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# THE PALESTINE POST

JERUSALEM  
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1948

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# STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a med-

iator but without taking any action on the UN Partition Resolution of November 29.  
Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem Tel Aviv was still under way, and new Arab villages were taken in the north. Jews towns were captured, and the Jewish A consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

**JEW'S TAKE OVER SECURITY ZONES**

**Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down**

**U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE**

**Proclamation by Of Government**



A BIBLICAL VIEW ON

# Israel



*Kerby Anderson*





# Israel



Israel has frequently been the epicenter of conflict and the focus of world attention. The attack of Hamas on Israel (October 7, 2023) has been a vivid reminder that Israel is surrounded by its enemies who do not believe it has a right to exist. The protests

in the streets that followed that attack were also a reminder of the need to understand the true history of this land and the modern nation of Israel.

### **Three Promises in Genesis 12**

To understand the history of Israel, we need to go back to Genesis 12. This provides the biblical foundation for the nation of Israel. God makes three promises to Abraham. These are referred to as the Abrahamic Covenant and given to Abraham and his descendants. This is an everlasting covenant.

First is a promise of a nation: “I will make you a great nation.” Second is a promise of special blessings: “I will bless you and make your name great; and you

shall be a blessing.” Third is a promise of Divine protection: “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you.”

There are also three predictions. First is a prediction of defeat and capture: “The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away” (Deuteronomy 28). This occurred with the Babylonian destruction by Nebuchadnezzar at end of the 7th century BC.

A second prediction is of diaspora: “Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations” (Deuteronomy 28). This occurred when Titus and the Roman Tenth Legion destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70.

The final prediction was a return:

“He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it” (Deuteronomy 30). This occurred with the return of Jews to Israel and the declaration of the state of Israel in 1948.

Although Jews were in the land of Israel for centuries, there were also times of exile. The first was the Assyrian exile that removed the northern Kingdom of Israel (Samaria) in 733-722 BC under Sargon II. The second was the Babylonian captivity in which portions of the southern Kingdom of Judah were taken in 597-586 BC under Nebuchadnezzar II.

When the Judean population revolted against Rome in AD 66, the war culminated in the fall of

Jerusalem and the destruction of the Second Temple in AD 70. This battle and a later one led to the Jewish diaspora, which was a dispersion of Jews from their ancestral homeland to various parts of the world.

## **The Promises of Israel Through the Ages**

The fact that Jews are back in the land of Israel today can be traced to England and the Puritan fascination with the Holy Land. The Puritans, for example, employed a literal interpretation of the Bible. Their study of the Bible caused them to see Jews in a new light.

The Reformation was having an influence on the Puritans, who began to apply a literal mean-

ing to prophecy. At that time in the 17th century, Jews were officially banned from residing in England. Some of the Puritans petitioned the government to repeal the ban and help transport European Jews to the Holy Land and restore the nation of Israel. They even baptized their children not in Christian names but in the names of Hebrew patriarchs.

Jews also longed to return to Israel. A phrase often sung at the Passover Seder was, "Next year in Jerusalem." Oliver Cromwell exhorted his Parliament to aid in the restoration of the Jewish nation. Unfortunately, Parliament did not agree. But the ban on Jewish immigration was tacitly disregarded and England proved to be a haven for Jews, especially



after England's war with Spain. Another important figure was the great British scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, who was a student of prophecy and insisted on a literal interpretation. Soon there were camp meetings established to teach about Bible prophecy. Teachers linked the return of the Jews to the Holy Land as a part of the final prophetic scenario.

Benjamin Disraeli was a Jewish convert to Christianity. When he became prime minister, he also proposed the idea of returning Jews to Israel. Following him was Arthur James Balfour, who, as England's foreign minister, signed the Balfour Declaration mandating the recreation of a Jewish state. The motto of those

who proposed it was, “A people for a land, for a land without a people.”

The boundaries of this new nation were codified and approved by the League of Nations three years after the Balfour Declaration. Arab statehood was also granted to what today are Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, because of Arab pressure, 75 percent of the land mandated for Israel labelled Transjordan became modern day Jordan.

After World War II, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution in 1947 calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Israel. Although the plan was rejected by the Arabs, it was accepted by the Jews. Israel was

established as an independent, sovereign state in 1948 by David Ben-Gurion. His declaration came on the day the British Mandate over Palestine was officially terminated (in accordance with UN Resolution 181 which called for the division of the land into a Jewish state and an Arab state).

## **Modern Israel – Major Events from 1948 to the Present**

Although it could be said that the establishment of the nation of Israel was a miracle, certainly the survival of Israel is truly a miracle. It has faced four all-out wars (1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973) and additional military and terrorist attacks (intifada, Hamas invasion).

Two wars are worth a mention:

the 1967 Six Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Prior to June 1967, tensions between Israel and its neighbors heightened. Israel stated its position that the closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping would be a cause for war. Egyptian President Nasser announced that the straits would be closed to Israeli vessels and put Egyptian forces along its border with Israel. On June 5, Israel launched a series of preemptive airstrikes against Egyptian airfields. Most of the Egyptian Air Force was destroyed, and most of the combined Muslim armies were defeated.

The 1973 Arab Israeli War was fought from October 6-25, 1973. A coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria came

against Israel. The battle took place in Sinai and the Golan Heights (occupied by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War). Israel recognized that there was no guarantee that they would always dominate the Arab states militarily. This recognition paved the way for the subsequent peace process.

Perhaps the most famous treaty is the Camp David Accords that were signed by Jimmy Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. The accords led to a 1979 peace treaty between the countries. It was the first such treaty between Israel and any of its Arab neighbors.

Any attempt to give land for

peace has usually been a failure. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon proposed disengagement from the Gaza Strip in 2003. That proposal was approved by the Knesset in February 2005. Israeli citizens who refused to accept government compensation packages and voluntarily vacate their homes prior to the deadline, were evicted by Israeli security forces. Since 2007, the Gaza Strip has been under the rule of Hamas (a Sunni Muslim group that is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood). Since October 2023, the Israel Defense Forces have been attempting to root out Hamas fighters and bring peace to the region.

Three significant actions took place under President Donald

Trump. First, was the US recognition of the right of Israel to occupy the Golan Heights. Ever since the 1967 Six-Day War, most of the Golan Heights has been occupied and administered by Israel. The eastern third remains under control of Syria. In 2019, President Trump proclaimed: “the United States recognizes that the Golan Heights are part of the State of Israel.”

The second action was to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The Jerusalem Embassy Act was passed by Congress in 1995 and provided the funds to relocate the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Every president since then promised to move the embassy,

but failed to do so because of concerns from the State Department about possible repercussions. In 2017, President Trump announced the United States' recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The next year, the US embassy, moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The third action involves what is often called the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). In 2019, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the US would no longer hold the position that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are “inconsistent with international law.”

The secretary argued that the settlements are not “inherently illegal.” He argued the West



Bank's fate should be determined through negotiations and attacking the settlements "hasn't advanced the cause of peace." It is difficult to say that Israel "occupies" Palestinian territories because the nation of Palestine never existed.

As Christians, I believe we must stand with Israel. We should do so for political reasons since Israel is our friend in the middle East. Even though Israel is an ally, that doesn't mean we should always agree with every Israeli policy or military action. But we should support a nation surrounded by other countries wanting to destroy it.

We should also stand with Israel for biblical reasons. Genesis

12:3 says, “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you.” We must be a blessing to Israel, and we should “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6).



## **Additional Resources**

Gary Frazier and Jim Fletcher, *Miracle of Israel: The Shocking, Untold Story of God's Love for His People*, New Leaf Press, 2016.

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