

The Question of Israel's borders. By Dr. William Mark Bristow

The other day I sat watching our President address the nation prior to Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit. I gasp in horror as President Obama all but demanded that Israel return to the pre-1967 borders. I couldn't watch any more, but began to pray.

I want be absolutely certain in our understanding of three things that are of utmost importance from the Word of God.

1) Israel -the Jewish people must come to salvation through the Messiah, Jesus – Yeshua. I do not believe the Word of God teaches any sort of “dual covenant” where Israel may be saved by some other means. The Apostle Peter makes this most clear in his address to the Saducees and Pharisees, Acts 4:10 – 12, **“¹⁰ Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”**

2) The Word is clear – though Israel as a whole rejected their Messiah and through that rejection Salvation came to all the Gentile nations – God has promised that as we approach the end-times more and more Jewish people will accept Jesus as their Messiah. Zech 12:10, ¹⁰ “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.” Romans 11:1, ¹ “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.” Romans 11:11-12, ¹¹ “I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. ¹² Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?”

3) Israel has a Covenant promise from God about a piece of Property. Gen 15:18-21, ¹⁸ “In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: ¹⁹ The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, ²⁰ And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, ²¹ And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

By supporting Israel on Biblical grounds, certainly I and other Believers do not condone every single act of the Israeli people or their government. Sometimes Israel has gone quite contrary to God's Law. In fact today, many in Israel considering themselves of Jewish descent are atheists or agnostic. Most Orthodox Jews see no need for a "Savior" Messiah. I've had the privilege of

talking at length with a Scholar of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Still today, the Orthodox Jew understands the concept of a "King" Messiah who is yet to come -- but not the first advent of the suffering Savior who died for our sins. Supporting Israel is something like believing God for your wayward child. You have promises from the Word regarding the "seed of the righteous" but at the moment that child is far from God in rebellion and sin. Yet, you BELIEVE the promise, you PLEAD the promise, you CONFESS, the promise, you ACT on the promise. You pray for that child. You refuse to let any harm come to that child because you know what God has promised. You sometimes help them out of disastrous messes they have gotten themselves into -- all because of the great PROMISE.

The Word of God shows in ancient times as Israel obeyed God they dwelt safely in the land and prospered. When they disobeyed the Lord Almighty and followed after other Gods they were expelled from the Land. (Deuteronomy Chapter 28)

Three major exiles of Israel from the land are recorded in Scripture.

- 1) The northern tribes invaded and taken captive by the Assyrian (c 734 – 721 BCE)
- 2) Judah and the remainder taken captive into Babylon (c 604 – 586 BCE)
- 3) The Diaspora after Roman destruction of Jerusalem – 70 CE – 1948

It is of the last and outstanding exile that Ezekiel speaks in Chapters 37-39 in the prophecy of the valley of dry bones. Israel since the destruction of Jerusalem has been these torn apart bodies – scattered dry bones burned in the nations of World. Ezekiel prophesies to those bones to come together from where they are scattered, then he prophesies flesh to come upon the bones, then life. May 14, 1948 leaders of the new nation of Jewish people, now named, ISRAEL, signed the document of the Constitution of Statehood. Since that time the “bones” have been pouring into Israel from all over the world ... a movement which continues today.

If you study a little history you will find Roman conquest of Palestine/Israel beginning in 70 AD, then Arab Islamic conquest with the building of the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount in 636 – 1039, then Christian Crusader conquest from 1099 – 1291, the Mamluk conquest 1291-1516, and finally the Turkish Ottoman Empire rule 1516-1918. It should be thoroughly understood that the Turks saw the land as raw materials and cut down absolutely every single solitary tree and took the wood back to what is now Turkey for building materials.

Mark Twain visited the Holy Land in 1867 and described the result of the Ottoman desolation in his work, *Innocents Abroad*, “..... A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse.... a desolation.... we never saw a human being on the whole route.... hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.”

It should also be noted that the Ottoman or Turkish people DO NOT consider themselves Arab – and though a few words in Turkish and Arabic are the same, the languages themselves are vastly different. One cannot understand the other. Of the 400,000 or so scattered about the land in

1918, most were virtual slave – ruled by the Ottoman Empire and were of various races – some certain Arab. Arthur Balfour declared in 1917, “9 out of ten living here are non-Jewish.” (There are roughly 7.6 million living in Israel today 75% are Jewish, 20% are Arab and the remainder are unregistered according to the Jerusalem Post 12/29/2010.)

The British – (at that time, the greatest nation on the earth) were given charge of Palestine – this new “baby” of Zion. Many favored Zionism (the return of the Jews to Israel after WWI persecutions).

Here is a copy of "The Balfour Declaration," written from Arthur Balfour to Lord Rothschild:

"Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet:

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country".

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely
Arthur James Balfour"

"The “Mandate for Palestine,” an historical League of Nations document, laid down the Jewish legal right to settle anywhere in western Palestine, a 10,000-square-miles³ area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

The legally binding document was conferred on April 24, 1920 at the San Remo Conference, and its terms outlined in the Treaty of Sèvres on August 10, 1920. The Mandate's terms were finalized and unanimously approved on July 24, 1922, by the Council of the League of Nations, which was comprised at that time of 51 countries,⁴ and became operational on September 29, 1923.⁵"

(http://www.mythsandfacts.com/conflict/mandate_for_palestine/mandate_for_palestine.htm)

The British – rewrote the Balfour Accord in favor of the Arabs. Partly because of Arab violence, partly because of the growing need in the British empire for fuel for industry – and the Arabs had the majority of the fuel. The British gave over 75% of the land allocated for Palestine to the Arabs (Jordan is the prime example). At the same time, the British severely limited the number

of Jewish immigrants to the land.

Winston Churchill redefined the Balfour Declaration in his 1922 White Paper:

"The main provisions of this [white paper](#) are summarized by these quotations from it:

- "The tension which has prevailed from time to time in Palestine is mainly due to apprehensions, which are entertained both by sections of the [Arab](#) and by sections of the Jewish population. These apprehensions, so far as the Arabs are concerned are partly based upon exaggerated interpretations of the meaning of the [Balfour] Declaration favouring the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine, made on behalf of [His Majesty's Government](#) on 2 November 1917."
- "Unauthorized statements have been made to the effect that the purpose in view is to create a wholly Jewish Palestine. Phrases have been used such as that Palestine is to become "as Jewish as [England](#) is English." His Majesty's Government regard any such expectation as impracticable and have no such aim in view. They would draw attention to the fact that the terms of the Declaration referred to do not contemplate that Palestine as a whole should be converted into a Jewish National Home, but that such a Home should be founded "in Palestine." In this connection it has been observed with satisfaction that at a meeting of the [Zionist Congress](#), the supreme governing body of the [Zionist Organization](#), held at [Carlsbad](#) in September, 1921, a resolution was passed expressing as the official statement of Zionist aims "the determination of the Jewish people to live with the Arab people on terms of unity and mutual respect, and together with them to make the common home into a flourishing community, the upbuilding of which may assure to each of its peoples an undisturbed national development". "

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Churchill_White_Paper,_1922)

Even during the horrors of the holocaust, Britain persevered, turning back immigrants, even sending many back to Auschwitz, and other death camps. Of course, the infamy of the Exodus and the plight of its beleaguered refugees finally came to the attention of the World.

Backed by President Harry S. Truman who stated, "I had faith in Israel before it was established, I have faith in it now." (Granting [de facto recognition](#) to the new Jewish State—11 minutes after [Israel's proclamation of independence](#)) **The newly formed United Nations granted statedhood to the people of Israel. (A miraculous happening to be sure.)**

Now to the point of the borders.

Israel has undergone 7 major wars (to date since 1948) and a number of undeclared "skirmishes." (Bold listings are considered declared wars by the Israeli Defense Force.

1948 - **Arab / Israeli War**

1956 - **Suez Crisis War**

1964 - War over Water

1967 – **Six Day War**

1968 - **War of Attrition**

1973 - **Yom Kippur War**

1978 - South Lebanon Conflict

1982 - **Lebanon War**

1987 - First Intafada

2000 - Second Intafada

2006 - **South Lebanon War**

2008 - Gaza War

In June 1967, Israel looked around to see the armies of Egypt massing to the South, Jordan aided by Iraq massing on the East border, Syria massing to the northeast. It is true that Israel attacked first in a pre-emptive strike on Egypt. Even the secular world has acknowledge the miraculous outcome of Israel's rag-tag army against the Goliaths of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. On the morning of June 10th, Israel had conquered parts of Jordan, Syria, and all of the Sinai up to the Suez Canal.

To give a very short history, In 1979 Israel gave back the Sinai Peninsula. – Still there is no peace. In 1985, Israel withdraws from most of Lebanon – and no peace. In 1993 after the Oslo Accords, Israel begins to withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank – Still there is no peace.

Enter Yasser Arafat, a terrorist by all accounts – the Osama Bin Laden of his day. The leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). Wikipedia reports consider him “a terrorist.” The website of the Nobel Peace Prize www.nobelprize.org considered him a laureate, worthy of their highest honor.

In July of 2000 at the Presidential retreat of Camp David, President Clinton, Ehud Barak, Prime Minister of Israel, and Yasser Arafat with the foundation of land for peace clearly established by his predecessor, Yitzak Rabin (who was assassinated), Barak sat across the table from Arafat and offered the PLO about half of the land of Israel. To everyone's amazement, Arafat refused, and walked away from the negotiations. One of his quotes expresses his sentiment totally, “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.”

I sat listening to the broadcast of the peace endeavor on live radio. I am still shocked that Barak offered Arafat everything he ever wanted on a silver platter and Arafat refused – except that I understand the Spirit of Anti-Christ at work in the world.

I believe the Word of God teaches that Israel as a nation is part of God's timetable – God's "clock" if you will regarding the end-times and the coming of the Lord Jesus. I believe the Nation of Israel is the Woman of Revelation Chapter 12 who gives birth to the manchild (Jesus) and the Dragon (the devil) makes war with her.

If you look clearly at the Word of God, you will find a number of strategies the enemy has used to try to stop the plan of God.

- 1) Corruption of the human race with the Nephilim (Genesis 6, Deut. 2, Num 13:13) so that a Savior could not be born.
- 2) Destruction of Israel to stop a savior being born (book of Esther)
- 3) Athaliah kills off all the royal line of David save for Joash (2 Kings 11:1)
- 4) All male babies near Bethlehem killed by Herod (Matt 2:17-18)
- 5) Storm on the sea of Galilee which Jesus rebukes (Mark 4:39)

There are many more references we could give here, but these suffice to show the devil's strategy I think. What then, after the Messiah has come. The devil knows his time is short the scriptures tell us. He knows the prophecies of the second coming. Everything involves, Israel, the Temple Mount, Jerusalem. (Ezekiel 37-39, Zechariah 10-14, Revelation, Matthew 24, 2 Thess. Chapter 2).

What then? **Destroy the nation of Israel and you will throw a monkey wrench into the machinery of God's timepiece!**

It goes back to the time of the Apostle John (1 John Chapter 4), but we can see clearly the Spirit of Anti-Christ in our time:

...the personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew.
-Adolf Hitler (*Mein Kampf*)

When in truth, it was Hitler who was that personification as history clearly shows. And we see that same spirit of the enemy in Saddam Hussein, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad – in his frequent threats that Israel be, "wiped off the map."

God's Word is a sure word. It will not – in fact – it CANNOT fail. Just as surely as the prophecies of Ezekiel 37-39 came to pass in the re-gathering of the Jewish people to Israel and the formation of that nation in 1948 – just as sure is the continued promise of the covenant of the Lord regarding that parcel of land – and the promise of the Jewish people coming to the

Messiah as Savior!

Last March, I had the privilege of preaching in Jerusalem in a large conference. It was a thrill of a lifetime. To lead Jewish men and women to the Messiah as Savior – to pray for their sick, and watch the Lord perform miracles ... WOW! What a privilege.

My concern for our President's stand against Israel comes from Genesis 12:3. ^{“3} And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Look back at Great Britain, once the greatest nation on this earth. Now a shadow of her former glory. Her power and dominance are faint memories today. When did the reduction occur? After she brought Arabs to fill Palestine, and refused to allow Jews to return to the land God promised them. From 1947 forward Great Britain lost her imminence as a world power. More recently, our Government under President Bush, “backed the withdrawal of 9500 residents from Gush Katif and four Samaria communities. Residents were forced from their homes by Israeli troops, some dragged away kicking and screaming and placed on buses that took them from the area.” ... **One week later Hurricane Katrina made landfall!** Rabbi Joseph Garlitzky, head of the international Chabad Lubavitch movement's Tel Aviv synagogue, recounted a speech he made in his pulpit, "We don't have prophets who can tell us exactly what are God's ways, but when we see something so enormous as Katrina, I would say [President] Bush and [Secretary of State Condoleezza] Rice need to make an accounting of their actions, because something was done wrong by America in a big way. And here there are many obvious connections between the storm and the Gaza evacuation, which came right on top of each other. No one has permission to take away one inch of the land of Israel from the Jewish people." (Article on www.wnd.com World Net Daily by Aaron Klein posted September 7, 2005)

As we got off the plane in Israel in March, I was handed this statement reported from the Japanese Prime Minister and the government of Japan: “The Government of Japan does not recognize any act that prejudices the final status of the territories in the pre-1967 borders nor Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem. Japan urges Israel to refrain from any unilateral act that changes the current situation in East Jerusalem.” – that was posted by their press February 10, 2011. – **March 11, 2011 the 9.0 quake struck devastation in Japan!** (Statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan www.mofa.go.jp February 2, 2011.)

There are hundreds of examples of Genesis 12:3 – the blessing and cursing in action – we can see it over and over again. I fear for our President. I fear for our nation. My only hope is in Abraham's prayer for Lot and his family. In Moses' pray for the nation of Israel. God heard the intercessor's plea and spared the people and the nation.

2 Chronicles 7:12, ^{“12} And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. ¹³ If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence

among my people; ¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (KJV)