

Whose Land Is It Anyway?

PART ONE

INTRODUCTION - *Why is this issue important?*

1. IT IS IMPORTANT for the sake of the truth.

2. IT IS IMPORTANT for the sake of God.

- **II Kings 21: 7b** – “In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever.”
- **Deut 30: 4-6** – “If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. ⁵ "The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. ⁶ "Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.”
- **I Sam 15: 29** – “Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.””

3. IT IS IMPORTANT for the sake of Israel.

4. IT IS IMPORTANT for the sake of our faith and convictions.

ISRAEL’S RIGHT TO THE LAND – *A Biblical Foundation*

- **Rom 11: 29** – “for the **gifts** and the **calling** of God are **irrevocable**.”
 - **gifts - charisma** – a favour given without any merit in the one receiving it
 - **calling – klesis** – to be called or invited to a banquet –a metaphor for salvation; to be elected, chosen for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ
 - **irrevocable - ametameletos** – not to be withdrawn or changed because there is no element of regret

I. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

- **Gen 12: 1-3** – "Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; ² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.""
- **Gen 12: 7** – "The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him."

II. THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT

The provisions of the Abrahamic covenant can be broken into three major divisions

1. THE PROMISE OF A great nation – the nation of Israel.

2. THE PROMISE OF A blessing for all nations.

3. THE PROMISE OF A homeland.

A. THE LAND OF ISRAEL ALWAYS BELONGS TO GOD

- **Psalms 24: 1** – "The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it."
- **Lev 25: 23** – "The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me."
- **Joel 3: 2** – "I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land."

B. GOD GAVE THE LAND TO ISRAEL FOREVER

- **Gen 12: 7** – "The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him."
- **Gen 13: 14-17** – " The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; ¹⁵ for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. ¹⁶ "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. ¹⁷ "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.""

- **Gen 15: 18** – "On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:""
- **Joshua 1: 3, 4** – "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. ⁴"From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory."



1. THE PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS CONFIRMED to the patriarchs.

- **Gen 26: 3, 4** – "Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and 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 your father Abraham. ⁴I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"
- **Gen 28: 13, 14** – "And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and

to your descendants.¹⁴ Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

2. THE PROMISE OF THE LAND WAS CONFIRMED by David and the prophets.

- **II Chron 20: 7** – "Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?"
- **Psalms 105: 5-11** – "Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth,⁶ O seed of Abraham, His servant, O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!⁷ He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.⁸ He has remembered His covenant forever, The word which He commanded to a thousand generations⁹ *The covenant* which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac.¹⁰ Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant,¹¹ Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the portion of your inheritance,""
- **Ezekiel 37: 25** – "They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever."

C. ISRAEL'S OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IS UNCONDITIONAL

1. GOD PROMISED THE LAND IN A UNILATERAL COVENANT

- **Gen 15: 1-6**
- **Gen 15: 7, 8**
- **Gen 15: 9-12**
- **Gen 15: 13-18**
- **Heb 6: 13, 14** – "For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you."

2. GOD NEVER PLACED ANY CONDITIONS ON ABRAHAM

There are only two kinds of covenants; conditional and unconditional

- **Gen 17: 1, 2** – "Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. ² "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.""
- **Gen 17: 8** – "I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.""
- **Gen 17: 10, 11** – "This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you."

Circumcision was given as a sign of the covenant's existence, not a condition to be met for the covenant to be fulfilled!

3. THE COVENANT IS PERMANENT AND UNCHANGEABLE

a) ONCE A COVENANT IS ESTABLISHED IT CANNOT be replaced or altered.

- **Gal 3: 15** – "Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it."

b) THE COVENANT WAS RECONFIRMED in spite of sin.

- **Lev 26: 42-45** – "then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land. ⁴³ For the land will be abandoned by them, and will make up for its sabbaths while it is made desolate without them. They, meanwhile, will be making amends for their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and their soul abhorred My statutes. ⁴⁴ Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. ⁴⁵ But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.""

CONCLUSION: ISRAEL CANNOT AND NEVER WILL LOSE CLAIM TO THE LAND

D. ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE LAND IS CONDITIONAL

There are many who deny Israel's rights to the land today arguing that Israel is unworthy!
Example – John Piper

“Throughout the history of Israel, covenant breaking and disobedience and idolatry disqualified Israel from the present divine right to the Land. Be careful not to infer from this that Gentile nations (like Arabs) have the right to molest Israel. God's judgments on Israel do not sanction human sin against Israel. Israel still has human rights among nations even when she forfeits her present divine right to the Land.”

Piper’s conclusion – *“Therefore, the secular state of Israel today may not claim a present divine right to the Land, but they and we should seek a peaceful settlement not based on present divine rights, but on international principles of justice, mercy, and practical feasibility.”*

(<http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/israel-palestine-and-the-middle-east>)

It is vitally important to understand and differentiate something ...

“ISRAEL HAS NOT EVER FORFEITED HER DIVINE RIGHT TO THE LAND – WHAT SHE FORFEITED WAS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN LIVING IN THE LAND SHE OWNS!”

1. ISRAEL WOULD ONLY REMAIN IN THE LAND if righteous.

- **Deut 4: 25-27** – “When you become the father of children and children's children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD your God *so as* to provoke Him to anger,²⁶ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed.²⁷ "The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you.”

- **Deut 29: 25-28** – “Then *men* will say, 'Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.²⁶ 'They went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they have not known and whom He had not allotted to them.²⁷ 'Therefore, the anger of the LORD burned against that land, to bring upon it every curse which is written in this book;²⁸ and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and in fury and in great wrath, and cast them into another land, as *it is* this day.'”

CONCLUSION – *Israel may remain in the land ONLY if she remains obedient and righteous!*

2. AND YET ISRAEL IS BACK IN THEIR LAND TODAY – and without faith in God!

So why does Israel have the right to live in the land today?

E. GOD HAS GRACIOUSLY BROUGHT THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND

1. GOD PROMISED TO MAKE THEM worthy of the land they were given.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COVENANTS WAS TO ENSURE THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE ABLE TO POSSESS AND LIVE IN THEIR LAND FOREVER!

1. **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT** – The promise of ownership of the land forever
2. **MOSAIC COVENANT (The Law)** – The conditions for remaining in the land
3. **THE LAND COVENANT** – God's promise to enable them to meet the conditions = to save Israel
4. **THE DAVIDIC COVENANT** – the promise of the Seed – the promised Messiah Who would do all required to save Israel so they could meet the righteous conditions to dwell in the land
5. **THE NEW COVENANT** – The promise of unconditional grace and salvation for Israel

Therefore...

2. GOD HAS BROUGHT THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND while still in sin.

- **Ezek 36: 22-28** – "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went."²³ "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight."²⁴ "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land."²⁵ "**Then** I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols."²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."²⁷ "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."²⁸ "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God."

Israel is NOT coming back to their land because they deserve it!

GOD IS NOW BRINGING ISRAEL BACK TO THEIR LAND TO VINDICATE HIS GLORY AND REPUTATION AS GOD!

GOD HAS SOVEREIGNLY ESTABLISHED THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL!

3. GOD WILL SOON MAKE THEM WORTHY OF THE LAND through salvation.

- **Deut 30: 5, 6** – "The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers."⁶ "Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live."

“Israel’s presence in the land today is because of the gracious promise of God to bring them back when still undeserving and unbelieving and then save them, making them worthy to remain in the land which God has given them forever!!”

PART TWO

THE HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

So, if God has given the land to Israel forever and has graciously brought them back to it again, then why is there a conflict over it – who is the conflict with?

A. HISTORY FROM THE TIME OF CHRIST

There has been a continual Jewish presence in the Land for over 3,000 years

ROMAN CONQUEST	63BC - 313AD
BYZANTINE EMPIRE	313 - 636AD
ARAB RULE	636 - 1099AD
CRUSADERS	1099 - 1291AD
MAMLUK RULE	1291 - 1516AD
OTTOMAN EMPIRE	1516 - 1917AD

B. MODERN HISTORY OF ISRAEL and the PALESTINIANS

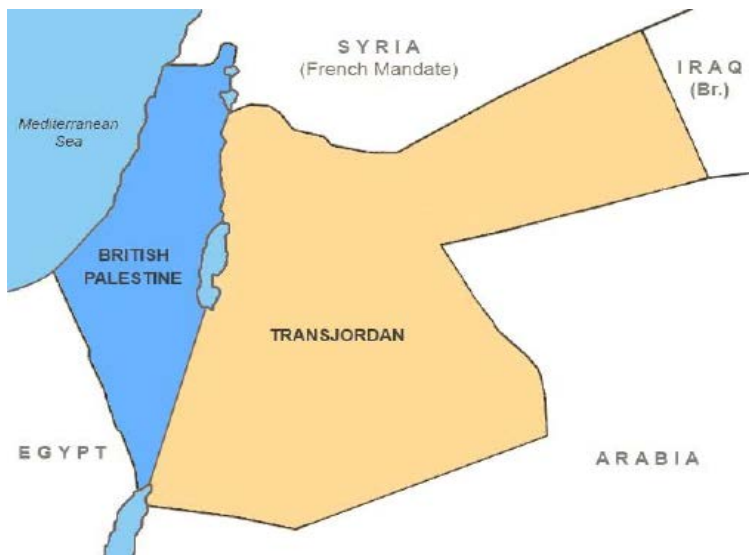
1. RISE OF ZIONISM (1897) – Theodor Herzl

The movement for the establishment and advancement of a Jewish nation in their traditional homeland!

2. BRITISH MANDATE – 1918-1948

During WWI...

Balfour Declaration – 1917



In 1921 Britain divided its Mandate into two parts:

- *The territory of Transjordan east of the Jordan river – the present day nation of Jordan*
- *This division resulted in a 77% loss of territory intended for a Jewish state.*

3. JEWISH and ARAB IMMIGRATION (1920’s and 30’s)

4. THE BIRTH of the STATE OF ISRAEL

Britain desperately wanted out of the Middle East and handed the problem to the new UN!

a) UN RESOLUTION 181 (1947)

“The [British] Government of Palestine fear that strife in Palestine will be greatly intensified when the Mandate is terminated, and that the international status of the United Nations Commission will mean little or nothing to the Arabs in Palestine, to whom the killing of Jews now transcends all other considerations.” (United Nations Palestine Commission. First Monthly Progress Report to the Security Council. A/AC.21/7, January 29, 1948. See: <http://www.mefacts.com/cache/html/un-resolutions/10923.htm>. (10923))

b) ISRAELI DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE – MAY 14, 1948

The establishment of the nation of Israel is referred to in the Arab world as the “Nakba” – the Catastrophe!

So, just who are the Palestinians with whom Israel is in conflict?

THE RISE OF THE PALESTINIANS

Who are the Palestinians?

A. THE PALESTINIANS ARE A FABRICATED PEOPLE

THE NAME PALESTINE: is the Latin word for “Philistine” and was given to the land of Israel by the Roman empire after the final Jewish revolt in 130AD

B. THE PALESTINIANS BASE THEIR CLAIM TO THE LAND ON THEIR IDENTITY

PLO Charter, Article 3 – *“The Palestinian Arab people possess the legal right to their homeland and have the right to determine their destiny after achieving the liberation of their country in accordance with their wishes and entirely of their own accord and will.”*

(http://www.mythsandfacts.org/Conflict/statute-treaties/PLO_charter.htm)

1. THE PALESTINIANS HAVE never been a distinct people.

Those who call themselves the Palestinian people have...

- Never had their own country (the term used of "Palestinian territories" is not true)
- Never had a capital city
- Never been recognized as a nation by the other Arab nations
- Never had any history (no leaders before Yasser Arafat, no literature, no artefacts, etc.)

Azmi Bishara , former Arab MK, said

"There is no Palestinian nation!" "There is an Arab nation, but no Palestinian nation. This was invented by the colonial powers. When are the Palestinians mentioned in History? Never!"

Ahmed Shukari, founder of the PLO, stated in a speech to the UN General Assembly in 1956 that...

"such a creature as Palestine does not exist at all. This land is nothing but the southern portion of Greater Syria..." (<http://www.think-israel.org/ronen.hadriancurse.html>)

PLO chief of military operations, **Zahir Muhsein**, in an interview with the Dutch newspaper **Trouw** (March 31, 1977) stated...

"The Palestinian people does not exist. The creation of a Palestinian state is only a means for continuing our struggle against the state of Israel for our Arab unity. In reality today there is no difference between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese. Only for political and tactical reasons do we speak today about the existence of a Palestinian people, since Arab national interests demand that we posit the existence of a distinct 'Palestinian people' to oppose Zionism. "For tactical reasons, Jordan, which is a sovereign state with defined borders, cannot raise claims to Haifa and Jaffa. While as a Palestinian, I can undoubtedly demand Haifa, Jaffa, Beer-Sheva and Jerusalem. However, the moment we reclaim our right to all of Palestine, we will not wait even a minute to unite Palestine and Jordan... Yes, the existence of a separate Palestinian identity exists only for tactical reasons. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a new tool to continue the fight against Israel..."

2. MOST PALESTINIANS ARE NOT INDIGENOUS TO THE LAND

a) **THEY ARE Arabs from the neighbouring nations.**

- al-Masri - (Egypt)
- al-Iraqi – (Iraq)
- al-Trabelsi – (Tripoli, Lebanon)
- al-Khurani – (southern Syria)
- al-Tzurani – (Tyre [Tzur]Lebanon)
- al-Tzidoni – (Sidon, Lebanon)
- al-Zarkawi – (Zarqa, Jordan)

Fathi Hammad, Hamas Minister of the Interior and of National Security

"ALLAH be praised, we all have Arab roots, and every Palestinian, in Gaza and throughout Palestine, can prove his Arab roots – whether from Saudi Arabia, from Yemen, or anywhere. Personally, half my family is Egyptian. We are all like that. More than 30 families in the Gaza Strip are called Al-Masri ["Egyptian"]. Brothers, half of the Palestinians are Egyptians and the other half are Saudis." (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ELpd_hLoUY)

The present day Palestinian Arabs are the descendants of two ancient siblings of the Jews!

b) THEY ARE THE descendants of Ishmael.

- **Gen 25: 18** – "His descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt, as you go toward Ashur. And they lived in hostility toward all the tribes related to them." (NIV)

c) THEY ARE THE descendants of Esau.

- **Gen 25: 23** – "The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger."
- **Ezekiel 35: 5a** – "Because you have had everlasting enmity..."

If the existence of the Palestinian people was fabricated, then why? What are the goals of the Palestinians?

C. THE GOALS OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE

1. TO destroy the nation of Israel.

"The Struggle with the Zionist enemy is not a struggle about Israel's borders, but about Israel's existence." (Bassam Abu Sharif; <http://www.middleeastfacts.com/israelandarabs.html>)

- **Psalms 83: 1-8** – "O God, do not remain quiet; Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.² For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves.³ They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones.⁴ They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more."⁵ For they have conspired together with one mind; against You they make a covenant:⁶ The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites;⁷ Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;⁸ Assyria also has joined with them; They have become a help to the children of Lot. Selah."

This is the very same purpose of the Palestinians today – to destroy Israel!

"All the agreements are temporary. We the nation of Palestine, our fate from Allah is to be the vanguard in the war against the Jews until the resurrection of the dead, as the Prophet Mohammed said: The resurrection of the dead will not come until you do battle with the Jews and kill them. We the Palestinians, are the vanguard in this issue, in this battle, whether we want to or whether we refuse. All the agreements being made are temporary." (Preacher Dr. Ahmed Yousuf Abu Halbiah, PATV, 28 July 2000) (http://www.freeman.org/m_online/sep02/marcus.htm)

"We will blow them up in Hadera, we will blow them up in Tel-Aviv and in Netanya... We will fight against them and rule over them until the Jew will hide behind the trees and stones and the tree and stone will say: 'Moslem! Servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, kill him'. We will enter Jerusalem as conquerors, and Jaffa as conquerors, and Haifa as conquerors and Ashkelon as conquerors...." (Preacher Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Madi, PATV, 3 August 2001)
(http://www.freeman.org/m_online/sep02/marcus.htm)

"Oh, Allah, destroy the Jews and their supporters and the Americans and their supporters. Oh, Allah, count them one by one, and kill them all, without leaving a single one." (Sheik Ahamd Bahr, deputy speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council)
(<http://jerusalemprayerteam.org/famous-quotes.asp>)

2. TO seize the lands belonging to Israel

- **Psalm 83: 12** – "Who said, "Let us possess for ourselves the pastures of God.""
- **Ezekiel 35: 10** – "Because you have said, 'These two nations and these two lands will be mine, and we will possess them,' although the LORD was there,"
- **Ezekiel 36: 5** – "therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy *and* with scorn of soul, to drive it out for a prey.""
- **Joel 3: 2** – "I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land."

"We plan to eliminate the state of Israel and establish a purely Palestinian state. We will make life unbearable for Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion...we Palestinians will take over everything, including all of Jerusalem."

(Yasser Arafat, 1996 – 3 years after the Oslo Peace Accords)
(<http://jerusalemprayerteam.org/famous-quotes.asp>)

a) PALESTINIAN CHARTER STATEMENTS

➤ **THE CHARTER OF Hamas:**

"Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it." (The Martyr, Imam Hassan al-Banna, of blessed memory).

"The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine is an Islamic Waqf consecrated for future Muslim generations until Judgement Day. It, or any part of it, should not be squandered: it, or any part of it, should not be given up. "

"There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors."

(<http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>)

➤ **THE CHARTER OF the PLO:**

ARTICLE 9 – *"Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine. Thus it is the overall strategy, not merely a tactical phase. The Palestinian Arab people assert their absolute determination and firm resolution to continue their armed struggle and to work for an armed popular revolution for the liberation of their country and their return to it."* (Quoted in part)

ARTICLE 7 – *"He must be prepared for the armed struggle and ready to sacrifice his wealth and his life in order to win back his homeland and bring about its liberation."* (Quoted in part)

ARTICLE 19 – *"The liberation of Palestine, from an Arab viewpoint, is a national duty and it attempts to repel the Zionist and imperialist aggression against the Arab homeland, and aims at the elimination of Zionism (Israel) in Palestine."* (Quoted in part)

ARTICLE 21 – *"The Arab Palestinian people, expressing themselves by the armed Palestinian revolution, reject all solutions which are substitutes for the total liberation of Palestine and reject all proposals aiming at the liquidation of the Palestinian problem, or its internationalization."*

(http://www.mythsandfacts.org/Conflict/statute-treaties/PLO_charter.htm)

BOTTOM LINE – *the Palestinian National Charter calls for the destruction of the State of Israel!*

b) Palestinian Maps – Israel does not exist on any Palestinian maps.

c) No Jews allowed in a future Palestinian state = a true apartheid state

"Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas laid out his vision for a future Palestinian state in which he insists no Israelis will be allowed to remain. "In a final resolution, we would not see the presence of a single Israeli – civilian or soldier – on our lands," (Mahmoud Abbas – Cairo, 2013)

(<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/07/30/as-obama-admin-pushes-peace-process-abbas-vows-no-israelis-in-palestine-racist-and-hateful-vision/>)

D. THE METHODS OF THE PALESTINIANS

1. CLAIM ALL THE LAND under Israeli control

This Organization does not exercise any regional sovereignty over the West Bank in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the Gaza Strip or the Himmah Area. Its activities will be on the national popular level in the liberational, organizational, political and financial fields.'

Article 24 of the original PLO charter of 1964

2. DENY ANY historical Jewish presence

ARTICLE 20 – *"Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood."* (quoted in part)

(http://www.mythsandfacts.org/Conflict/statute-treaties/PLO_charter.htm)

Dr. Jamal Amar - Lecturer, Urban Planning, Bir-Zeit University,

"There is a view that where it [the Dome of the Rock] stands was the Holy of Holies of the fictitious Temple – and by the way, that is merely an illusion. There is no remnant of it. It's a myth. A story of no value, like the Arabian Nights, and other legends... Only in Palestine... [after] 60 years of digging, and they've found nothing at all. Not a water jug, not a coin, not any earthen vessel, no bronze weapons, no piece of metal, absolutely nothing of this myth, because it's a myth and a lie. This digging has not left a single meter [unturned], but it has achieved absolutely nothing." [PATV, June 23, 2009] (<http://palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=487>)

PART THREE

3. COMMIT AN ENTIRE SOCIETY to a violent cause

a) THEIR CHARTERS ARE DEVOTED TO VIOLENCE AS THE MEANS TO THEIR GOALS

b) THEY INDOCTRINATE THEIR YOUTH TO PURSUE VIOLENCE

➤ **DALAL MUGHRABI - Fatah terrorist**

c) THE GLORIFICATION OF MURDERING JEWS

PA Mufti (Islamic scholar) Muhammad Hussein:

"Palestine in its entirety is a revolution... continuing today, and until the End of Days. The reliable Hadith... says: 'The Hour [of Resurrection] will not come until you fight the Jews. The Jew will hide behind stones or trees. Then the stones or trees will call: 'Oh Muslim, servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.'" [PA TV (Fatah), Jan. 9, 2012]

➤ **MURDER OF ISRAELI FAMILY IN ITAMAR**

E. THE MOTIVATION OF THE PALESTINIANS

1. A DEEPLY ROOTED HATRED OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

- **Haj Amin al-Husseini, (1895-1974) - The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem**

Ahmad Ragab, a Palestinian columnist wrote:

"Thanks to Hitler, of blessed memory, who on behalf of the Palestinians, revenged in advance, against the most vile criminals on the face of the earth. Although we do have a complaint against him for his revenge on them was not enough." (**Al-Akhbar**, April 25, 2001)

2. A DEFENSE OF THE cause of Islam

"Our war with the descendants of the apes and pigs (i.e., Jews) is a war of religion and faith. Long Live Fatah!" [PA TV (Fatah), Jan. 9, 2012]

Music video by Hamas

"Bless Hamas' men, guardians of Palestine...

Killing the occupiers is worship that Allah made into law.

Killing Jews is worship that draws us close to Allah

Arise, oh determined men.

The color of [the Martyr's] blood protects the land.

Oh masked one wearing a keffiyeh (ka-fee-ah) (Arab head scarf), terrifying the Jews...

call out in Zionism's face: 'Muhammad's army has begun to return.'"

(<http://www.palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=485>)

THE SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE FOR THE LAND

SATAN DOES NOT WANT ISRAEL TO POSSESS THE LAND!!

Why not?

A SIMPLE OVERVIEW OF THE BASIC FACTS!

- *Israel must be in the land before the Second Coming of Christ*
- *Christ will then return to destroy Satan and overthrow his rule of planet Earth*
- *Christ will then rule the Earth on behalf of Israel as their King*
- *If Satan can keep Israel from the land he can try to stop the entire process*

A. SATAN PRESENTLY CONTROLS PLANET EARTH

1. MAN WAS GIVEN PLANET EARTH to rule under God

- **Gen 1: 27, 28** – "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.""
- **Heb 2: 7, 8** – "*You have made him for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And have appointed him over the works of Your hands; ⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*" For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him."

2. SATAN HAS RULED EARTH SINCE the fall of man

- **I John 5: 19** – "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of the evil one.*"
- **Eph 2: 1, 2** – "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."

3. SATAN'S OBJECTIVE IS TO keep the earth as his own dominion

Jesus Christ is the only One who can and will take it from him!

B. CHRIST WILL DEFEAT SATAN AND RULE THE EARTH

1. CHRIST WILL rule the earth

- **Dan 7: 13, 14** – "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. ¹⁴ "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."

2. CHRIST WILL conquer and rule the earth by force

- **Psalm 2: 9** – "You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.""
- **Psalm 110: 5, 6** – "The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. ⁶ He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth."
- **Rev 12: 5** – "And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne."

3. CHRIST WILL take the world from Satan

- **Rev 19: 11-21**
- **Rev 20: 1-4**

4. CHRIST WILL RULE on behalf of Israel

- **Dan 7: 27** – "Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him."

C. CHRIST'S RETURN IS DEPENDENT ON ISRAEL'S SALVATION

1. CHRIST WILL NOT RETURN until Israel repents

a) OF THEIR individual SINS

- **Acts 3: 19-21** – "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time."

b) OF THEIR corporate SINS

- **Hosea 5: 15** – "I (God) will go away and return to My place (Heaven) until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me"
- **John 1: 11** – "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."

- **Acts 3: 13, 14** – "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and *disowned* in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴ But you *disowned* the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you"

2. ISRAEL MUST CALL upon Jesus, their Messiah, to save them

- **Hosea 5: 15** – "I will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me"
- **Hosea 6: 1-3** – "Come, let us return to the LORD (The Messiah). For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. ² He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him. ³ So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth."

D. GOD WILL SAVE ISRAEL WHEN IN THEIR LAND

- **Ezek 37: 11-14** – "Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and *I will bring you into the land of Israel.* ¹³ ***Then you will know that I am the LORD,*** when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. ¹⁴ I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD."

THE LOGIC IN A NUTSHELL!

- *The Jews must first be in the land before they can be saved*
- *And if the Jews are not back in their land, then how can they call upon Christ?*
- *And if they do NOT call upon Christ He will not come!*
- *And if Christ does not come then planet Earth will remain in the hands of Satan!*

THE RESTORATION OF THE JEWS TO THEIR LAND IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PLANS OF GOD!

How should we respond to the present situation?

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

A. TRUST GOD FOR THE OUTCOME

“I believe we’d be fooling ourselves if we believed that we can overturn and change what I perceive to be a Goliath of theology in the church. The Goliath we face is the Goliath of replacement theology, the Goliath of Christian Palestinianism that taunts Israel, that goads Israel, that accuses Israel, that condemns Israel and those Christians who stand with Israel.”

(**Paul Wilkinson**; <http://www.timesofisrael.com/at-interfaith-meet-in-jerusalem-a-grim-picture-of-jewish-protestant-relations/>)

B. BE AWARE OF THE STRUGGLE WITHIN THE CHURCH

THE MAJOR POSITIONS:

1. Christian Zionism

Christian Zionism can be defined as Christian support for the Zionist cause — the return of the Jewish people to its biblical homeland in Israel. Christian Zionists interpret both the Torah and the New Testament as prophetic texts that describe future events of how the world will one day end with the return of Jesus from Heaven to rule on Earth. Israel and its people are central to God’s purposes.

- **Support for the right of the Jewish people to the land**
- **Support for the return of the Jewish people to their land**
- **Support for the State of Israel**
- **Belief in the eternal, covenantal commitment of God to His people Israel**

PART FOUR

2. CHRISTIAN PALESTINIANISM

a) *IMPORTANT FIGURES IN THE MOVEMENT:*

- *NAIM ATEEK*
- *STEPHEN SIZER*
- *OTHERS: Gary Burge, Lynne Hybels, John Ortberg, Tony Campolo, Brian McLaren, Jimmy Carter*

b) *IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE MOVEMENT*

- *SABEEL – The Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center (Jerusalem)*
- *CHRIST AT THE CHECKPOINT*
- *BDS MOVEMENT – Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions*

C. SEE THE DANGER OF CHRISTIAN PALESTINIANISM

1. A REJECTION OF THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

a) *REJECTION OF A literal interpretation of the Bible*

Stephen Sizer... “When we talk about Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures, we are not talking about a racial identification ... Israel as a racial identification, as a national people, was never how the Old Testament understood God’s people”

(<http://www.raptureready.com/soap/wilkinson2.pdf>)

b) *ADVOCATES OF replacement theology*

Andrew Robinson – Pastor of Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church, UK – (church of Paul Wilkinson)

“For many years we have been concerned about the growing opposition within the Evangelical Church towards the modern State of Israel. This opposition is rooted in an interpretation of the Bible which views the Church as having replaced (or ‘fulfilled’) Israel in God’s prophetic purposes. In recent years this theology of replacement has become increasingly politicized, and enjoys wide-ranging support among Church leaders, denominations, charities, and associated mission and humanitarian groups. Of particular concern has been the speed with which alliances have been forged with secular, political and non-Christian religious groups in what can only be described as a mounting anti-Israel crusade.” (Andrew Robinson, *Prophets Who Prophecy Lies In My Name*, <http://www.raptureready.com/soap/wilkinson.pdf>)

Brian McLaren

“the need to confront the terrible, deadly, distorted, yet popular theologies associated with Christian Zionism and deterministic dispensationalism,” which “use a bogus end-of-the-world scenario to create a kind of death-wish for World War III, which—unless it is confronted more robustly by the rest of us—could too easily create a self-fulfilling prophecy”

(<http://www.thebereancall.org/content/chrislam-christian-palestinianism-0>)

c) THE RESULTING ‘islamization’ of the Scriptures

Riah Abu el-Assal, the Anglican bishop of Jerusalem, , claimed of Palestinian Christians:

“We are the true Israel...” (Melanie Phillips, *Londonistan*, New York: Encounter Books, 2006,pg 152)

Jack Sara, President of Bethlehem Bible College, revised Ezekiel 37:

“The hand of the Lord was on me and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of the West Bank – Bethlehem, Qalqilya and Jenin and Salvit and Nablus and Ramallah – it was full of bones ... He asked me, ‘Son of Man, can these bones live? Can the Palestinian people live?’ Then He said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, “Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord”’ ... You see, the Palestinian people were, and a lot are still like this valley of dry bones that is in need of the Church to come and prophesy life on them, and I think through the Christ at the Checkpoint conference there was a lot of prophesying life over the Palestinian people. Will you agree with me?” [applause]

(<http://www.raptureready.com/soap/wilkinson2.pdf>)

2. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GOSPEL

A SOCIAL GOSPEL FOUNDED ON liberation theology

“People quote from Genesis that G-d has given the land to the Jewish people. So the land is given by God so they have a divine right to the land and the Palestinians have no rights. They need to go. It is the wrong way of interpreting scripture. Palestinian liberation theology comes to really help people understand that the message of the Bible is not about a god who is a person concerned about a piece of land here or there, but a god of justice, a god of peace, a god of compassion.”

(Naim Ateek - http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=2&x_outlet=118&x_article=1711)

3. THE DE-LEGITIMIZATION OF ISRAEL

a) “GOD IS AGAINST ISRAEL AND IS ON THE SIDE OF THE PALESTINIANS”

“In the deep pain of the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, of Palestinian refugees and of Israeli Arab citizens, we witnessed the tears of God. God keeps the flame of faith alive, as the darkness of despair closes in. God lives and breathes in the lament of those whose future has been stolen. In the cries of the dispossessed we have sensed the passion of God for right to prevail. God takes sides for justice against injustice.” (Kairos, The Bethlehem Call, 2011)

"In this season of Lent, it seems to many of us that Jesus is on the cross again with thousands of crucified Palestinians around him. It only takes people of insight to see the hundreds of thousands of crosses throughout the land, Palestinian men, women, and children being crucified. Palestine has become one huge golgotha. The Israeli government crucifixion system is operating daily. Palestine has become the place of the skull."

(**Naim Ateek** (2001). "An Easter Message from Sabeel". *Sabeel*. Archived from the original on 2008-03-10. Retrieved 2008-05-17)

b) PORTRAY ISRAEL AS an apartheid state

"The Holocaust has been perpetuated over the last forty or fifty years; it's the Palestinians who are going through their Nakba ['catastrophe'] now, and one wrong doesn't right another wrong".
(**Stephen Sizer**, <http://www.raptureready.com/soap/wilkinson2.pdf>)

Declarations within THE BETHLEHEM CALL document of 2011:

"As witnessed with our own eyes, the treacherous conditions imposed by the Israeli occupation on Palestinians and their land have reached a level of almost unimaginable and sophisticated criminality. This includes the slow yet deliberate and systematic ethnic cleansing and the geo-cide of Palestinians and Palestine as well as the strangling of the Palestinian economy"

"The government and state of Israel is now regarded as an apartheid regime in terms of international law"

We "call the Israeli occupation of Palestine a crime and sin. We reject any theological or political justification for the Occupation"
(*The Church at Christ's Checkpoint*, Paul Wilkinson, 2012, pg. 11)

c) PORTRAY ISRAEL AS the sole cause of the conflict

We "reject any argument aimed at convincing Palestinians and the international community that the problems are caused by Muslims rather than the Occupation"
(*The Church at Christ's Checkpoint*, Paul Wilkinson, 2012, pg. 11)

4. THE TARGETING OF EVANGELICALS WHO SUPPORT ISRAEL

Stephen Sizer said *"There are certainly churches in Israel/Palestine that side with the occupation, that side with Zionism. One of my burdens is to challenge them theologically and show that they've repudiated Jesus, they've repudiated the Bible, and they are an abomination."*
(<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-bloggers/3113958/posts>)

a) CHRISTIANS who support Israel ARE BLAMED AND DESPISED

Mark Tooley, President of the Institute for Religion and Democracy;

"In the mind set of many Christ at the Checkpoint organizers and speakers, a Texas Baptist who believes God still blesses the Jews is more morally culpable for Mid-East conflict than a Hamas-supporting Islamist in Nasrallah who believes Allah wants to drive the Jews into the Sea."
(<http://standupforthetruth.com/2012/02/>)

“In a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams (June 2011), Naim Ateek... described Jewish and Christian Zionists as “a greater threat to us [Arab Christians] than the extremist Islamists.”” (<http://www.raptureready.com/soap/wilkinson2.pdf>)

Tony Campolo - *“The most serious threats to the well-being of the Palestinians in general, and to the Christian Palestinians in particular, come not from the Jews, but from Christian Zionists here in the United States.”*

(<http://www.thebereancall.org/content/chrislam-christian-palestinianism-0>)

b) EVANGELICALS ARE BEING TARGETED to win over

Mark Tooley -

“The Checkpoint's goal is to highlight 'injustices in the Palestinian Territories' by Israel and, more centrally, to steer U.S. Evangelicals especially away from traditional friendship for Israel towards neutrality or even hostility.”

(<http://crossmap.christianpost.com/news/christ-at-the-checkpoint-looks-to-chip-away-at-evangelical-support-for-israel-9233>)

D. BE READY WITH AN ANSWER

➤ **Isaiah 62: 1a – “For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,”**

1. KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

2. KNOW THE FACTS ON THE GROUND

3. BE PREPARED TO TAKE A STAND FOR THE TRUTH!

E. BE DEVOTED TO PRAYER

1. PRAY FOR the Jewish people and the nation of Israel

- **Psalm 122: 6** – “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.””

2. PRAY FOR the Palestinians and Arab peoples

3. PRAY FOR our churches to wake up and speak out

CONCLUSION: