

# ISRAEL – what’s next for them and us?



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*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

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**Summary:** *What’s really happening in Israel? Where did the name “Palestine” come from? What does GOD call that land in the Bible? Are terrorist attacks coming to America? Are Palestinians seeking a Two-state solution? Is Israel practicing Apartheid? What did Arafat do in 2000 when offered a Palestinian State/country? What are believers to be doing to have peace in all this? What are we told to be praying about?*

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**Israel. What’s going on?** How important is Israel to the new world ruled by Jesus Christ? Why do we hear so much about Israel? Prophecy and Christ’s return will hinge on what’s happening in Israel, not America. How much land did God give Israel? Today I want to talk about you and your part in Israel, what may happen in the coming months and years for Israel and even America, and what should be happening in OUR lives right now. I believe you will hear some things you needed to be reminded of, or that are news to you.

Most of you will hear something that will awaken our senses about the place Israel holds in God’s heart. Keep in mind a few things though:

- **The Israel of the Bible was made up of twelve tribes**, led in power often by Ephraim, one of the Joseph brothers. The twelve tribes included Judah, Ephraim and ten others. So when you read of Israel or Ephraim, you may actually be reading about America, believe it or not. More on that later.
- So when the nation we now know as “Israel” of the modern Middle East is being referred to, the Bible is likely to say “Judah.” When we read “Israel” in the books of the prophets, it could include Judah but most likely it’s referring to Ephraim, the leader of the northern ten tribes. **I believe Ephraim refers to America.** Any verses about Ephraim definitely are not about Israel of the Middle East. I believe much of what we see happening in Israel “over there” will also happen here in America. Terrorists are already here, just waiting.

**Hello everyone, I’m Philip Shields, founder and host of Light on the Rock.**

Thanks for coming. Be sure to let others know about us and our website. Our goal is a closer walk with God, closer relationship to our Father and to our Savior the Light of the world and our Rock – with all our heart, soul and mind. And we focus also on loving one another – the two great commandments – especially now as we’re closer to these last days.

This teaching today will be a good review for everyone and you could all also hear some new things for you too.

We’ll review what’s happened, why is the land over there called “Palestine,” what did the Bible call it, will a “TWO-STATE Solution” ever be plausible, and more. Let’s obey this command:

**Psalms 122:6-7**

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:** "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."

There are prophecies about God breaking the pride of our power (**Leviticus 26:19**). Ever since we pulled out of Afghanistan in 2021 the way we did, I believe that has started and I said so in a sermon given Aug 26, 2021.

I hope you’ve all seen my **blog “Is Hamas mentioned in the Bible?”** It really is mentioned by name, in Hebrew. Your Bible connects it solidly to Edom (Esau) who was the twin of Jacob, who was later renamed Israel.

**I believe Palestinians are largely descended from Edom (Esau) – the Edomites – of the Bible. It does not end well for Edom in the Bible. Look at the book of Obadiah verse 10, as it shows** how God views their attack against innocents. It is there – in verse 10 – where God condemns them for violence against their brother Jacob (Israel). The Hebrew word for violence is “Hamas.” Coincidence? Hardly. Read the blog for more.

Some are urging Israel not to go too overboard, but to keep it “proportional.” I find that amazing. If Israel kept it proportional, they would be doing “an eye for eye” justice. They’d be burning Hamas children alive, raping their women, dragging some over the streets, killing old and young alike, and taking two hundred of them hostage under terrible conditions. But NONE of that is happening. Israel drops thousands of leaflets warning when an area is about to be struck as they target Hamas command and control structures and buildings.

**Where does the name “Palestine” come from?**

- **Bible names for the land:** The Bible in the Old or New Testament never calls it Palestine. Never. In the Old Testament it is “Eretz Yisrael” – **“Land of Israel.”** *The Bible nowhere calls it the Promised Land. Only in Zech 2:12 is it called “the Holy Land.”* Surprised? Before that, it was the “land of Canaan.” In the New Testament, the land is called **Judea**.
- **In 132-135 AD the Jews revolted against Roman** occupation (as they had done in 69-70 AD) in the **Bar Kokhba revolt**. It ended badly for Jews. Many were crucified or sold into slavery and banished from their land and scattered all over the Mid-East and Europe.
- **Rome wanted everyone to forget there ever was an Israel and to erase their name** from existence forever. So they changed the **name of Judaea to “Syria Palestine.”** So the area began to be referred to as Palestina or Palestine.

What or WHO was “Palestine” referring to? The Philistines. There’s some debate over that, but most scholars feel it points back to the Philistines. So the Romans were calling the Land of Palestine - meaning the Land of the Philistines, which was also a slap to God’s face. Goliath, for example, was a well-known Philistine. God called **HIS land, the “land of Israel”** more than thirty times. Examples? Even in **Matthew 2:20-21**, God tells Joseph and Mary to return to the land of Israel. In Ezek 37:12 – valley of Dry bones – this happens in the land of Israel. Ezek 38:18-19 – the massive Gog and Magog attack is against “the land of Israel.”

- I’m not saying modern “Palestinians” are descended from the Philistines; just that the NAME is associated with them. So when we say, “the Land of Palestine,” we are saying it’s “the Land of the Philistines.” That’s a slap to God’s face! **Say “Land of Israel” instead please!** Gaza, where the Philistines lived, became the center for much of the aggression against ancient Israel over the years, as it is today.
- Also remember, there has never been in the past few hundred years certainly, **any country ever being officially “the country or nation of Palestine.”** Such a nation has never existed. There were times there was some connection to Jordan or Egypt, but no separate country of Palestine.

#### **GAZA – GIVEN LAND FOR PEACE IN 2005**

- **GAZA:** the strip of land given up by Israel by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in August 2005 was “land for peace”. Keep in mind that God considers this HIS land is not pleased with any world leaders giving up HIS land for peace or any other reason. But notice also that we have a prophecy that all nations will come against Israel, and will scatter Israel among the nations before it’s all resolved at the end. So there are some rough times coming, for sure against Judah and frankly against America.

#### **Joel 3:2 (GOD speaking)**

**“I will also gather all nations,**

And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;

And I will enter into judgment with them there

On account of My people, My heritage Israel,

**Whom they have scattered among the nations;**

**They have also divided up My land.”**

**In 2005, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon gave Palestinians the land of Gaza in exchange for peace. Gaza up til now, since 2005, has belonged to Gazans.**

**Israel was not occupying it after that.** But in 2007, people of Gaza voted Hamas to become their political leaders. Ever since then, they’ve fired thousands of rockets into Israel and have used funds given them for schools, roads, hospitals and other basic needs – for munitions and rockets instead. This was admitted on Russian TV recently by a Hamas leader. After this Gaza war, who knows if Israel will reoccupy.

So the Palestinians living in Gaza right now, do have their own land but that’s not enough for them. Up til now, Israel has NOT occupied Gaza since 2006. ALL Israelis living in Gaza were EXPELLED by Sharon. They had to walk away from their homes and land. But Hamas in Gaza keep up hostilities with Israel. In their own manifesto, they proclaim they want all the land of Israel as well and reject a Two-State solution.

*If you read all the scriptures about Israel and Judah, you will see that because of our sins against God as nations, God is starting to punish our peoples, and many of our people will be scattered around the world. But then as you read the end of Joel 3 and so many other scriptures, you see God ends up delivering our nations as HE goes to battle against those who will sell Israelis and Americans into captivity.*

Remember one of the commodities of the future Babylon, is trading in human lives. (Rev 18:13b).

### **Two-State Solutions and accusations of Apartheid**

- **PLUS, the Arabs and Palestinians do NOT seek nor will accept two co-existing countries, one called Israel alongside a country called Palestine. Everyone seems to speak of the “2-state solution”, but the Arabs and Palestinians won’t accept that. They do NOT accept Israel as having any right to exist.** Like one of their recent chants in some pro-Palestinian demonstrations: “From the River (Jordan) to the sea’ – they want Israel totally gone.

**In 2000, Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered to give the PLO their own separate state, in the Two-State offer he made, but Yasser Arafat rejected that best offer** they’ve ever had. They could not officially accept Israel’s right to exist. Arafat insisted that only the “Palestinians” could live in that land and there could be no Israel. Did you realize that?

How Palestinians see as the right solution: no more Israel at all.

- There are constant accusations that Israel is practicing ‘**APARTHEID**,” meaning “Apartness, separated, based on race or beliefs” . But that means you can’t live where you want, can’t own property, can’t work where you want, you can’t be in politics and can’t vote on the national level. **But 20% of “Israelis” living in Israel are ARAB. 20%.** Those Arabs in Israel can be a member of Knesset – their parliament – and TEN of them presently ARE. Are you surprised?

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Arab\\_members\\_of\\_the\\_Knesset](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Arab_members_of_the_Knesset)

Arab Israelis can vote. They can start businesses. They can also join and be part of the Israeli military, and many do! They can live where they want. Did you realize all that? Does that sound to you like South African apartheid?

But Palestinians won’t allow Jews to move into many of the Arab cities of the West Bank though, like Ramallah. Certain land areas they can and do – but certain *other* areas are Palestinian only and Jews aren’t allowed there. Anyway, Jews are not implementing apartheid as you think of it from South Africa’s experience. The racism frankly that I saw in the months I was there, was Palestinian hate and racism by quite a few against the Jews, not the other way around. How many Arab businesses did Carole and I shop in, in Jerusalem? LOTS.

Next page: how Palestinians see the map as they want it. No Israel at all. Huge slap to the face of the one true God who gave this land – and more – to Israel.



- One more fact you should know: As of Oct 20, **NONE of the surrounding Arab or Muslim nations is offering or eager to receive 100,000 Palestinian refugees each, or to let them be integrated and assimilated into Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Qatar or UAE -- and not have to be confined to horrible Refugee camps.** But Qatar is letting Hamas top leadership live in luxurious hotels in Qatar! Frankly, it seeming obvious to me that the Arab nations talk a big talk about Palestinian rights – but they don’t lift a finger to invite them to assimilate into their countries. *They don’t want Palestinians in their countries. Does anyone even like them?*

EGYPT – as of this date Oct 19, 2023—is still reluctant to even let **humanitarian aid go into Gaza with Israel’s approval** as long as Hamas doesn’t grab it all. Hamas DID grab the UN supplies of water, medical supplies and gas they had on hand in Gaza recently though. Did you know that? *And Israel has offered humanitarian aid into Gaza if Hamas would start releasing the two hundred*

*babies, children, civilians and old people and women they hold as human shield hostages.*

**Israel’s (Judah’s) IMPORTANCE in prophecy**

How important is Israel in terms of you and me and the Bible and end times:

- Yeshua (Jesus) warned us that it is when we see “the abomination that causes desolation standing in the holy place” [presumably an end-time temple] then let those in Judea flee...” (Matthew 24:15). On your own, look up **Daniel 11:31 and 12:11**. The Time Clock for the return of Christ will be centered on Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem is where the man of sin, the Anti-Christ, will set up his rule in the temple of God and call himself God.

**2 Thess 2:3-4**

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and **exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God**, showing himself that he is God.”

- Jerusalem is where our King and Lord of our lives comes back to – to land with us on the Mount of Olives and then to rule on the earth. BEFORE He intervenes though, we’re told that Jerusalem is almost totally destroyed. NOTE THIS. So many are preaching that Israel will always be victorious because God will fight for Israel/Judah – and He does at the end, but before then, God allows a lot of suffering and destruction to wake his people up!

Jerusalem will be the world capital on this earth.

**Zechariah 14:1-4 NIV**

“A day of the Lord is coming when your plunder will be divided among you.

**2 I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.**

**3 THEN the LORD will go out and fight against those nations**, as he fights in the day of battle. **4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.” V. 9 says The LORD will be king over all the EARTH.

- All the nations that remain shall be required to come to Jerusalem to worship God at the Feast of tabernacles or receive no rain. There obviously are nations that remain on the earth after Christ’s return, unlike the Seventh Day Adventist teaching. Zech 14:16-18;

**Micah 4:1-3**

Many nations shall flock to Jerusalem it says, to learn God’s word for them.

- **Daniel 2:35** says the STONE from God, cut without human hands, strikes the great idol/image of the various kingdoms and smashes them. Then the stone grows until it fills the whole EARTH.

**In fact, the whole Bible focuses on God first restoring Israel and Judah - -and then the Gentiles, when the Anointed one returns.** The whole Bible is focused on God as Supreme Ruler and Savior – that’s for sure – but it’s also focused on what God is doing to and through Israel.

- **Realize that even the son of God -- Jesus -- was a JEW.** The twelve apostles were all likely JEWS. The early believers were all JEWISH or Jewish converts.
- *In the New Covenant, even JEWS have to pledge their allegiance to their own Yeshua – and be RE-GRAFTED BACK into their own tree!* Let me say it another way: in the New Covenant, even Jews by birth are not true Jews, not spiritual Jews, until they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord, Master, Savior and King.

**Study Romans 11 especially in several translations to make Paul’s language a bit easier to understand.**

Jewish “branches” were cut off to make room for the Gentile branches from a wild olive tree to be grafted into the Olive tree of Judah. Then Paul explains but even Jews who were cut off, could be re-grafted back in to their own tree – Israel/Judah. But they have to come to believe in Christ.

**Romans 9:6-9**

“But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. **For they are NOT all Israel who are of Israel**, 7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” 8 **That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.”**

**Romans 11:23-24**

“And they [Jews] also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will **these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?**”

- Even Heavenly Jerusalem has twelve total gates, three on each side – and they’re all named after the tribes of Israel. We come into the heavenly Jerusalem through Christ – who grafts us in to the tribes of Israel! But to get into heavenly Jerusalem itself, you will have to enter through a tribe of Israel.

So if you have any antisemitism going on, get over it. It won’t bode well for you to hang on to it.

**NOW, REVIEWING RECENT HORRIFIC NEWS of Oct 7 attack**

**You’re all aware of the Oct 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas** in the early morning hours on the special sabbath, the eighth day holyday of God against Israel’s civilians. The worst day of slaughter against the Jewish people in one day since the 1930’s. Sure, they also surprise

attacked an Army base or two of Israel soldiers, and now we know over 1,400 Israelis – mostly civilians – are now dead. This is the largest slaughter of totally innocent civilians who were either asleep or celebrating a party or dance about “PEACE” of all things, but on the eighth day, the Holy Day after the Feast of Tabernacles.

**Hundreds in the party were slaughtered. Over 1,400 slaughtered in one day. This includes entire families burned alive in their homes, 9 month old babies decapitated, women dragged off and raped and some even dragged from behind cars or pickup trucks on the streets of Gaza. Old people in wheelchairs were not spared. Children were not spared BUT some were beheaded, some were burned alive. We know 203 were taken captive as hostages from Israel and forty other nations.**

We also know that among the 1,400 slaughtered were a few Arab Israelis. You see 20% of inhabitants of Israel are Arab. More on that later.

**Some have called Hamas’ barbarism and savagery being like animals.** I disagree. Animals can be very violent and bloody – but I’ve never ever heard of animals all savagely beating, killing, shooting, raping, burning and systematically beheading 1,400 Israelis all in one day or even over a month! Have you? This is very unfair to the animals to put them in the same category as Hamas.

**We’re not in a war between two nations. We’re in a war between good and evil, between civilization and total barbarism.**

**Please understand there is no “equivalency” going on here.** Only ONE side targeted civilian Kibbutzim and villages. Only one side burned alive entire families with their babies and children in their safe room. Only one side dragged women in the streets of Gaza and raped them and beat them. Only one side cut off the heads of about 30-40 Israeli babies right in their homes.

Anyone protesting to side with the murderous Hamas should be ashamed. They’re siding with ABSOLUTE terror. It would be like demonstrating for the Nazis after discovering the death camps of Auschwitz, Dachau, Bergen-Belsen and Treblinka and many more. I’ve seen such a horror camp! And now Israel has to eradicate Hamas. There will many more deaths among the Israelis and Hamas and civilians on both sides. That’s the nature of war.

**Israel was falsely accused of bombing a hospital in mid-October 2023.** NOT TRUE and they have lots of evidence including **phone conversations** between Hamas members admitting it was the failed attempt by a sub-group **Islamic Jihad** to fire a powerful rocket probably at Tel Aviv. It backfired and fell down to the compound behind the hospital. Dozens were killed (maybe up to two hundred or so). And it was their OWN ROCKET that did it. Confirmed by even the film by Al Jazeera that I saw. Confirmed by US Intelligence and satellites.

Israel always warns civilians areas when it’s about to bomb as they try to eradicate Hamas. ***Striking a hospital would be the last thing Israel would do as they try to show the world they are in fact being very careful about civilians.*** But what did the world media do? What did MSNBC and CNN immediately say? They took the news AS IS from Gaza Ministry of Health as is – that up to five hundred were killed by a rocket attack from Israel.



**FOLKS, the Ministry of Health in Gaza IS Hamas. We can't trust them or believe them. Their death toll reporting is designed to garner sympathy** – but probably not anywhere near true. But surely some innocents are being killed in Gaza *because* Hamas uses their own children as human shields. So they hide their missiles in grade schools and hospitals, knowing Israel would probably not strike those targets.

*ALL the death – on both sides – is now caused by what HAMAS did, on Oct 7.*

**Because the hospital bombing – by Islamic Jihad’s errant rocket – we now know they can have other errant rockets.** Perhaps, imagine this: , they could end up bombing the Temple Mount and hit Dome of the Rock or Al Aqsa mosque. Imagine the uproar if that happens. Or they could assassinate **Prime Minister Netanyahu.** That could change things a lot. His name, by the way, is curious to me: Benjamin = “Son of my right hand;” and Netanyahu = God’s gift to man. Let’s see if his name becomes meaningful.

***SO it’s a cauldron of fire over there. Please understand. If Israel gave up all their weapons – within 1-3 weeks it would cease to exist. However, if the Muslim world and Palestinians gave up all their weapons, there would be PEACE between them and Israel. That’s the difference.***

**Golda Meir served as prime minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974. She said that the Israelis have a secret weapon. “We have no alternative.” \*\* They’d have no place they could go. Syrians could return to Syria, Egypt back to Egypt. But Israel would have nowhere to go.**

**She** also said, There will be peace in the Middle East between Jews and Arabs when the Arab mothers love their own babies more than they hate ours.”

I wonder how many of the hostages are alive still. We know the women are being raped. Blood was seen running down one poor woman’s legs after such a horribly violent ordeal.

### **ALL THIS and more IS COMING TO AMERICA VERY SOON**

**Why am I addressing this?** Because much of this is in your Bibles - how **God is going to do two things with the nation called Israel – which really is ancient JUDAH. The other is AMERICA – which was ancient Ephraim, leader of the northern ten tribes and mentioned often also in scripture.**

2 THINGS: He is spanking us for our disobedience and sins and to wake us up.

And, second thing: when enough of us repent of our sins, God will *then* fight for us. But there will be a lot of suffering first, in Israel, America and Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand – the countries that make up the tribe of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh).

**Ephraim and Manasseh were the two sons of Joseph. I’ve believed for many years that AMERICA is Ephraim, not Manasseh.** Ephraim was the younger brother, just like USA is the younger of UK and USA. Ephraim was destined to be much greater – and USA has been far greater than Britain for the past 70 years. Ephraim was a “company of nations” – and that is exactly what “State” or “states” means, United Countries, United STATES of America. Anyway, that’s how I see it.

**And scripture is clear: that what we see happening in Israel is definitely coming to America soon. Real soon.** Our open southern borders have allowed 8 million unidentified foreigners to pour across, and **we KNOW 18,000 of them are from China** in 2023 alone, plus thousands from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, Syria, Yemen, and no doubt hundreds of the “got aways” will be from Hamas, Hezbollah and the Taliban.

In the first ten days of October alone, we have apprehended thousands from Middle Eastern countries. Thousands.

““Since the first of October, Border Patrol agents have apprehended individuals from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Yemen,” as Senator Daines said in a media call following his visit. “This is just in the last 10 days.”

Remember Iran calls America **the “the Great Satan”** and they call Israel **“the little Satan.”** We’re in their cross hairs – and God is going to ALLOW a lot of punishment on Israel in the Middle East and on America, her brother who was also a part of the so-called lost ten tribes.

**The UN – watch – will strongly come out against Israel (Judah),** especially now that a hospital has been hit. Israel has cut off all water, gasoline, power – until Hamas releases the hostages.

**Even as Israel strikes back to destroy Hamas buildings,** war factories and rocket launching sites – Hamas keeps firing thousands of rockets against Israel each week. Thank God Israel has the Iron Dome but when that many come all at once, even Iron Dome is overwhelmed. Iron Dome fires rockets to destroy incoming rockets. It’s much like firing a bullet to shoot down a bullet. Hezbollah – far stronger than Hamas – has started to get engaged up north.

Have you heard of “David’s sling”? That’s another anti-rocket rocket geared for the long range missiles. They’re also successfully shooting down Hamas rockets with the new LASER technology.

Imagine our reaction in USA if even just a handful of rockets were fired against the USA from Mexico or Cuba. We would definitely strike back!

### **Where and HOW did this ancient hatred get started?**

- You know Abraham had Isaac, and then Isaac /Rebekah had twins – ESAU (EDOM) and Jacob. **I highly recommend you all re-read Genesis 25 to 35.**
- God prophesied the younger (Jacob) would be pre-eminent. (Gen 25:19-27)
- Esau despised his birthright and sold it for a bowl of lentil stew. (Genesis 25:34; Hebrews 12:16-17). You and I also have a birthright from God, to be among his first fruits – and are we right now possibly despising that high calling also? A good topic for sermonette men “Don’t sell out your birthright for a cheap bowl of lentil stew.”
- SO Jacob got the birthright and also took the firstborn blessing – which once spoken, could not be rescinded. **Read Genesis 27.**

- Jacob later was renamed by the Angel of the LORD (the one we know as Jesus) as Israel – Prince with God, one who Prevailed with God. (Genesis 32). So ISRAEL is the ancient JACOB. EDOM/Esau makes up a lot of the Palestinians today and many other Arabs.
- From that time forward, Esau – also known as Edom or the Edomites – has taught their children they were robbed and their descendants have fought Israel ever since.
- A grandson of Esau from a concubine – was AMALEK, particularly disliked by God and so He told Moses to be sure all Amalek should be eradicated. They notoriously killed stragglers, old and infirm of Israel as they headed to the promised land.
- GOD promised the land to Israel – not to Edom. Actually God took it from the Canaanites, who had become so evil that God wanted them also to be pushed out or eradicated. But read Judges 1:27-36 – and you’ll see that Israel failed to do that.

**WHAT were The ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES intended By God to Abraham’s descendants?**

**Genesis 15:18-21**

“On the same day, the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying:

**"To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates — 19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."**

In today’s maps, that would include **today all of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, part of Iraq** and possibly even part of Saudi Arabia.

Not convinced? OK, here are a couple more:

**Deuteronomy 1:5-8**

5 On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying, 6 "The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: 'You have dwelt long enough at this mountain. 7 Turn and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, in the mountains and in the lowland, **in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates.** 8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers — to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — to give to them and their descendants after them.'

GOD is the one who sets the boundaries. See also Deut. 11:22-25 for more on this.

**God – through the Angel of the LORD (Jesus) – was displeased they did not complete the job. Not even Joshua did.**

**Judges 2:1-4**

**"Then the Angel of the LORG came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: 'I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you.**

2 And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' **But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?**

3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'"

4 So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept."

So the Promised Land, the Holy Land – became known as Israel, way back in the days of Joshua, about the 13<sup>th</sup> Century BC. Israel took over the land, the cities, the houses of the Canaanites. These were not Edomites so much back then as they were Canaanites, Hittites and so on.

That land was highly contested over the centuries, and various kingdoms ruled over that land for thousands of years.

Most recently – when the Turkish Ottoman empire collapsed in World War 1, the land came under **BRITISH CONTROL**.

**BALFOUR DECLARATION OF Nov 2, 1917** – established a future homeland for Israel, which had gone about 1,800 years without a homeland, without a country.

**Israel became an official country in MAY 1948**, surrounded by so many hostile Arab nations, more than fifty times their size. Israel now was a legitimate country, reclaiming a tiny part of the land God had said to Abram could be theirs someday. The only land they are occupying is their own land from God since the days of Joshua.

**This also sparked the 1948 war** between Israel vs Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and even a contingent from Saudi Arabia. They were defeated and Israel increased its land.

**Then the Yom Kippur war of 1967** – called "The Six Day war", against **Egypt, Jordan and Syria**. Israel won through war the West Bank, Golan Heights from Syria, and Gaza.

Then the **October 1973 War** – a stronger performance from the Egyptians and Syrians that time.

Former Prime Minister Golda Meir -famously said something like "We will have peace in the Middle East once Arab mothers love their own sons more than they hate our sons."

And we ourselves can have perfect peace even as we watch all these things going on. Instead of letting all of this leave you troubled and unable to sleep, go to God and receive his PEACE when we present ourselves to him.

**Isaiah 26:1-4**

In that day, this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

"We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks.

2 Open the gates, That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in.

**3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.**

**4 Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength".**

**2 Thessalonians 3:16**

“Now may the Lord of peace Himself **GIVE** YOU **PEACE**, **ALWAYS** IN **EVERY** WAY. The Lord be with you all.”

Before it’s all settled, some very tough times will be coming to Ephraim – The USA/UK – and to Judah (Israel in mid-east).

**Zechariah 14:1-5 NIV**

“The day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you.

**2 I will gather ALL the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile (captivity),** but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

**THEN the LORD will go out and fight against those nations,** as he fights in the day of battle. On that day, **his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.”

**A great end-time battle is also coming from Gog and Magog – Ezek 38-39.**

**Psalms 83** is possible too. Read it carefully and how they want to wipe out the name of Israel from living memory \*(verse 4). I recommend you study Psalm 83 and I’ll go through it sometime in the future.

**And we, the Spiritual Israel of God - we need to be forming the strongest bond we’ve ever had with our God.** More time than we spend at the gym getting stronger. We must drop much of the time we spend on social media, X, Facebook – and spend more time with God in prayer and study. Seek **FIRST** the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

**Luke 21:29-36**

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: **"Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.** 31 **So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.** 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

**34 "But take heed to yourselves,** lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it **will come as a snare** on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."**

There’s more on the audio.

**Revelation 12:13-17**

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the **wilderness to her place**, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.

16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

**17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”**

**Revelation 3:10-12**

**“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

**11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”**

**Daniel 12:1**

**"At that time Michael shall stand up,  
The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;  
And there shall be a time of trouble,  
Such as never was since there was a nation,  
Even to that time.  
And at that time your people shall be delivered,  
Every one who is found written in the book.”**

BE on the right side of history. *The harshest time of worldwide trouble is on the way. That can include us if we're not part of the group God intends to provide safety to. But definitely others will be terribly persecuted, and God will allow it, to refine us as gold and silver are refined in a hot fire. But in the end, at the seventh trump, we will be resurrected or immediately changed to spirit. And terrible troubles are coming to Israel and America before God intervenes. But He will! Thank God.*

**CLOSING PRAYER**