against his neighbour and do not love a false oath, for all these are things I hate," says The Lord God of Israel" (Zechariah 8:16 & 17). There are many reasons why we should stand with Israel and one of the main reasons, is we will all be judged according to how we regard Israel and its people. To support Israel is considered to be a righteous act but to ignore Israel is considered to be wicked, and Jesus takes our actions personally. Jesus said, "The King will answer them, 'Most certainly I tell you, inasmuch as you (the righteous) did good things for one of the least of these My brothers (the Jews), you did it for ME' ... "Most certainly I tell you, inasmuch as you did not do good things for one of the least of these (Jews), you did not do it for ME. These (wicked) will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:40, 45 & 46). If we bless the Jews we will be blessed but if people curse or dismiss the Jews, they will be cursed (Genesis 12:3). If we stand with Israel and bless the descendants of Abraham through Isaac's bloodline, then we will be blessed. If we ignore Israel in her time of need, then God will turn against us. However, we should support Israel, not just to receive blessing from God, but because it is RIGHT. It is right to support the people who gave us our Messiah and thus our salvation. The Jews have given us so much. We have been grafted into their olive tree and are sustained by their Hebraic roots. It is right to support people who are being hurt, victimised, marginalised, persecuted and harassed, and to bathe their wounds as Jesus told us to do (Luke 10:30 to 37). It is right to love and be kind to our neighbours (Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31; Romans 13:8; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8). It is right to lay hold of God's people, to aim to be a blessing to them, not just receive blessings from them (Zechariah 8:23). We have been adopted by the Lord in a spiritual adoption (Romans 8:15) and because of them, we are part of the eternal triangle of God, His people and His land. We must raise our voices both in prayer and to educate the ignorant of God's eternal plan for His people.

Although the enemies of Israel have the weaponry that could destroy Israel and possibly most of the earth, we must feel secure in the knowledge God will not allow that to happen. The destruction of this earth will not happen for over a thousand years in the future, after which time God's people will live forever on a newly created heaven and earth where only righteous dwells (2 Peter 3:7 to 13). Jesus will rule on this earth from Jerusalem for one thousand years bringing peace and prosperity to the earth. God has plans for the good of Israel and although they need tight security because of their enemies, they know God will never again let them be plucked out of Israel now that He has called them home once again. "Fear not, nor be afraid (in the coming violent upheavals). Have I (the Lord God) not told it to you from of old and declared it? You are My witnesses! Is there a God besides Me? There is no other. I know not any other Rock" (Isaiah 44:8). "I (the Lord) will set My eyes on them for good and I will bring them again to this land. I will build them up and not pull them down. I will plant them and not pluck them up again" (Jeremiah 24:6). "I know the plans I have in mind for you (Israel). Plans for your well-being and peace and not for evil, to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). "Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good and I will truly plant them in this land with My whole heart and soul" (Jeremiah 32:41). It is imperative, Jews must return to their homeland to receive the full blessings and the future God intends for them.

Many Jewish people feel strongly about not being perpetual victims of anti-Semitism. It makes them feel as though they are an endangered species instead of being the specially chosen children of the Most High God. All Jews are the apple of His eye and the object of His deep love. Jews are not a pitiable, helpless group of people about to become extinct. They have God on their side and if He was able to keep them holy, pure and separate after thousands of years of exile, then He is fully able to keep them now. Judaism is the most divinely powerful and creative idea this world has ever had because God Himself ordained it. Religion is

man-made; Judaism is God-made. Jews will survive because they have a message the world needs to hear. The Lord trusted His oracles only to the Jews and to no other nation. Many Jewish people want to define themselves the way God sees them, not the way the world sees them. They want to be loved and accepted for who they are as individuals, not tokens to be used as show ponies. They dislike being persecuted, hated and threatened just like anyone would dislike being persecuted and hated. They do not want to be assimilated into a Gentile world, they just do not want to be persecuted. They want to remain Jewish, in their own land, speaking their own language, worshipping and obeying God without anti-Semitism always being there. Judaism is a revolutionary force, able to transform lost lives into lives with meaning. Humans are much more than mere animals living on instinct to feed our every whim and desire. Humans were created to live for a higher purpose. The Jewish feeling is they have a humble pride in their great standing with God, His mission and their confidence to fulfil it. Every person was created in the exact image and likeness of God and is therefore valuable and unique. Humans are in partnership with God to bring His holiness to earth. These bold ideas are more relevant than ever before and bold Jewish ideas need bold Jews to implement them. They feel, they can only bring God to earth if they are prepared to start with their own home, Israel. Judaism has already changed the world for the better. Without Judaism and the Law, how would we know what sin is? We need to keep on applying the commandments of Judaism to make the world an even better and more peaceful place. The Jewish feeling is, they need to develop in themselves and teach to their children, the humble pride and joy of the children of Israel when they succeeded. We all, Jews and Gentiles alike, need to remember the greatness of the Jewish mission. No other nation was given the mandate God gave them. When we are clear about their mission on this earth, no circumstance can shake them or us.

Some Rabbis living in Israel face another dilemma. There is a deep concern amongst some Rabbis, Jews living in Gentile nations, especially in Western nations are too comfortable to move to Israel. They are wealthy, educated, feel safe and do not have to till the soil to plant trees and gardens, nor do they have to endure bombings and open persecution from neighbouring countries. In Western countries, if the Jews suffer violent persecution, the laws of the countries bring the persecutors to justice. The concern some Rabbis have, is that was the situation in Europe before the Second World War. The Jewish people were wealthy, comfortable, educated and felt safe. They did not believe they were in any danger and sadly, we all know what happened. The Lord's 'fishermen' went all through Europe encouraging the Jews to go back to their homeland, helping them as much as they could and many did go back. After several years the fishermen themselves knew they had to leave Europe for their own safety. Tragically, many European Jews refused to return to Israel because they were so comfortable, and as the Lord warned through prophecy, the evil Nazi hunters came. When the Jews realised they were in grave danger and wanted to get out of Europe, it was too late; they were trapped. The Lord God said, "Behold, I will send for many fishermen and they will fish them up, but afterward I will send for many hunters and they will hunt them from every mountain and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks" (Jeremiah 16:16). The Lord is once again calling all Jewish people to return to the Promised Land and the Rabbis are very afraid of what will happen to them if they refuse because they are so comfortable. Anti-Semitism is on the rise all through Europe. The Rabbis feel it is time for all Jewish people to make plans to get out of the Gentile nations and return to their homeland before it is too late. They should also take their elderly parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends with them to Israel, so the older ones do not have to remain in countries where they face increasing persecution. Europe has many older Jewish people who have been left behind by their adult children and these poor vulnerable people face persecution and poverty. On a day-to-day basis, Israel is peaceful, vibrant, joyful and thriving. Moreover, when Messiah comes to the Jewish people, He will be coming to Jerusalem in Israel and not to any other city or nation. Jerusalem is the place where the Lord will set up His headquarters and He will rule the earth from there. All Jews are waiting for Messiah Jesus to arrive but He will not come until the last of the Gentiles has been saved. It is up to the Christian church to preach the Gospel with urgency to hasten the return of Jesus.

To support Israel, you can contact any of the following organisations that faithfully and lovingly support our Jewish brothers and sisters. 'Christian Friends of Israel Communities' or 'Bridges for Peace' or 'the International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem' or 'Christians for Israel'. We encourage anyone who wants to support Israel to visit, enjoy and walk around the places where the prophets, Jesus and the apostles walked, where the original children of Israel built their cities and where ancient Israelites were buried. The Lord encourages people to visit Israel, an area He calls Zion. 'Walk around Zion. Number the towers, mark her ramparts, consider her palaces so you may tell the next generation. This God is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even to death' (Psalm 48:12 to 14).

Amen and God bless you.

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