

The Promise Series

THE STORY OF ISRAEL FROM THE CALL OF ABRAHAM TO
MODERN DAY ISRAEL

3-DVD Set Produced by *Israel My Glory*, Hosted by Elwood McQuaid

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The Story of Israel from the Call of Abraham to Modern Day Israel

The Promise Series, Friends of Israel Video Classics

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Part 1 Rachel Weeping for Her Children

The Impressive Jewish Nation (intro)! This nation provides strong documentation of God's intention to weave into history irrefutable evidence of God's existence and power.

Begin with Scripture

Abraham was called from an idolatrous family in Mesopotamia—He was the first Hebrew!

Genesis 12:1-3 is the foundation text, and contains four "I will's"! "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed [in Christ]!"

1. I will show you a land.
2. I will make of you a great nation.
3. I will bless you and make your name great...
4. I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you...

Genesis 13-15 develops these original promises to Abraham.

15:18 Unto thy seed have I given this land

17:7-8 I will establish my covenant...for an everlasting covenant...land, and I will be their God; specifically, Abraham's seed through Isaac (21:12).

The Four "I will's" of Genesis 12 distil into distinctive stages in the history of the Jewish people (and the world). Deuteronomy 28-30 sketches some details of what Abraham and his descendants would encounter: (1) a series of debilitating dispersions from the land; (2) God will preserve His people; (3) then He will recover His people to Himself; (4) finally, God will reconcile the Jewish people to the Messiah

Psalm 137—we wept when we remembered Zion.

Three major scatterings (dispersions) have occurred to the Jewish people

1. **722 BC Assyrians** scattered Northern Tribes (27,290 taken to Assyria), Northern Israel as such ceased to exist (to this day), and the Samaritans began. Are there Lost Tribes? Not really—for example, under Hezekiah's revival (700-687 BC), the Northern Tribes were invited to participate in a Passover Feast in Jerusalem, and favorable responses were received from Asher, Manasseh, Zebulun, Ephraim, and Issachar (II Chron 30).
2. **586 BC Babylonian** captivity (during the Babylonian siege, the Ark of Covenant dropped out of sight).
Babylonian domination of Judah was followed by Medes and Persian domination.

Alexander the Great (out of which arose Seleucid “crumbling” of Greek empire) held the hegemony over them next.

Daniel’s Abomination of Desolation occurs in here when Antiochus Epiphanes, notorious Seleucid forerunner of end-times Anti-Christ, sacrificed a pig in the Temple.

3. 70 AD Roman dispersion was the third great dispersion.

Masada (a Jewish mountain stronghold near the Dead Sea, which did not fall until 74 AD) represents much to the Jewish people, and is a memorial to futility and to determination (1,300’ above Dead Sea). 960 remaining Jewish people took their lives in this fortress rather than let the Romans enslave (and probably torture) them

Caesar thought he was God; the issue was bowing to another god, not just the state—it was not empire versus empire.

Satan-God conflict is really what is going on underneath it all (symbolized by Masada). It is God’s determination and declaration that Israel will survive. Satan is determined that Israel will be wiped out. It is not just human irrational hatred of Jews that drives this persecution. Why has Jewry survived?! Because God promised their preservation, and God keeps His word! See Leviticus 26:44.

Consider some key verses:

Romans 11:26 tells us there will be survival of the Jews, that Israel will survive.

Zechariah 2:8—he that touches you touches the apple of My eye.

Jeremiah 31:35-37—the LORD will enable Jewish survival.

Jeremiah 31:15 Rachel weeps for her children—this will happen before the Jews are saved.

Demonic-driven hatred of the Jews is not over yet.

Consider a brief history of hatred and persecution of the Jews:

1730 BC Pharaoh enslaved Jews

474 BC Haman sought to put all Jews to death

175 BC Antiochus Epiphanes attempted to destroy Judaism

63 BC Romans dominated the Jews, beginning under General Pompeii, who captured Jerusalem and killed 1,100,000.

1348 The Jews were accused of poisoning wells and causing the Black Plague; 211,000 were killed at this time.

1492 Spanish Inquisition begins.

1880 Signs appeared in America saying, “We prefer not to minister to Jews.”

Pogroms, in Russia and elsewhere, proliferated, including expulsions, blood libels, and accusations of ritual cannibalism.

By the end of Hitler’s “Final Solution,” 6 million lay dead—“The Holocaust.”

Zvi testifies regarding Yad Veshem (Jewish Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem), Treblinka, the Warsaw ghetto, he could not find family after WWI, picked up by Jewish organization which brought Jewish people to Israel, running blockade when captured and taken to ?; “as a believer I can forgive, but I never can forget.”

Bible-believing Christians have stood with the Jews

It seemed the world had gone deaf to the plight of the Jews, but there is an eloquent testimony in Jerusalem called Yad Veshem, located on “the Street of the Righteous,” dedicated to Christians and Gentiles, non-Jews who didn’t forget the Jews; furthermore, do not forget that the Holocaust was not a Christian phenomenon.

A prominent Jewish American, Irvin Borowsky, President American Inter-Faith gave a significant tribute to God-fearing Christians at the International Prayer Breakfast.

Many Christians stand by the Jewish people because of these Christians’ unswerving commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture; no group is more committed to the rights of the Jews than Bible-believing Christians. These Christians pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

Part 2 These Bones Shall Live

The Amazing Story of the Jew

The **Story of the Jew** is amazing—how can it be explained?!

The Jew can be explained: God is alive and well, and He said the following would happen:

1. The Jews would be dispersed from their land.
2. Israel would be preserved.
3. Inevitably, there would be a regathering of the nation.
4. This reconciliation will consummate in reconciliation with the Messiah and an era of peace and security.

In Israel’s reappearing as a state (nation), the world witnesses a one-of-a-kind historical phenomenon: Israel is the **only ancient state to be resurrected** and then restored as a national entity!

History of the Modern-Day Return of the Dispersed Jew

A great stirring to return to the Promised Land awakened in the hearts of Jewish people in the last half of the 1800’s, especially in connection with the trial in France of **Alfred Dreyfus**, an assimilated Jew who served in the French army. He was tried and convicted of treason (later acquitted). This exposed such anti-Jewish sentiment that Jews were shocked and became

greatly concerned for their safety, none more so than **Theodor Herzl**, the man destined to become the **father of modern Zionism**. He saw as the only long-term option open to Jews an autonomous state.

Herzl planned the **first Zionist Congress**, held in Basel, Switzerland, 1897 (even though many thought he was crazy). “At Basel, I founded the Jewish state” (Herzl). Dr. Max Nordau, a contemporary of Herzl, defined “Zionism”: “**Zionism seeks to establish a home for the Jewish people in Palestine, secured under public law.**”

Herzl said of the Jewish dream of a national homeland, “If you will it, it is no dream.” Yet it wasn’t human dreaming that secured a homeland for the Jews. The land was desolate, and political forces in the region were greatly opposed. Mark Twain said of Palestine in 1869, that it was “**a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land.**” “Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes, desolate and unlovely, it is dreamland.”

Ezekiel Vision of the Dry Bones in Ezekiel 37

Eze 37:11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

Eze 37:12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, **I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.**

Eze 37:13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

Eze 37:14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and **I shall place you in your own land**: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

God put Christians in strategic positions to assist in this regathering.

William Blackstone, an American Christian evangelist with a deep love for the Jewish people, wrote in 1878, ***Jesus Is Coming***, which book predates the first Zionist Congress by twenty years, and presents the Biblical position for evangelical believers (and all) regarding God’s plan for Israel. He advocated support for the Jews both with Christians and American politicians (including Woodrow Wilson), especially pushing for the restoration of a national homeland for the Jews.

Moody Bible Institute was a strong supporter of the return of the Jews to their homeland, along with Friends of Israel, and many other Christian groups.

William Hechler was a colorful British clergyman firmly committed to the return of Jews to their homeland. He was one of two Christians who greatly influenced Herzl, along with influencing

the German Emperor, the British king, and the Russian czar. He was invited as a special guest to the first Zionist Congress.

[A **kibbutz** (lit. “gathering, clustering”; regular plural kibbutzim) is a collective community in Israel that was traditionally based on agriculture. The first kibbutz, established in 1909, was Degania. Today, farming has been partly supplanted by other economic branches, including industrial plants and high-tech enterprises. Kibbutzim began as utopian communities, a combination of socialism and Zionism. In recent decades, some kibbutzim have been privatized and changes have been made in the communal lifestyle. *Wikipedia*, 5/29/17]

“**Next year in Jerusalem**” was a popular Jewish expression which helped keep hope alive. On November 2, 1917, a letter came from British Foreign Secretary **Lord Arthur James Balfour** to the renown Jewish leader **Lord Rothschild**, a declaration of sympathy for the formation of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. This was the first governmental sanction of a Jewish return to their homeland since the historic **edict by Cyrus in the sixth century BC**, which allowed the Jews to return to Palestine from Babylon.

Two great realities were interacting during the time the Declaration was being developed: (1) a debt of gratitude to **Dr. Chaim Weizman** who created a new chemical process for the British which helped them greatly in their war effort (he later became first president of Israel) and (2) the **biblical commitment of the British leaders**, many of whom were Christians (a “restoration movement”): British Prime Minister (during WWI) **David Lloyd George** was taught more Israel history growing up than English history; Arthur James Balfour believed Christians owed hugely to the Jewish people, which debt they had been negligent to repay—worse, they had committed terrible atrocities against the Jews.

The **Balfour Declaration** precipitated a rush of events which swept Jewry into a new era. One month later, on December 11, 1917, **General Edmund Allenby** strode into Jerusalem to receive a surrender of the city from the **Muslim Ottoman Turks** who had held the Promised Land for the previous 400 years.

On April 24, 1920, at the **San Remo Conference**, **Britain’s WW I allies officially recognized the Balfour Declaration and confirmed the British Mandate over Palestine established in the Versailles Treaty of 1919** (most important peace treaty that brought WWI to an end). **On July 22, 1922, the Mandate was unanimously confirmed by the League of Nations**. The original Mandate included territory from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River. In other words, this included what today is Israel and Jordan. In 1921, the British sent **Churchill** to look into trouble with **Sheik Abdullah**. Churchill ruled that Trans-Jordan be excluded from the territory included in the Balfour Declaration, which officially removed that area from further Jewish settlement. In 1946 Abdullah was crowned king of Trans-Jordan, and his kingdom received independence. Thus over 70% of the territory originally ceded to Israel was taken from them.

Waves of Immigrants

Aliyah is the immigration of Jews from the diaspora to the land of Israel.

1870 Jews outnumbered Palestinians in Jerusalem 2:1

1882-1903 **First Wave (of Aliyah)** was approximately 25,000 mostly from Europe

1904-1914 **Second Wave**—40,000

1919 **Third Aliyah** 35,000, kibbutzniks; the Hula Valley has become very beautiful and productive (post Ottoman Turks); Israel has become one of history's grandest land reclamation projects.

1928 **Fourth Aliyah** 67,000 in country mostly from Poland, chose urban life, small businesses

1929-1939 **Fifth Aliyah**—250,000, trouble intensified with Arab neighbors and British

At first influential Arabs welcomed the immigration of Jews, but this later was repudiated. At first the British defended the Jews ("mandatory responsibilities"). A **1939 British White Paper** favored Arab demands severely limiting immigration and land sales to Jews: for each of the next five years, Jewish immigration was limited to 10,000 (25,000 "bonus" Jewish European refugees were to be granted asylum), after that time immigration to Jewish people would be closed. After ten years, an independent Arab state would be formed with economic and strategic links to be developed with Britain. This was terrible timing, given the impending Holocaust. 100,000 still were able to get in between 1940-1948 (beyond restrictions). Another 51,500 were apprehended while attempting to evade British patrol boats, and sent away.

Israel's national anthem expresses the desire to be settled upon the hills of Zion and Jerusalem. **Remember the Exodus** (at Haifa Port): 4,515 refugees from Europe were deported and returned to a German internment camp. This greatly affected world public opinion; the British turned the problem (Mandate) over to the United Nations.

The Nation Established

In **May of 1947** the UN held a special session on the Palestinian problem. To everybody's surprise, the Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko expressed his government's support for the right of Jews to establish their own state in Palestine. On November 29, 1947, by a vote of 33-13, with 10 abstentions, the General Assembly accepted the partition plan which after 2,000 years resurrected the state of Israel. Dov Joseph, who would become the military governor of Jerusalem during the ensuing War of Independence, said, "The hope [of the Jews regaining their homeland] took only 3 minutes, but it seemed to stretch the length of the exile."

Although in fact the Jewish people did now have a formally-recognized homeland, the 1947 partition plan gave the Jewish people "less than half a loaf," giving the Jewish people only 23% of the land originally given them in the Balfour Declaration (before Jordan was carved out), further dissecting the Jewish territory into three parcels of land (same also for the Palestinians), and Jerusalem would remain under international control. The Jews, fresh from the horrors of

the Holocaust, were quick to accept the partition plan; the Arabs, however, rejected it, and began to prepare for war.

The First War (War of Independence)

The US backing of the plan was critical, but some influential Americans counselled the president (**Harry Truman**) not to get involved in that messy affair. **Chaim Weizman**, with help from businessman and Truman friend **Eddie Jacobson**, finally got the President's attention, and, after long discussion, Truman supported the plan.

David Ben Gurion pressed on against Arab and international-friends opposition, and even though his friend **General George Marshall** encouraged him to wait for a more favorable political climate. After the signing ceremony on **May 14, 1948**, David Ben Gurion arose and articulated what Jews for 2,000 years had waited to hear: "the state of Israel has risen!" And for the first time in all the annals of human history, an ancient nation walked out of the graveyard. The bones of Ezekiel's vision were coming together.

But would the world agree? Certainly the Arabs did not, and before the celebrations were complete, the infant nation of Israel was under attack. As five Arab armies rolled against the Jews, two great necessities surfaced: (1) international support for the state of Israel must be affirmed; (2) Israel must have the ability to defend herself.

Regular forces from Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan, Syria, and Lebanon went on the offensive. They were supported by volunteer units from Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Yemen. "The state of Israel would be still-born," was their cry. Christians the world over prayed, and some helped the Israelis prepare militarily. Military man **Charles Orde Wingate**, as David Lloyd George and David Balfour, was a man who grew up on the Bible and its teaching regarding the Jews. When asked if he had read about Zionism, the soldier Orde responded that there was only one book authoritative on this subject, and that is the Bible. Orde Wingate taught them how to fight, as a true Christian friend of Israel.

Initially the Jewish army was a motley patchwork of immigrants.

Zvi gives his testimony of the first fierce battles of the war of 1948, referred to as the War of Independence, the battle of Latrun (overlooks road between Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv) and the battle for West Jerusalem. This first war (since statehood) effectively ended with a Jewish triumph and an armistice agreement with Syria in **July, 1949**. Heavy casualties for the Israelis included 4,000 soldiers and 2,000 civilians, and a \$500,000,000 financial outlay. "This is a great day in our life, and the world," said Chaim Weizman.

Psa 126:1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

Psa 126:2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

Psa 126:3 The LORD hath done great things for us; *whereof* we are glad.

Even though victorious in this first war (since being declared a state), Israel still was in a precarious situation: (1) Israel did not exist with fixed and secure national borders—only Armistice lines protected them from their Arab neighbors; (2) none of her attackers recognized the legitimacy of an Israeli state (and would not until 1978, through **Anwar Sadat**'s courageous efforts); and (3), (most emotionally devastating) the occupation of Jerusalem had eluded the Jews. In rabbinical lore, the world is seen as an eye, with the white of the eye being the world outside Israel, the iris is Israel, the pupil is Jerusalem, and the gleam in the pupil is the Temple Mount, the spiritual heart of Jewry.

The **Zion Gate** marked some frustration in the War of 1948, as a Jewish brigade broke into Jerusalem, but then turned back (wisely at this time), missing the retaking of their pearl Jerusalem (which would have to wait till the next DVD).

Part 3 We Are at the Wall

Jerusalem Almost Retaken in 1948

Israel was attacked immediately upon becoming an internationally recognized nation (**May 14, 1948**). Israel defended herself, and counterattacked, including attacking the **Zion Gate of Arab-held Jerusalem**. General **Uzi Narkiss**, was the Commander of the Central Front in that 1948 War of Independence, and he commanded an Israeli unit of about 100 men who were hoping to retake Jerusalem. These Jewish forces captured the Zion Gate on May 17, 1948, but they were forced to withdraw (had only about eighty soldiers by this time). This was a huge disappointment to the Jews within the Old City, the troops forced to withdraw, and to all Jewish people everywhere. **Old City Jerusalem** was (is) the most sacred area for the Jewish people. Uzi's superior, General **David Shaltiel**, as well was obsessed with taking the Old City, and had prepared a flag to raise and a lamb to sacrifice at the Tower of David within Jerusalem.

On the other side of the city (Jerusalem), the Jewish troops planted a large percussion bomb designed to breach the wall near the New Gate. Zvi took part in the events of that day. The planted bomb just left a black mark!

There was little time to brood, for the Jews had a nation to build!

Desires to Return to the Land

There was a tremendous welling-up in the hearts of Jews around the world to return to their homeland; consider the Jews of Yemen. Israel launched what become known as **Operation Magic Carpet** to airlift virtually the entire Yemenite Jewish population to Israel, approximately 50,000 people (late 1940's). Consider the beautiful verse "Who are these that fly like a dove..."

Alan Cohen arrived from India in 1955. He had been prompted by a long-standing desire to return as well as by representatives from the Israeli government giving the details as to how to

accomplish this. “Something pulled me over there to this place, and I would have been very sorry if I wouldn’t have gone to Israel.”

Prelude to '67 War



Military buildup began in earnest during the next twenty years (1948-1967), along with continual harassment and terrorist attacks by the Arabs. **From the Golan Heights, Syrian gunners shot** at kibbutzniks working in their fields. At the **Kibbutz Dan**, there was the constant risk of running over landmines planted in the fields (even the night before). **Egypt and Syria** sent out signals making it clear that war was inevitable. On May 15 (1967), large bodies of Egyptian troops were

seen moving through Cairo on their way to the Suez Canal. Syria, **Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Sudan** announced that they were ready to join in holy war against Israel. Israel, like the American cowboy, did not wait for her enemy to draw first. She had seen the glint in Egypt’s **Abdul Nasser’s** eye!

The '67 War

On Monday, June 5, Israel struck. In four days, Israel had not only destroyed the **Egyptian air force**, but had soundly defeated Egypt’s 100,000 man army. Josie testifies as to his experience of Syria’s shelling of the kibbutz (Kibbutz Dan).

Seemingly insurmountable obstacles faced the Israelis in the battle of the **Golan Heights**, including a series of Arab bunkers that blocked their way. Two aids gave the Israelis an edge: their **half-tracks and the eucalyptus trees**, the legacy of the Israeli master spy **Eli Cohen** who had infiltrated the Damascus high command—“shoot the trees!” These bunkers were constructed by the Syrians after the 1948 War of Independence and became known as “the Hill of Fear,” as they were virtually impregnable.

Will the future be a replay of the past? What is ahead for the Israelis?

Meno Kalisher who was five at the time of the Six-Day war was interviewed by Elwood McQuaid. He remembers the Arab war machine approaching (Jerusalem), and the women and children fleeing to some shelters, which he remembers as being very crowded and very unpleasant.

The Israelis’ Love for Jerusalem

Again Zvi is interviewed, this time at what became known as “Ammunition Hill.” **Early morning, June 7, 1967**, a group of Israeli paratroopers stood on this spot, and looked down on the ancient city of Jerusalem. They charged down the Mount of Olives, to Saint Stephen’s gate, onto the Temple Mount, and into the annals of history! General Uzi was asked, “How did you feel?” “I felt great, but that’s not enough, because it is very difficult to describe the sentiment—

I am not a poet!" "Standing there, feeling my role on that occasion, I was very happy, I was very satisfied." General **Moshe Dayan** (the one with the eye patch) said something like, "We return to our place of places (Jerusalem), never to depart again!" (Also present at the Wall at this recapturing was General **Yitzhak Rabin** who later became the fifth Prime Minister and was assassinated in office. Also, notice these great men's listening, quiet manner, especially Uzi's.)

These stories are as intriguing as they are endless, displaying the sovereign hand of God in the Israelis' affairs. Alan Cohen testified of his experience upon arriving at the Wall. **Dr. Harry Hurwitz** has been the advisor to two distinguished Prime Ministers of Israel, **Menachem Begin** and **Yitzhak Shamir**. Dr. Hurwitz, a man of the (OT) Bible said, "I was totally overwhelmed by it." "Jerusalem is the city in which our kings reign, and our kings knelt, our prophets proclaimed our faith, our psalmist wrote his immortal words. We were denied that city, and we are now back."

No one can seriously challenge the premise that Jerusalem is like a magnet that draws Jews from the far reaches of the world.

Psa 122:1 A Song of degrees of David. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Psa 122:2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Psa 122:3 Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

Psa 125:2 As the mountains *are* round about Jerusalem, so the LORD *is* round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

Psa 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

Psa 137:5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget *her cunning*.

Psa 137:6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

The Wailing Wall/Western Wall is the last visible artifact of the Herodian Temple; it was not actually part of the Temple but was part of a retaining wall built to increase the ground support under the Temple. Jewish (and other) people visit the Wall for many different reasons, including identification with Jewish people, prayers, remembering departed loved ones, and (for the deeply religious) it is a place where the Shekinah (the visible presence of God) dwells. For the nation as a whole, it is a sacred link to the past, and a symbol of finally settling down with a safe home, peaceful and secure. If there is peace in Jerusalem, all is well with the world.

The magnetism of Jerusalem is not limited to the Jews alone. Especially, **evangelical Christians are drawn to Jerusalem**. Dr. Harry Hurwitz testifies as to the common faith of Jews and Christians, as they share the same foundation, specifically the OT. **The right to the land is not based on the resolution of an international body; it is based on the Bible!**

Eze 36:35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities *are become* fenced, *and* are inhabited.

Eze 36:11 And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will **do better unto you than at your beginnings** [Garden of Eden]: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Eze 36:36 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that **I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it.**

Eze 36:8 But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and **yield your fruit** to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come.

It will be a great time when the Messiah reigns over reconciled Israel, a rejuvenated earth, and subject Gentile nations, an era of unparalleled bliss. **Teddy Kollek, Jerusalem's revered perpetual mayor**, said, "I have the hardest job in the world—to prepare Jerusalem for the Messiah."

The '67 War is reminiscent of the battle of Jericho at the time of Joshua, but there were dark days ahead.

Part 4 The Shaken Dream

Israel moves from a time of great optimism to a time when the dream was badly shaken.

Introduction

Nimrod's Fortress, located on the Golan Heights, is a monument to man's ego; it represents the land given to the Jewish people by Almighty God.

October 6, 1973, saw the Israeli dream of a secure homeland badly shaken—this date was the **first day of the ten-day Yom Kippur War**. For the first time in history, **Israel was surprised**, and for a few horrifying days, the nation hung on the precipice of annihilation. "How could it happen to us?"

How did Israeli intelligence miss this?! Answer: 1) An inexplicable blindness and 2) an assumption that the Arab armies could not or would not go to war. Prime Minister **Golda Meir** miscalculated and went against Chief of Staff General David Elazar's recommendation for a preemptive (first-strike offensive) deterrent strategy. This parallels Israel's poor performance at ancient Ai (Joshua 7:3). Israel was **over-confident, ill-prepared, and selling their enemy far short**.

The 1973 War Was the Saddest Experience of the Nation Since Its Birth (Harry Hurwitz)

The '67 war exhilarated the nation while the '73 experience brought Israel to despair—Israel was taken by surprise. 90% of the people were in prayer in the synagogues (because it was the annual Day of Atonement) at the time of the **attack on two fronts**—the **Egyptians** (Russians—a Freudian slip!) attacked from the south across the **Suez** (a seaport city in north-eastern Egypt, near the southern terminus of the Suez Canal), and the **Syrians** from the north (**Golan Heights**)!

In the first hour, hundreds of young kids (aged 18) were killed; the veteran soldiers had been given leave for the holy day. The Syrians were advancing so rapidly that they nearly cut the country in two; only the sheer, dogged, gut courage of some of the soldiers prevented this. There are countless stories of incredible bravery on both fronts. Afterward Golda Meir admitted that she had misread the intelligence. Suddenly the **aura of the invincibility** as well as the survival of Israel was at stake. These were terrible days. Moshe Dayan added his appraisal: it was a time when heroes were deposed and national illusions were shattered—Israel’s dream was shattered.

The Significance of the Day

Yom Kippur is the most significant day, the most holy day, for the Jews, and the day chosen was the most significant circumstance of the attack. (The Russians were the leaders in this sabotage.) “Why this day?” The nation is largely shut down. The nation of Israel stands silently before her God on this holiest of days. (Approximately twenty years later, in 1994, thirty-nine Arabs were killed while at prayer in Hebron. 6,000 Israelis had been killed in the Yom Kippur War in October of 1973.) Ultra-orthodox Jews actually stoned the cars of Israeli soldiers rushing to defend their nation, because they thought these soldiers were desecrating this holy day.

Casualties and Horror for the Israelis

Along the Suez Canal, 2,000 Arab guns spewed 3,000 tons of devastation on Israeli fortifications in the first 53 minutes of the attack. It is estimated that during the first 60 seconds of the bombardment, 10,500 shells fell on Jewish positions. In the air, 240 Egyptian planes attacked Jewish positions in the Sinai. At the same time, **70,000 Egyptian troops** prepared to storm into the Sinai, while thousands of tanks were warming their engines for the task ahead. To stop them were **436 Israeli soldiers**. Herculean efforts were made to rescue these precious brethren. Israeli Phantom and Mirage jets were shot down by waiting Egyptian anti-aircraft guns. “The whole of Sinai is on fire.”

The potential for disaster in the Golan Heights was much greater. The Israelis first indication that they were under attack was 300 Syrian tanks rumbling toward the Golan. Next were seen 400 more tanks moving up from the south. The Israelis had 176 tanks. “I never knew there were so many tanks in the whole world.” Over the next few days, **90% of the Israeli Barak Armored Brigade** were either killed or wounded. By the end of the first day and night, the tank brigade had been reduced to 15 functioning tanks (against 450 Syrian tanks now advancing toward them). Zvi was a champion tank commander (not interviewed here) who singlehandedly destroyed 60 Syrian tanks. (The Golan Heights are the northern-most part of Israel, just south of Mount Hermon and northeast of the Sea of Galilee, and overlook much Israeli farm territory.)

Their Miraculous Deliverance

Alan Cohen is a veteran of the Yom Kippur War and fought at the Golan Heights, clearing Syrian mines (among other things). He was not expecting this Yom Kippur attack (by Syrians and Egyptians). The Syrians looked to cross the Jordan River with their tanks at two difference bridges (Benot Ya'aqov Bridge at Petra and the Eric Bridge). **Israel was on the brink of extinction.** The Syrians inexplicably stopped their wide-open, uncontested path into the heart of Israel. It could have been their fear of a trap. It could have been lack of instructions. It is a microcosm of what the Israelis have experienced (by the mercies of God) over the centuries.

Lev 26:44 And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, **I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly,** and to break my covenant with them: for I *am* the LORD their God.

Scattered, yet preserved. While the Syrians paused, Israel prepared.

The show-down came on a plain at Quneitra (Syria). This is the site of one of the largest tank battles of all time. When the fighting ended, 130 Syrian tanks lay broken, and the place became known as “the Valley of Tears.” The war turned dramatically after this Israeli victory. **Just ten days after the surprise Arab attack, the Israelis were launching offensives against the Egyptians and the Syrians,** preparing to march into Cairo (in the south), and in the north (Golan Heights), positioned to launch offensives into Damascus. It was now time for the Russians and the UN to save Egypt and Syria once more.

International Intervention Stops the Israelis from Proceeding into Egypt and Syria

International nuclear disaster loomed. On the morning of October 9, 1973, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan solemnly warned Prime Minister Golda Meir of imminent **disaster, if they were not prepared to use their ultimate (nuclear) weapons.** She authorized their use, but the tide of battle turned before it was necessary. Others also were considering nuclear weapons. On October 13, Russia sent nuclear warheads to be installed on Scud missiles in Alexandria, Egypt, pointing toward Israel. The United States (**Richard Nixon**) intervened, confronting and preventing Russia’s unilateral intervention. The US also provided defensive munitions (military weapons, ammunition, equipment, and stores) to Israel.

Uncertainty and Some Fear for the Israelis

Even though Israel won the war, their losses were heavy, and they grieved greatly. With over 7,000 casualties (unprecedented for them in a single war), their hopes and prayers were that this would be their war to end all wars. It had been an empty victory. General Uzi Narkiss confided to Dr. McQuaid in 1975 that it took some time for them to realize that the Yom Kippur War even was a victory for Israel.

Lam 1:12 *Is it* nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted *me* in the day of his fierce anger.

A sense of isolation and uncertainty about the future gripped them. **Israel's dreams indeed were badly shaken.** The stern reality of living in perpetual war produced a fundamental question for Israelis: "Are there political or military solutions for Israel, or must we begin to look in another direction?" (This parallels the true Christian experience: some euphoria at first, followed later by the realization of long-term spiritual warfare and a sense of despair, until a measure of deepening occurs.) A Jewish historian observed that the Jews historically have responded in two ways to such crises: an increased longing to return to the land of Abraham (a hiding place) and a strong looking for the Messiah.

Jewish Preparations

Dr. McQuaid's young, nonreligious, intellectual friend in the 1970,'s denied an increased looking for the Messiah by Jewish people, but then he proceeded to tell of his sense of impending trouble from the Russian north, which sense corresponds to Bible prophecy for Israel!

Some Jewish people are making preparations for the resumption of sacrifices and temple worship, including preparations of priests, the making of priestly garments, and preparations for the rebuilding of the Temple. Jimmy DeYoung of Shofar Communications interviewed Gershon Salmon of the group Temple Mount Faithful, about rebuilding the Temple and messianic expectations. Gershon believes that the Temple is about to be rebuilt, on the Temple Mount, using an identified cornerstone.

Jer 32:37 Behold, **I will gather them out of all countries,** whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

Jer 32:38 And **they shall be my people, and I will be their God:**

Jer 32:39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, **that they may fear me for ever,** for the good of them, and of their children after them:

Jer 32:40 And **I will make an everlasting covenant with them,** that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Jer 32:41 Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and **I will plant them in this land** assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

On the Arab Side

The Arabs were encouraged in their defeat, in that, at least for a short time, they had the upper hand militarily over the Israelites, and they saw the potential for future annihilation of the Israelis. They no longer saw themselves as inferior. This perception opened the door to Lebanon, intifada, and a frantic search for peace. Stay tuned.

Part 5 The Road to Peace

The Road to Peace

The Yom Kippur War (1967) changed the whole mood of both Israel and the Arabs, in that, even though Israel had won the war, the Arabs were encouraged that they now had a chance to defeat Israel. But they must have different tactics—**terrorism!** Alas, it would take a sudden break to shift the atmosphere back to one of optimism and a sense of invincibility for Israel.

It happened in **1976 at the Entebbe Airport, Uganda**, Africa (June 27, 1976). An Air France jetliner on a trip from Athens to Tel Aviv was hijacked by agents of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Over 200 passengers were aboard, 80 of whom were Israelis. As negotiations intensified for the release of these 80 Israelis, the other passengers having been released, Israel acted. On **July 4 (1976!)**, after a flight of over 2,500 miles, planes carrying Israeli commandos touched down at Entebbe.

Colonel Yehuda Levy, retired IDF, and currently the President and Publisher of the *Jerusalem Post*, stated, “The Yom Kippur was a big shock to the Israelis.” “The government of the Labor Party was held responsible.” “In 1977, the Likud Party began to rule.” The **PLO (Palestine Liberation Army)** continued terrorist attacks throughout the world against Israelis, and this Entebbe hijacking was the climax, and seemed a hopeless situation for the Israelis. The **successful rescue of all 80 (100?) Jews** was a great morale booster, a regaining of confidence, and showed the Jews and the world that the arm of Israel was able to reach anywhere to save Israeli lives and to fight terrorism. Only one Israeli soldier was lost in that operation. “The fate of Israel remains in its own hands.”

It was a dedicated Christian who helped the Israelis develop such an effective military, **Charles Orde Wingate!** “Know what you fight for, and love what you know.” He looked more like a missionary than an officer of the British Empire.

One Arab leader decided it was time to put down the gun and proceed to the peace table—**Egyptian President Anwar Sadat**. He heard in his heart, “When Arabs go to war against Israel, Egyptians die.” Until this time, the unilateral Arab position had been, “**no recognition, no negotiations, no peace.**” Sadat was part visionary and even more a pragmatist, and facing an increasingly frustrating relationship with the Russians, he decided to cast his future with the West.

From 1914 until 1920, Western power dominated the Middle East—most all of it was under the **direct rule of Britain or France**, or it related to the West by alliance or limited influence. **Beginning in 1921, retrenchment occurred** and western influence diminished. Between 1940 and 1971, **the West seemed to be retreating from the region, and the Soviet Union began**

filling the vacuum. Soviet military and economic aid began pouring into the area as the Soviets attempted to place a Russian ring around the oil-rich Persian Gulf. Following the first arms deal in 1956, the Soviets became the exclusive or main arms supplier for many of the Arab nations in the region. Communist parties began operating legally or illegally in the region. Egypt and Anwar Sadat were the anchors for the Soviets in the region. It seems (today that) the Soviets not only supplied the arms, but set the date for the military attack in 1973.

The defeat of Soviet arms and men by Israel, Soviet arrogance, and debt, among other things, **caused Sadat to oust the Russians**, cancel the debt, and turn to the West. Subsequent to that decision, was a visit to Jerusalem and to Camp David in the US.

The Camp David Accords Signing, Washington, D.C., September 17, 1978

President Jimmy Carter announced, "The dedication and determination of these two world statesmen has born fruit; peace has come to Israel and to Egypt." **President Anwar Sadat and Prime Minister Menachem Begin** both quoted Isaiah's "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks," at their signing of this peace agreement, with the US witnessing and co-signing (this peace treaty).

Anwar **Sadat was assassinated for making peace with Israel.** Yet the peace agreement went forward. The other Arab nations hated this peace agreement, and stepped up terror attacks from the north. After being **expelled from Jordan by King Hussein, the PLO settled in Lebanon**, quickly moving into its southern region, using it as a staging area for attacks against Israel. By 1982, the PLO presence numbered 20,000, among whom were 5,000 mercenaries from multiple other countries. In the eleven months following the 1981 cease fire (?), no less than 270 attacks were launched against Israel, with 29 dead and over 300 injured. Israel clearly had had enough and began massive rumblings into South Lebanon (June, 1982). Israel finally saw **Yasser Arafat** and the PLO forced out of Lebanon into Tunisia, but at a great price. It had taken too long, with too many casualties, and great loss of public support. This has been called **Israel's Viet Nam**, a legacy of regret that Menachem Begin would carry to his grave.

The issue of **world opinion** become important, and **Arafat and the terrorists caught the fancy of the world's press**, establishing unexpected respectability. Terrorist attackers became "freedom fighters," and displaced Arabs became "**Palestinians**," as though this had long been their land, from which they were now being dispossessed. "Palestine" was a term coined by the Romans long-ago in an attempt to disassociate the Jews from their land. The people who currently choose to call themselves Palestinians are those who chose to flee or were displaced by the recurrent wars which have taken place in Israel since 1947.

All Arabs, including the Palestinians and even Muslims throughout the world, are not terrorists nor opposed to peace with Israel.

The goal of the military action in Lebanon was to carry the fight even further (?). **On December 6, 1987, an Israeli was stabbed to death, while shopping in Gaza. With his death, the Intifada began.**

The advent of the **Intifada** (“the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, beginning in 1987”) in Israel in the late 1980’s, brought another face to the **Jihadists** (Jihad means to war against non-Muslims), who were armed with their crude instruments of destruction. The driving force behind this Jihadist movement was to create an Islamic state, rule over an Islamic Jerusalem, and annihilate the state of Israel. The birth of **Hamas** (“Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist organization”) during the Intifada, with their infamous ten-point Manifesto, would personify the worst of the terrorist intentions. Hamas opposes any secular state the PLO would seek to create in Palestine, since by definition it would be anti-Islamic. The drive toward an Islamic world empire is evident not only in countries in the region, but throughout the world. Islamic terrorist incidents planned to this end include the **World Trade Center bombing of 1993** (February 26), and the **Pan Am Flight 103** tragedy in Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988.

These terrorist activities are not simply perpetrated by individuals, but **behind them are nations** such as Iran who provide support, aide and comfort. **Saddam Hussein** is preeminent (at the time of this video production). Saddam presented himself as the modern day **Nebuchadnezzar** who would bring down Israel, and restore all her sacred shrines to Islam. Anot Katshura (?) testifies regarding Saddam Hussein’s continual bombardment of Israel with his Scud missiles, and the sheer terror of it.

It was (is) little Israel and the United States standing shoulder to shoulder in defense of Judeo-Christian ideals, freedom and democracy; **Israel is the first line of defense for America** and the rest of the world, against Islam tyranny. The central conflict between Israel and the Arab nations is not territory or even Jew-Arab tension, who have long lived in peace side by side, for hundreds of years. The **underlying issue is religious**; it is a Muslim-Jewish conflict. Who are the legitimate heirs to the land promised to Abraham? See Genesis 17:19-21.

Gen 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him.

Gen 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Gen 17:21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Israel's road to peace runs along parallel tracts; **one is political and the other is Messianic** (looking for a Messiah). "When the Messiah will come, there will be peace nation-wide, for all the nations, not only for Israel," so say many Israelis. Rani Levy (Peace with the Golan) testifies that every Jew throughout the world has a picture of the **Western Wailing Wall**, while every Muslim has a picture of the **Dome of the Rock**; this represents the core of the conflict (it is religious). There may be attempts to sign political, economic, and cultural agreements which are called peace treaties, but they are **not really peace treaties** (as they are otherwise known, as between Canada and the US, for example), and Rani Levy sees this as never happening between Israel and the Muslim nations. A "rule or ruin" credo prevails.

Part 6 The King Reigns in Zion

The Impossible Dilemma (Humanly)

The modern state of Israel is frantically pursuing peace with her former enemies, who are skeptical. There must be a divine solution. Human efforts continue frustrated. Terrorism against Israel has intensified. Even one of their own assassinated their Prime Minister (Yitzhak Rabin). At the center of the conflict is Jerusalem. General Uzi Narkiss (commanding leader when Israel retook Jerusalem in 1967) states the case eloquently for Israel. "We would like Arabs to understand that they can have their mosques, and still can worship their god (in their hearts as the Israelis have done for approaching 2,000 years), but Jerusalem must and will remain under the control of Israel."

"Jerusalem will be trodden down until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Lk. 21:24) still is in effect. Even the Vatican had a sudden change of heart in its former support of diplomatic recognition of Israel, as it wanted to have influence in determining Jerusalem's permanent status in the final peace agreement.

The Golan Heights

Another controversial issue facing the peace negotiators is the future of the Golan Heights, from which Syria mercilessly bombarded Israel before 1967. Rony Levy ("Peace with the Golan") has been actively involved in retaining the Golan Heights for Israel. His comments touch both divine and historical rights. "Historically speaking, Israel's right of ownership was established in Joshua's day when he conquered the land and sent the Manasseh tribe to the southern part of the Golan Heights. This made it part of the Promised Land, and the Jewish people's land. There were very few eras in the last 4,000 years in which there were any areas without Jews living there. In modern times (at the beginning of modern Zionism), thousands of acres were purchased by rich Jews (including Baron Rothschild) from the Turks (Ottoman Empire) when they laid claim to the land. Those settlements existed into the late 1930's, when Syria started to show more and more military presence. The ruins of twenty-five synagogues, along with hundreds of Jewish coins, have been found all over the area, with Menorah symbols

on them and the star of David, along with different Hebrew writings. The area is soaked with Jewishness reflecting their presence there for the past 4-5,000 years.

Elwood is standing in the only city of the Golan, Gotsarhene(?), and he asks a Jewish resident, Moshe Sigal(?), if Israel should be willing to give up the Golan in exchange for peace. “Should Israel have peace by relinquishing the Golan? I am in favor of peace, but it doesn’t take much for the Syrians to change [even if they promise peace in exchange for the Golan].”

Discussions about placing US troops on the Golan is not supported by either side. Rony Levy again—“the US record in policing Arab-Israel issues has not been too impressive the past few decades. We have not forgotten the horrible incidents in Beirut, Tehran, and Somalia. US involvement in the Middle East is not serving US interests or the interests of the Western World. The Secretary of State and even the President are not aware completely of the dangers involved. (Israel is on a higher level of importance to the US than Syria.) We don’t want to be in the position of having to explain to the Americans why they should be shedding American blood for Israelis. Nobody can do security better than the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces).” Israel’s security must be controlled by Israel.

“Can Israel’s national security be guaranteed?” “Is intervention by UN military forces the answer?” [No!] Dr. McQuaid interviews the mayor of the beautiful city of Ma’aleh Adumin, Benny Kashriel. This is a strategic city in connection with the protection of Jerusalem, and they are very interested in tourism (claiming the location of the Good Samaritan story, versus on the Jericho Road). Everybody wants peace, but a peace with assurance. Dr. McQuaid then asks, “How will Israel find peace (in your view)?” Benny answers, “Israel must be all the time strong. Israel must make treaties with the Arab states and not with Palestinians. Also Israel must make its own peace with the Arabs (states), and not have others acting on their behalf (supposedly). We have a treaty with Egypt, not the best, but it is a treaty. We have a treaty with Jordan—by the way, we always had peace with Jordan, but now it is formal. We can give Palestinians right to run their cities, but Israel must be in charge of security.” “Only strength guarantees survival of Israel.”

Colonel Levy’s Prescription for Peace

Colonel Levy(?) was the commanding leader at Entebbe. Today (1996?) he serves as Editor in Chief of the Jerusalem Post, Israel’s outstanding national newspaper. “What is his prescription for peace?” His answer is first that there is no guaranteed prescription for peace. “But if I have to try my best,” the basis of his prescription is that “the other side must first be convinced that we are strong on our beliefs, both in religious beliefs, and in attachment to this land, and in our principles, and we know what we want and why we are here. If the other side were convinced of the overwhelming certitude of our position, it would help. If the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean be controlled by Israel, militarily speaking, and we have strong towns and cities built within this area (which does not belong to the Arabs inhabitants at all), and at the same time, we let the Arabs live their own lives (we don’t want to rule any Arabs), except that they would not control the territory, have military buildups, or implement foreign

policy—this is my prescription. The other side needs to understand that we are stubborn on this, we are not going to give in. Both of us need peace.” “What do you feel is coming politically?” “I think that a new force will take over, between Likud and Labor (Government) Parties; a consensus once existed between these two major parties, which represent most of the Israelis, but today there is a real difference between them. I think that a leader will arise who will form a consensus.”

Colonel Levy’s thoughts correspond to the scriptural prophecy of an emerging leader who will unite people, and usher in other events including the infamous time called “the time of Jacob’s Trouble.” The ultimate road to peace will be divine.

The Temple Institute Foundation

Chaim Richmond is a spokesman for the Temple Institute Foundation, an orthodox Jewish group, which is preparing for worship at a temple they believe soon to be built on Mount Moriah. “Explain the objectives of the Temple Institute.” “To try to raise the awareness of the central role the Temple plays in the life of mankind, and to do as much as possible to facilitate that, to (re-)build the Temple in our time. The Temple Institute is not a political organization, but an educational-spiritual-religious one, solely dedicated to the commandments of God. The Temple is a key vehicle for the restoration of the honor of God.”

Elwood asks, “Do you have an idea about the timing for the reconstruction of the Temple?” Chaim’s answer is, “Not really; it is not up to me. It’s about 2,000 years late; this current movement began the moment the second Temple was destroyed. Our part is to be a people of faith and integrity, dedicated to obeying the commandments of God. This is not just for one group of Jewish people, but for all the entire nation (to rebuild the Temple). What the Temple Institute is doing now is the restoration of the vessels (93 categories of vessels) which actually can be used in the Temple, along with other projects for the purpose of raising the consciousness of the Temple, both of Jews and Gentiles.”

Elwood asks, “What is the relationship of the restoration of the Temple and Jewish worship practices relative to the coming of the Messiah, in your view?” Chaim’s answer is, “These things are up to God, and we will know better when He shows us; but we do know that God always keeps His word.” “There are a number of ways that the Messianic redemption can evolve. Jews and Christians alike agree that we are living in special times, only dreamed about in earlier days. At the Institute we believe that we are to do everything we can to bring about the redemption; we are participants, and not spectators.” “We believe that it is the Jewish nation that is commanded to rebuild the Temple, and not the Messiah. We are wanting to rebuild the Temple, not primarily to facilitate the return of the Messiah, but to obey God, the most basic reason to do anything. The cornerstone of the Jewish faith is not that God is obligated to man, but that man is obligated to God.”

Godly Zvi's Final Testimony in This Series

Zvi Kalisher is a survivor of the Holocaust and has fought in all of Israel's wars. "Zvi, how many times have you experienced battle in Israel?" "1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, and many times called to clean landmines; I have fought with nations and terrorists." Zvi continues to believe that this all will end in peace for Israel. He believes that Israel must be militarily strong, but more than that, they must put their trust in God. How otherwise can five million defeat 250 million?! But he Lord has promised never to forsake us, and we must trust in Him.

Meno Kalisher's Testimony

Meno Kalisher, a home-born Israeli (a sabra), has lived his life in a nation which has been in a perpetual state of war. Meno says that they see it as part of their life, yet they are tired of it. They see other nations who live in peace, and flourish, and they want this for themselves. He has seen friends with whom he has grown up, in the newspapers, as casualties. The average Israeli is looking for a political peace, not a religious one. They are looking to "land for peace" as the solution, and they are seeking the right amount of land to accomplish this. He feels there will be a political peace, but that it will be a false one. The real peace will be a religious one, as religion is at the root of the problem—it is a war between religions.

The answer is in the hand of the Messiah. There will first be a peace, a false one, and it will be in the hands of the Antichrist, but it will result in two-thirds of his people being killed. He is looking for the answer in the Messiah. "When will this Messiah come?" "Any moment, according to I Thessalonians chapter 4—He will come to take His church! After His church is raptured, according to the prophecy of Daniel, follows a period of seven years, during the first part of which the nation of Israel will enjoy a false peace. But then this false peace will turn to great tribulation for the Jews; but the Messiah will come again, after the seven years of tribulation, this time to rescue His nation and to establish His Millennial Kingdom!" "So in the final analysis, the hope for the nation Israel is in the Messiah, who will reconcile His people and bring peace to the earth."

The Theology of the Messiah

"Who is the Messiah? Who is He? Has He already appeared, or will this be His first appearance?" Some conservative (ultra-orthodox) Jews believe that every generation produces at least one Messiah-qualified character, albeit not a divine being.

There is a Satan-God conflict that reaches far beyond the mists of our ancient past. It is a struggle for the souls of men. The surpassing issues of time and eternity will be only finally addressed with the appearance of the Messiah. Evangelical Christians already are convinced that the Messiah already has appeared in the person of Jesus Christ. His first coming was to fulfill the aspects predicted in Isaiah 53 (v. 5-He was wounded for our transgressions...). Other prophecies teach a Second Coming, this time to reign. For example, Zechariah teaches that "His

feet shall stand in that day on the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem, in triumph...,” to fulfill a divine promise, when the Lord shall be King over all the earth!

Elwood’s Conclusion

As we conclude, it will be helpful to review the central features in God’s plan/timeline, in four definitive segments: dispersion (Deuteronomy 28-30, successive waves among inhospitable Gentile nations), preservation (Jeremiah 31:35-37, perseverance against all odds, always will be an Israel), regathering and restoration to original lands (Ezekiel 37, return of nation in last days), and reconciliation (with the Messiah, a regathered nation will turn to Him, living out the destiny promised to Abraham and his heirs, Zechariah 12:10; Romans 11:26). The stunning rebirth of the modern state of Israel in 1948 set the stage for a massive return of Jewish people to Israel.

Dr. Harry Hurwitz(?), a high-ranking diplomat and advisor to Israeli Prime Ministers, speaks to the implications of the massive return of Jewish people to Israel. He points out that there is a common denominator between Bible-believing Christians and Bible-believing Jews, particularly pertaining to the OT Scriptures and what they teach about the Jews and their God-given homeland. The right of the Jewish people to this land is not dependent on the resolution of an international body, but it is a divine right! Believe in it! Line that up with recent events, especially the arrival of the dispersed from all corners of the earth, and you see Scripture being fulfilled. There is a divine purpose to all this!

End-time Events

We are on the threshold of momentous events, events that will consummate in the glorious reign of the King in Mount Zion! In the interim, however, two overwhelming events are said to take place, according to the Scriptures. First, the Church will be called away and taken into the presence of Christ. John 14 and the first epistle to the Thessalonians makes this clear. For Christian believers, this is the event referred to as the Blessed Hope, the event looked and prayed for since the birth of the Church. The next event applies directly to the nation of Israel, and refers to the time of great trauma and tribulation that they as a nation will experience after the departure of the Church and before the Second Coming of the Messiah (Jer. 30:3, the time of Jacob’s Trouble). The consummate divine objective during this seven years of great trouble is to save Israel out of it! God pledges that He will bring them out of it. Zechariah 13:9 says that God will bring a third part of them through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will test them as gold is tested... This is the “all Israel shall be saved” conclusion drawn in Romans 11:26.

Consider the seven-year trauma period known alternatively as the Great Tribulation, the 70th Week of Daniel, the Time of Jacob’s Trouble, and the Seven Year Tribulation. Consider the horrible treatment of the Jews by the Gentiles over the hundreds of years: this illustrates and confirms that man in his present, natural state is not good, and that there is no evidence of an evolutionary improvement in man even to this day. Human fantasy and biblical reality part ways at this point (in their evaluation of God). Many profess to be repelled by what Scripture

describes as to the depravity of man. Yet man continually and repeatedly demonstrates that he is quite capable of performing the horrific acts described in the Holy Scriptures. The Bible always has told it the way it was, is, and will be. God, although wholly cognizant as to the facts of the future, is not the perpetrator of man's belligerence. God, in love, is allowing man to see himself as he really is, and man then can see what is necessary to prepare for the future and to get right with God.

At the beginning of the Tribulation, Antichrist will make a peace treaty with the nation of Israel, but it will be a false peace. Israel at first will say "peace and safety," but then sudden destruction shall come upon them, as travail upon a woman with child" (I Thes. 5:3). The Tribulation will move Israel and the world inexorably toward Armageddon (Revelation 16). Armageddon is represented in a tell [a mound, originally in the Middle East, over or consisting of the ruins of ancient settlements] today, and is the historical crossroad of the great nations of antiquity. The Valley of Jezreel is here, the staging area of the armies of the world as they come together for a massive move against Jerusalem and the Jewish people. Jerusalem now becomes a "cup of trembling" (Zech. 12:2). Zechariah 14:2-3 describes this final climactic confrontation.

Zec 12:2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

Zec 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Zec 14:3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Gentile belligerence will be shattered, the Antichrist deposed, and Satan bound for the coming glorious reign of the Messiah.

Not the End

We have seen much on this historic journey of the Jewish people, beginning with Abraham, through the last great dispersion, which has prevailed now for almost 2,000 years. But this journey is not yet over, as there is another great chapter to be written, telling the story of the final great and glorious reign of the Messiah, over reconciled Jews and redeemed Gentiles! It will be the last great Aliyah (return).

Promise Series Review Questions!

CBC, August 27, 2017

1. Recite Psalm 122:6! Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
2. Recite Genesis 12:3! 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.
3. List the three great dispersions (hint: the years were 722 BC, 586 BC, 70 AD). Assyrian captivity of Northern Israel, Babylonian captivity of Southern Kingdom, Romans (Titus) destroys Jerusalem (and Jews are scattered)
4. Name the mountain fortress where 960 Jews committed suicide rather than being taken by the Romans; this has become a symbol for Jewish resistance. Masada
5. Who is known as the father of Zionism? Theodore Hertzl
6. Where is the vision of the valley of dry bones, predicting the re-gathering of an unbelieving Israel into their homeland? Ezekiel 37
7. Who was the American Christian evangelist with a deep love for the Jewish people, who wrote in 1878, *Jesus Is Coming*, which laid out in a clear way teaching regarding the Second Coming and the Jews' restoration to their homeland? William Blackstone
8. On November 2, 1917, a letter came from British Foreign Secretary Lord Arthur James Balfour to the renowned Jewish leader, Lord Rothschild, which was a declaration of sympathy for the formation of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine, and is called the Balfour Declaration.
9. "Next year in Jerusalem" was a popular Jewish expression which helped keep hope alive.
10. Give the date for the international recognition of the modern state of Israel. May 14, 1948
11. T or F Israel is the only ancient state to be resurrected and then restored as a national entity!
12. Name the ship filled with thousands of Jewish immigrants who were refused entrance into Israel following WW II and returned to British-controlled holding camps located in Germany. The Exodus
13. List the three most famous Israel-Arab wars. The 1948 War of Independence, the Six-Day War (or '67 War), the 1973 Yom Kippur War
14. Name the territory at the north-eastern-most corner of Israel, once controlled by Syria, but overtaken by Israel which Israel has refused to give up because of its strategic importance (raised area from which to shoot down on Israelis). Golan Heights
15. What war made the Israelis face their vulnerability (ability to be surprised and defeated)? The Yom Kippur War
16. An Air France jetliner on a trip from Athens to Tel Aviv was hijacked by agents of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (June 27, 1976), and taken where? Entebbe Airport, Uganda, Africa

17. The Wailing Wall (also known as the Western Wall is the last visible artifact of the Herodian Temple; it was not actually part of the Temple but was part of a retaining wall built to increase the ground support under the Temple.
18. What is “the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, beginning in 1987” called? The Intifada
19. A Jihadist is one who wars against non-Muslims (often armed with crude instruments of destruction).
20. What was the first Arab nation to recognize Israel as a nation? Egypt
21. Give the leader of that country’s name (at the time). Anwar Sadat
22. What happened to him (October 6, 1981)? Assassinated by one of his fellow Egyptians
23. Name the peace treaty signed by this Arab leader and the Israeli Prime Minister (October 17, 1978). Camp David Peace Accords
24. What other Arab country has formally recognized Israel? Jordan
25. “Jerusalem will be trodden down until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Lk. 21:24)
26. Who is the current Prime Minister of Israel? Benjamin Netanyahu