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1

THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL & GAZA & ISRAEL'S ROLE IN ESCHATOLOGY

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Introduction

Contrary to some journalists, political activists, and extreme left-wing historians, Israel has a long history dating back at least to the Hebrew settlement by Abraham in circa 2,090BC (4,113 years).¹ Some scholars suggest the lineage can be traced back 5,784 years to Creation in Israel, though I prefer to rely on historical documents that can verify these dates. The grandsons of Noah after the flood were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras out of Japheth; Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan out of Ham; Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram out of Shem, and their descendants became the Elamites, Scythians, Cimmerians, Germani, Dodanim and Macedonia, Assyrians, Persians, Asian, Arameans, Cushites, Amorites, Babylonians, Philistines, Egyptians, Canaanites, and finally the Israelites through Shem, Arphaxad, Salah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, Abraham, and Isaac to Jacob.² Hebrew history is well-documented in many Jewish sources dating back to antiquity, as well as the Mesopotamians, Greeks, Christianity, Gnosticism, the Druze, and Islam. There were various descendants of Noah that possessed the Promised Land at least verifiable to the timeline of Noah and the end of the flood, circa 2,457BC (4,480 years).³

A group of archaeologists led by Dr Yosef Garfinkel of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dr David Ben-Shlomo of the Ariel University, and Naomi Korn of Naomi Korn Associates (who consult for numerous universities), found significant evidence of a prehistoric tribe they call "Yarmukians" dating at least 5,500-6,000 years ago in region of the Yarmuk River and a number of sites throughout Syria, Lebanon, and the Levant.⁴ Although the vast majority of archaeologists are secular because of the nature of their science, they admitted, "Anthropomorphic statues may be related to the myths of the creation of man in the Sumerian and biblical traditions".⁵ In a 1932 archaeological report by archaeologist Eann McDonald, they found "flint hoes" in several sites, including Wady Ghazzeh (illuvial beds from Be'er Sheva to Gaza), where he suggested a possible ancient connection to the Israelites.⁶

Abraham was seventy-five years of age when he departed for the Promised Land, with HaShem's (Jewish name for God) promise of granting the land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants.⁷ The name Israel was given to Jacob after travailing against the Adversary Peniel all night (Genesis 32:28) circa 1906BC.⁸ Jacob settled in Shechem, Israel circa 1906BC.⁹ After the

¹ Prof Kenneth A. Kitchen, *Ancient Orient and Old Testament*, 1st ed. (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 1966); 'Bible: Complete Bible Timeline' (BibleHub, n.d.), n. I have used both Biblehub and later Kenneth Kitchen throughout this paper, https://biblehub.com/timeline/; *Bible: New Living Translation*, Biblehub (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2004), Genesis 12:1-9, https://biblehub.com/.

² Solomon of Akhlat, *The Book of the Bee: The Syriac Text*, trans. Ernest A Wallis Bulge (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1886), 37, https://sacred-texts.com/chr/bb/index.htm; *Bible: New Living Translation*, Biblehub (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2004), Genesis 10, 1 Chronicles 1, https://biblehub.com/; Tamara Mahmoud, *Midrash: Bereshit Rabbah* (Sefaria, 500), sec. 37, https://www.sefaria.org/Bereishit_Rabbah.

³ Refer footnote 1.

⁴ Yosef Garfinkel, David Ben-Shlomo, and Naomi Korn, *Symbolic Dimension of the Yarmukian Culture: Canonization in Neolithic Art*, vol. 3 (Jerusalem, Israel: Israel Exploration Society and the Sha'ar Hagolan expedition, 2010), 1–4.

⁵ Garfinkel, Ben-Shlomo, and Korn, 3:315.

⁶ Eann McDonald, J. L. Starkey, and Lankester Harding, *Beth-Pelet II: Prehistoric Fara* (London: British School of Archaeology in Egypt, 1932), 11.

⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Genesis 12:4, 7.

⁸ Dr Peter D Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3)*, vol. 1 (Stanthorpe, Australia: Bassano Publishing House, 2020), 179.

⁹ 'Bible: Complete Bible Timeline'; *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Genesis 12:4.

arrival of the Israelites, the region was called אָאָרָץ בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאָל land of the children of Israel") for it is written: "During this period Joshua destroyed all the descendants of Anak, who lived in the hill country of Hebron, Debir, Anab, and the entire hill country of Judah and Israel. He killed them all and completely destroyed their towns. None of the descendants of Anak were left in all the land of Israel, though some still remained in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod. None of the Anakim were left in <u>the land of the children of Israel</u>; they remained only in <u>Gaza, in</u> <u>Gath, and in Ashdod</u>" (Joshua 11:21-22). Israel was first used as a region circa 1906BC, where Jacob bought a plot of land and built an altar to God in Shechem, Israel, dedicating the land to the God of Israel: "And there he built an altar and named it El-Elohe-Israel" (Genesis 33:20).¹⁰

Most Christians believe we are in the End Times, but very few understand Israel's role in eschatology. Most don't even realize when we entered the End Times and how eschatology revolves around the Jewish people — the state of Israel. *"What, really?"* was the common response as I surveyed a group of people. It is time the world understands Israel's role in eschatology in light of so much antisemitism after the horrific terrorist attack on 7 October 2023 by Arab terrorists known as קמָס (*Hamas,* violence).¹¹ Some suggest this was already prophesied by the chief Levite musician, Asaph, of King Solomon's Temple in Psalms 83 circa 979BC:¹²

They devise crafty schemes against your people;

they conspire against your precious ones.

"Come," they say, "let us wipe out Israel as a nation.

We will destroy the very memory of its existence."

Yes, this was their unanimous decision.

They signed a treaty as allies against you—

these Edomites and Ishmaelites;

Moabites and Hagrites;

Gebalites, Ammonites, and Amalekites;

and people from Philistia and Tyre.

Assyria has joined them, too,

and is allied with the descendants of Lot. Selah [meaning exalt or praise]. (Psalms 83:3-8).¹³

The Edomites refer to the original Roman Empire and its descendants, including Italy, Russia, the German Nazis, Christendom (the sullied pretenders) and other antisemitic countries.¹⁴ The Ishmaelites refer to the greater Arabian Peninsula, who are in fact descendants of Ishmael. Tyre is an ancient city in Lebanon that fell in 332BC, and 30,000 citizens were sold into slavery by Alexander the Great. The Gebalites were also from Lebanon from the ancient city of Byblos, who were involved in building Solomon's Temple.¹⁵ The Amalekites were descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau. The Amalekites were finally defeated in the *Battle of Refidim* in Exodus 17:8-16, however there is a spirit of Amalek called Samael (Satan) that will tempt mankind's ego to rise

¹⁵ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, 1 Kings 5:18.

¹⁰ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Genesis 33:20.

¹¹ *Bible: Westminster Leningrad Codex*, Biblehub (West Redding: tanach.us, 1008), Genesis 6:13, https://biblehub.com/; *Son of HAMAS Shames the Pro-Palestine Movement | JHS Clip* (The Jordan Harbinger Show, 2023), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2b8DHjHPgs.

¹² *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, 2 Chronicles 5:12, Ezra 2:41.

¹³ Bible: New Living Translation, Psalms 83:3-8.

¹⁴ Dr Peter D Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 2 of 3)*, vol. 2 (Stanthorpe, Australia: Bassano Publishing House, 2024), 193.

up against every generation.¹⁶ The Assyrians were native to Iraq, northwestern Iran, southeastern Turkey, eastern Syria, and western Pakistan,¹⁷ all descendants of Asshur, son of Shem.¹⁸ The Hagrites were a nomadic tribe of Ishmaelites throughout the region east of Gilead, who were conquered by Israel during the reign of King Saul (1 Chronicles 5:10, 18-22). Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the king's flocks of sheep and goats (1 Chronicles 27:31). The Moabites were a tribe descended from Moab, son of Lot, born of an incestuous relationship with his oldest daughter (Genesis 19:37), who were utterly flooded, then defeated by the Israelites in 2 Kings 3, and were never heard of again, as it was written, "But <u>Moab</u>, my washbasin, will become my servant, and I will wipe my feet on <u>Edom</u> and shout in triumph over <u>Philistia</u>" (Psalm 60:8), and again, "But Moab, my washbasin, will become my servant, and I will wipe my feet on <u>Edom</u> and shout in triumph over <u>Philistia</u>" (Psalm 108:9). Now here is the warning to Tyre (Lebanon), Sidon (Lebanon) and Philistia (Gaza):

"What do you have against me, <u>Tyre and Sidon and you cities of Philistia</u>? Are you trying to take revenge on me? If you are, then watch out! I will strike swiftly and pay you back for everything you have done. You have taken my silver and gold and all my precious treasures, and have carried them off to your pagan temples. You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks, so they could take them far from their homeland. But I will bring them back from all the places to which you sold them, and <u>I will pay you back for everything you have done</u>" (Joel 3:4-7).¹⁹

This passage in Joel should be a warning to all people of Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran considering further attacks. You should stop now before your people are paid back for everything you have done. This was a promise by God Himself, not Israel. As to the prophecy by Asaph, I believe it was already fulfilled between 5-10 June 1967 during the Six-Day War, though we will investigate this in more detail herein.

The Promised Land of Israel and Judah

When I studied ancient history at university, I was surprised to find two of the text books were the *King James Bible* and the *Dead Sea Scrolls*, the latter discovered in a series of caves in Qumran, Israel, between 1946 and 1956 near the northwest tip of the Dead Sea. These scrolls are made from parchment, papyrus, and one Copper Scroll (3Q15), dated from the 3rd century BC to just prior to the destruction of the Second Temple in 70AD, probably taken from the Temple around 68AD during the siege by the Zealots and Edomites.²⁰ Most of the scrolls are dated between the 3rd century BC to the 1st century CE (AD), although some of the earliest documents dating back to the First Temple in the 8th century BC found in the Judean Desert, and some dating all the way through to the 11th century AD.²¹ These incredible documents have led me on a lifelong journey delving into many ancient documents.

¹⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, Exodus 17:8-16; Rabbi Shim'on bar Yochai and Rabbi Michael Berg, *The Zohar: Volume 22* (Kabbalah Centre International Inc., 2003), Ki Tetze 23:109-111.

¹⁷ 'Who Are The Assyrians?', *Assyrian American Cultural Organization* (blog), 2023, https://www.assyrianamerican.org/who-are-the-

assyrians#:~:text=The%20Assyrians%20are%20the%20indigenous,Chaldeans%2C%20Aramaeans%2C%20and%20Syriacs.

¹⁸ Solomon of Akhlat, *The Book of the Bee: The Syriac Text*, 36.

¹⁹ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Joel 3:4-7.

²⁰ 'The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library: Qumran Caves Scrolls', *Israel Antiquities Authority* (blog), 2023, https://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/learn-about-the-scrolls/introduction; Flavius Josephus and William Wiston, *The Wars of the Jews (Book V)* (A.M. Auburn and Buffalo, 1895), chap. 1.

²¹ 'The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library: Qumran Caves Scrolls'.

As a young man growing up, Abraham was the son of Terah according to Genesis 11:26-28 and they lived in Ur Kaśdim, then moved to Harran (also known as Paddan-aram), which is where his father died. According to Joshua 24:2 and 15, Terah was an idolater, and so was his family, including Abraham up until the age of forty.²² The principal deity at Ur Kaśdim was *Nanna* (from the Sumerian *Nar-nar*, meaning *"light giver"* – essentially moon god) and in Harran it was the same astrological "moon god" named *Sin*.²³ Other gods worshipped in Harran were *Sin's* consort *Ningal*, who bore him *Sun*; the goddess *Atargatis*, and the goddess *Allat* (the pre-Islamic Arab goddess from where <u>Allah</u> is derived).²⁴

YHVH said to Abram (God had not changed his name to Abraham yet), "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and <u>go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:1-3).²⁵ Abram departed as God had instructed him, bringing with him Lot, his servants, and his herds and flocks. "Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran" (Genesis 12:4).²⁶ Arriving on the mountain of Moreh, Israel, southeast of Haifa and northeast of Tel Aviv, YHVH appeared to Abram and said, <u>"I will give this land to your descendants</u>, and Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him" (Genesis 12:7).²⁷ Please note from Moreh, Abram could see right across Israel to the north and south (northeast to the Sea of Galilee), east towards the coast, and west towards the ranges of Jordan.</u>

Abram asked God, "How can I know that I will possess it" (Genesis 15:8) referring to the land of Canaan. Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not their own, and they will be <u>enslaved and mistreated four hundred years</u>. But I will judge the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will depart with many possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a ripe old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the halves of the carcasses. On that day YHVH made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land—from the river of Egypt to the great River Euphrates—the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites" (Genesis 15:13-18).²⁸ Here the Lord is foretelling Abraham that they will go into Egypt during the greatest dearth (famine) they had ever seen, but when they return, his descendants will conquer all of the land. We also find the words, "From the river of Egypt (Nile) to the great River Euphrates", which includes all of Lebanon, Jordan, southern Turkey, most of Syria, half of Iraq, and one third of Saudi Arabia. This was the promise by God to Abraham circa 2081BC.²⁹

²² Maimonides, Laws of Idolatry 1:3; Posner, Menachem (2008), Who Was Abraham? The First Patriarch in the Bible, Chabad-Lubavitch Media Center.

https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/112356/jewish/Who-Was-Abraham-The-First-Patriarch-in-the-Bible.htm

²³ Tenney, Merrill C. (1976) The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopaedia of the Bible, The Zondervan Corporation, 5 Volumes. Volume 4 - p370, Volume 5 – p677.

²⁴ C. E. Bosworth et al., *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, vol. 5 (Brill, 1986), 692; 'Livius Articles on Ancient History: Harran', 2018, https://www.livius.org/articles/place/harran/.

²⁵ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Genesis 12:1-3.

²⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, Genesis 12:4.

²⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, Genesis 12:7.

²⁸ Bible: New Living Translation, Genesis 15:13-18.

²⁹ 'Bible: Complete Bible Timeline'.

The Promised Land was not just given to Abraham, but also to Isaac, son of Abraham: *YHVH* appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you. Live here as a foreigner in this land, and I will be with you and bless you. <u>I hereby confirm that I will give all these lands to you and your descendants</u>, just as I solemnly promised Abraham, your father. I will cause your <u>descendants to become as numerous as the stars of the sky, and I will give them all these lands. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed.</u> I will do this because Abraham listened to me and obeyed all my requirements, commands, decrees, and instructions" (Genesis 26:2-6).³⁰ Consequently, Isaac stayed in Gerar, which is another mount known as Tel Haror in modern Israel about 24 kilometres east of Gaza.

Then we have Jacob receiving the same promise from God, after departing from אָבֶע (Be'er Sheva, which we call Beersheba in English) and travelled toward החבר (Haran), referring to Harran, near Urfa in Turkey, stopping at various places along the way, first of all, a place of significance. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway, which we now know the dream as Jacob's ladder:

At the top of the stairway stood YHVH, and he said, "I AM YHVH, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you" (Genesis 28:13-15).



Figure 1 - Map of Promised Land (Genesis 15:13-18).

³⁰ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Genesis 26:2-6.

Genesis 28:19 tells us, *"He named that place Bethel (which means "house of God"), although it was previously called Luz".* This is one of the greatest errors in Biblical history, as recognised by the Jewish author Emilia Bassano. Whilst the Bible refers to the town of בית אל *Beit El*) "Bethel", which was recorded by 4th century historians Eusebius and Saint Jerome as, *"12 Roman miles north of Jerusalem on the road to Neapolis (modern Nablus) and lies on the east side of the road",*³¹ however Zohar Hadash 27c records the place as *"the place where the Temple would one day stand; he prayed there"* referring to the Temple Mount (Mount Moriah) in Jerusalem.³² The famous 11th century French commentator and Talmudist, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki (Rashi) explains the verse as follows:

אריבגע במקום AND HE LIGHTED UPON THE PLACE — Scripture does not mention which place, but by writing בַּמְקוֹם the place it refers to the place mentioned already in another passage, viz., Mount Moriah of which it is stated (Genesis 22:4) "And he saw the place (המקום) afar off".³³

To ratify this, we need only examine the Hebrew where God said to Abraham, *"Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you"* (Genesis 22:2). The Hebrew word for Moriah is תַּמִּרְיָה, referring to Mount Moriah or the region of Moriah, for Rashi also explains on Genesis 22:2 as follows:

ארץ המוריה THE LAND OF MORIAH — This is Jerusalem, and so we find in Chronicles (2 Chronicles 3:1) "To build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in Mount Moriah". Our Rabbis have explained that it is called Moriah — Instruction — because from it (i.e. from the Temple built on that mountain) instruction forth to Israel (Genesis Rabbah 55:7). Onkelos translates it by "the land of the Divine Service". He takes it as having reference to the offering of incense brought in the Temple on Moriah in which there were myrrh (מור) nard and other spices.³⁴

Abraham fulfilled the promise of God by travelling to the Promised Land of Israel for his sons, grandchildren, and his descendants who thrive in Israel today. God also appeared to Jacob in the same way as Abraham and Isaac, this time at Bethel, blessing him, saying, *"Your name is Jacob, but you will not be called Jacob any longer. From now on your name will be Israel." So God renamed him Israel* (Genesis 35:9-10).³⁵ Then God said to him:

"I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Be fruitful and multiply. You will become a great nation, even many nations. Kings will be among your descendants! <u>And I will give you the land I once gave to Abraham and Isaac. Yes, I will give it to you and your descendants after you.</u>" Then God went up from the place where he had spoken to Jacob (Genesis 35:11-13).³⁶

Both Isaac and Jacob fulfilled the promise given by God, just as the descendants of Israel are doing today. Abraham became the Patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, first settling near Bethel and Lot near Sodom and Gomorrah, before permanently moving to Hebron. He travelled through Israel as far as Shechem, now near Nablus, northeast of Tel Aviv.³⁷

After the death of Sarah in 2030BC, Abraham purchased land from Ephron the Hittite Elder at significant cost known today as the *Cave of Machpelah* or the *Tombs of the Patriarchs*, but only if he paid "full price" of four hundred pieces of silver and not a shekel less, in the presence of

³¹ Livingston, David (2003), Locating Biblical Bethel Correctly - Part I. http://davelivingston.com/bethel14.htm

³² Wolski, Dr Nathan (2016), The Zohar, Pritzker Edition, Stanford University Press, Section: Midrash Ha-Ne'lam, Zohar Hadash: Va-Yetse ZH27(c) in Vol 10, p430.

³³ Rashi on Genesis 28:11. https://www.sefaria.org/Rashi_on_Genesis.28.11.1?lang=bi

³⁴ Rashi on Genesis 22:2. https://www.sefaria.org/Rashi_on_Genesis.22.2.3?lang=bi

³⁵ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Genesis 35:9-10.

³⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, Genesis 35:11-13.

³⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, Genesis 12:6.

witnesses to remove the *klipot* (evil) from the site.³⁸ Abraham, his wife Sarah, their son Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and his son Jacob and his wife Leah are all buried in the *Cave of Machpelah* — a Holy Place for all of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, where the Avraham Avino Synagogue and the Ibrahimi Mosque are both housed.³⁹ Where is the Cave of Machpelah? It is 30 kilometres south of Jerusalem in the heart of the Old City of Hebron in the West Bank. Who are the traditional owners of this land? The descendants of Israel.

We find their heritage etched within the lines of recorded history of the Kings of Israel and Judah, written in the Tanakh, the Babylonian Talmud, the Mishnah, various Midrash, Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, and the Dead Sea Scrolls, although I will restrict my references to the Bible:

	=		-	-			
		The House	e of Gideon				
1129BC	Abimelech	Abimelech ben Gideon, Melekh			Judges 9		
The House of Saul							
1043BC	Saul	Saul ben Kish,	Melekh Yisra'	el	1 Samuel 8-10		
1011BC	Ishbosheth	Ishbosheth ben Saul, Melekh Yisra'el			2 Samuel 2:10		
	The House of David						
1010BC	David	David ben Yish	iai, Melekh Yis	sra'el	2 Samuel 2-5		
970BC	Solomon	Shelomo ben David, Melekh Yisra'el			1 Kings 1-2		
931BC	Rehoboam	Rechav'am ben Shlomo, Melekh Yehudah			1 Kings 11-14		
The Kingdom of Israel			The Kingdom of Judah				
931BC	Jeroboam	1 Kings 12:1- 20	915BC	Abijah	1 Kings 14:31		
910BC	Nadab	1 Kings 15:25-31	912BC	Asa	1 Kings 15:8		
The House of Baasha			871BC	Jehoshaphat	1 Kings 22:41		
910BC	Baasha		849BC	Jehoram	2 Kings 8:16		
887BC	Elah		842BC	Ahaziah	2 Kings 8:25		
The House of Zimri							
886BC (7 days)	Zimri	1 Kings 16:23	The House of Omri		Omri		
The House of Omri			841BC	Athaliah	2 Kings 11:1- 4		
886BC	Omri	1 Kings 16:23	The House of David				
875BC	Ahab	1 Kings 16:29	835BC	Jehoash	2 Kings 11:21-12:1		

³⁸ Chayei Sarah: Filling Our Lives with Life, 2014, https://kabbalah.com/en/online-

courses/lessons/5217-chayei-sarah-filling-our-lives-with-life/; *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Genesis 23.

³⁹ 'Tombs of the Patriarchs', *See the Holy Land* (blog), 2022, https://www.seetheholyland.net/tombs-of-the-patriarchs/.

853BC	Ahaziah	1 Kings 22:51	796BC	Amaziah	2 Kings 14:1	
852BC	Joram	2 Kings 3:1	776BC	Uzziah	2 Kings 15:1	
The House of Jehu			750BC	Jotham	2 Kings 15:32	
841BC	Jehu	2 Kings 9:6	735BC	Ahaz	2 Kings 16:1	
814BC	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 13:1	715BC	Hezekiah	2 Kings 18:1	
806BC	Jehoash	2 Kings 13:10	687BC	Manasseh	2 Kings 21:1	
791BC	Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14:23	642BC	Amon	2 Kings 21:19	
750BC	Zechariah	2 Kings 15:8	640BC	Josiah	2 Kings 22:1	
The House of Shallum			609BC	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23:31	
749BC	Shallum	2 Kings 15:13	609BC	Jehoiakim	2 Kings 23:34-35	
The House of Menahem			598BC	Jehoiachin	2 Kings 24:8	
749BC	Menahem	2 Kings 15:17	597BC	Zedekiah	2 Kings 24:18	
739BC	Pekahiah	2 Kings 15:23	627BC Jeremiah prophesied on the Fall of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 6, 34-35)			
The House of Pekah			593BC Ezekiel prophesied on the Siege of			
737BC	Pekah	2 Kings 15:27	Jerusalem (Ezekiel 4-5) 588BC Siege of Jerusalem Began (2 Kings 25)			
	The House of Hosea			586BC Fall of Jerusalem and destruction of		
732- 722BC	Hosea	2 Kings 17:1	the First Temple of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25, Jeremiah 52).40			

In 725BC, Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, invaded the entire land of Israel, and besieged the city of Samaria (Sebastia, in the West Bank) for three years before it fell in 722BC, taking almost all of Israel into exile into Gozan (Tell Halaf, modern day Syria), Halah (Heleh, Syria) and Harah (Al Harah, Syria).⁴¹ Circa 627BC, the prophet Jeremiah forecast the fall of Jerusalem and the First Temple, with Jeremiah revealing it would happen by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.⁴² Ezekiel prophesied in 593BC of the Siege of Jerusalem.⁴³ The First Babylonian Siege began in 599BC, and the second siege began in 587BC. The First Temple of Jerusalem was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586BC.⁴⁴

⁴⁰ 'Bible: Complete Bible Timeline'.

⁴¹ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, 2 Kings 17:6, 1 Chronicles 5:26.

⁴² Bible: New Living Translation, Jeremiah 6, 34-35.

⁴³ Bible: New Living Translation, Ezekiel 4-5.

⁴⁴ 'Bible: Complete Bible Timeline'.

King Cyrus the Great of the Achaemenid Empire (ancient Iranian Empire) conquered the Neo-Babylonian Empire in 539BC, bringing Jerusalem under (*the Eber-Nari satrap*),⁴⁵ from Aramaic meaning, the Governor who controls *"all the land on the west side of the Euphrates as far as Egypt*" to the sea), thus the phrase *"from the river to the sea*" is of Iranian origin from Hebrew Scripture (Joshua 1:2-4) dating back to King Darius I, and recorded by Nehemiah in the time of King Artaxerxes.⁴⁶ This is the time of Queen Esther, King Xerxes I, and the evil Haman who was hanged for attempting to annihilate the entire Jewish population, including Queen Esther. King Xerxes issued a *"decree gave the Jews in every city authority to unite to defend their lives. They were allowed to kill, slaughter, and annihilate anyone of any nationality or province who might attack them or their children and wives, and to take the property of their enemies"* (Esther 8:11).⁴⁷ It's a pity the Iranians have not learned a lesson from their own history and honoured the words of their ancestors!

In the month of Kislev (Nov-Dec, prior to Hannukah) 445BC, the prophet Nehemiah received word on the state of Israel and began to pray for forgiveness and restoration. The following year, King Artaxerxes of the Achaemenid Empire granted Nehemiah permission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. It was finished in 444BC, which brought the exiles home to Israel, totalling *"42,360 people returned to Judah, in addition to 7,337 servants and 245 singers, both men and women"* (Nehemiah 7:66).⁴⁸ They fasted, repented, and celebrated Sukkot back in the city of Jerusalem once again.⁴⁹ This brought many of the Israelite exiles back to Jerusalem once they heard.⁵⁰

In October 332BC, Gaza in the Province of Palestine was conquered by Alexander the Great in the Siege of Gaza for Macedon, though we learn he was from Kittim, Cyprus in 1 Maccabees 1:1.⁵¹ Alexander passed through Palestine on his way to Egypt and Babylon, defeating King Darius III at the Battle of Issus in 333BC.⁵² Palestine became part of Alexander the Great's new Greek Empire, though Alexander in 323BC died and Ptolemy I Soter conquered the region. His dynasty reigned until 30BC, when it was incorporated into the Roman Empire. Cleopatra VII Thea Philopator is the most famous descendant brandished in the Shakespearean tragedy *Antony and Cleopatra* (~70-30BC).⁵³ Judah was first ruled by the Ptolemaic Empire, then the Macedonian Seleucid Empire, and finally under the Hasmonean Dynasty of rule. In 168BC, the Seleucid king *"came out of a wicked root"* Antiochus IV Epiphanes overtook Jerusalem, and *"took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof, and the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials, and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off. He took also the <u>silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden treasures</u> which he found" (1 Maccabees 1:21-*

⁴⁵ *Bible: Westminster Leningrad Codex*, Nehemiah 2:9.

⁴⁶ Lester L. Grabbe, *A History of the Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple Period (Vol. 1): The Persian Period (539-331BCE)*, vol. 1 (T&T Clark International, 2004), 134; Louis H., 'Some Observations on the Name of Palestine', *Hebrew Union College Annual* 61 (1990): 1; *Bible: Westminster Leningrad Codex*, Nehemiah 2:9; *Bible: Westminster Leningrad Codex*, Joshua 1:2-4, from the river to the sea.

⁴⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Esther 8:11.

⁴⁸ Bible: New Living Translation, Nehemiah 7:66.

⁴⁹ Bible: New Living Translation, Nehemiah 8:13-18.

⁵⁰ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Nehemiah 11-12.

⁵¹ Sir Lancelot Charles Lee Brenton, *Bible: Brenton Septuagint Translation* (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers Inc, 1986), 1 Maccabees 1:1.

⁵² 'Encyclopedia Britannica' (Encyclopedia Britannica Inc., 2021), From Alexander the Great to 70 CE, britannica.com.

⁵³ *First Folio*, 1st ed. (London: William Jaggard, Edward Blount, and W. Aspley, 1623), Antony and Cleopatra.

23),⁵⁴ He marched into the Jewish Temple of Jerusalem and erected a statue of the Greek god Zeus, but to rub his <u>antisemitism</u> in even further, he sacrificed a pig on the altar of incense. This is what caused the Maccabean Revolt, led by the Jewish High Priest, Judah Maccabee, where Josephus recorded:

When therefore the generals of Antiochus's armies had been beaten so often, Judas assembled the people together, and told them, that "After these many victories which God had given them, they ought to go up to Jerusalem, and purify the temple, and offer the appointed sacrifices." But as soon as he, with the whole multitude, was come to Jerusalem, and found the temple deserted, and its gates burnt down, and plants growing in the temple of their own accord, on account of its desertion, he and those that were with him began to lament, and were quite confounded at the sight of the temple. So he chose out some of his soldiers, and gave them order to fight against those guards that were in the citadel; until he should have purified the temple. When therefore he had carefully purged it; and had brought in new vessels; <u>the candlestick</u>; the table [of shew-bread,] and <u>the altar</u> [of incense;] which were made of gold; he hung up the <u>veils</u> at the gates, and added doors to them. He also took down the altar [of burnt-offering;] and built a new one of <u>stones</u> that he gathered together, <u>and not of such as were hewn with iron tools</u>.⁵⁵

Judah Maccabee or Judah ben Mattathias (son of Mattathias ben Johanan, Priest), was the beginning of a Cohen dynasty of high priests who became kings:

Judah ben Mattathias, Warrior and High Priest

Jonathan Apphus ben Mattathias, Prince and High Priest (brother)

Û

Simon Thassi ben Mattathias, Prince and High Priest (brother)

ſ

John Hyrcanus ben Simon, Prince and High Priest (son)

Į

Aristobulus I, King and High Priest of Judea (son)

The Hasmonean Dynasty					
104BC	Judah	Aristobulus I, King and High Priest of Judea	Josephus Ant XIII, 11		
103BC	Jonathan Yannai	Alexander Jannaeus, King and High Priest of Judea	Josephus Ant XIII, 12		
76BC	Shelomzion	Salome Alexandra, Queen and High Priest of Judea	Josephus Ant XIII, 12		
67BC	Aristobulus	Aristobulus II, King and High Priest of Judea	Josephus Ant XIII, 16		
63BC	Jonathan Hurqanos	Hyrcanus II, King and High Priest of Judea, later Ethnarch under Pompey	Josephus Ant XIV, 1		
40BC	Matityahu	Antigonus II Mattathias, King and High Priest of Judea	Josephus Ant XIV, 4, 12		
Herodian Dynasty					
37-4BC	Herod I	Herod the Great, Roman King of Judea	Matthew 2:1-23, Luke 1:5		

⁵⁴ Brenton, *Bible: Brenton Septuagint Translation*, 1 Maccabees 1:21-23.

⁵⁵ Flavius Josephus and William Wiston, *The Antiquities of the Jews* (A.M. Auburn and Buffalo, 1895), XII, 7.6.

4BC-39AD	Herod Antipas	Marcus Julius Agrippa, Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea	Mark 6:14
41-44AD	Agrippa I or	Marcus Julius Agrippa, Roman King of	Acts 25:23-
	Herod II	Judea	26:32

Borders of the Ancient Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

The Book of Joshua, Chapters 13-22 detail the division of the מָקָלֶכֶת יִשְׁרָאֵל (Kingdom of Israel) and the מָקָלֶכֶת יִשְּׁרָאֵל (Kingdom of Judah) after they cross the Jordan River at Shittim and destroy the cities of Jericho and all the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites along the way from Mount Hermon on the border between Lebanon and Syria, to Jerusalem, all the way down to the Southern Negev Desert in Israel, and northwestern Sinai region of Egypt between 1406-1375BC just as God promised Abraham.⁵⁶ Soon after Moses died, the Lord spoke to Joshua saying: "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore arise, you and all these people, and cross over the Jordan into the land that I am giving to the children of Israel. I have given you every place where the sole of your foot will tread, just as I promised to Moses. Your territory shall extend from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great River Euphrates—all the land of the Hittites—and west as far as the Great Sea</u>..." ((Joshua 1:2-4) — "from the river to the sea" meaning a perpetual promise from God to Israel.⁵⁷ This can never be perverted towards any Arab nation, including the "Palestinians" as they call themselves to fool the world! It is restricted to the descendants of Jacob, which they are not.

Later, we find King Saul and King David fought the Amalekites taking control of northwest Sinai.⁵⁸ Joshua spared only the Gibeonites of Lebanon because of a peace treaty with them, guaranteeing their safety, though Joshua made them *"the woodcutters and water carriers for the community of Israel and for the altar of YHVH"* (Joshua 9:27).⁵⁹ After defeating the southern armies, King Jabin of Hazor schemed against him, and Joshua did not spare a single soul:

When King Jabin of Hazor heard what had happened, he sent messages to the following kings: King Jobab of Madon; the king of Shimron; the king of Acshaph; all the kings of the northern hill country; the kings in the Jordan Valley south of Galilee; the kings in the Galilean foothills; the kings of Naphoth-dor on the west; the kings of Canaan, both east and west; the kings of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites in the towns on the slopes of Mount Hermon in the land of Mizpah... So Joshua conquered the entire region—the hill country, the entire Negev, the whole area around the town of Goshen, the western foothills, the Jordan Valley, the mountains of Israel, and the Galilean foothills. The Israelite territory now extended all the way from Mount Halak, which leads up to Seir in the south, as far north as Baal-gad at the foot of Mount Hermon in the valley of Lebanon.⁶⁰

Whilst there is a vast history of the Israelites from the time of Abraham to the formation of these kingdoms, there are literally thousands of documents that validate their history, and I do not have the space to do so in this paper. Now this will surprise many readers, for in the *"fifteenth year of the reign of Amaziah son of Joash over Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria forty-one years"* (2 Kings 14:23). Why is this important? Because he restored the boundaries of Israel deep into Syria, which was part of the Promised Land:

⁵⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Joshua 11.

⁵⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, Joshua 1:2-4.

⁵⁸ 'Jewish Virtual Library', 2021, Sinai, https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org; *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, 1 Samuel 15:7, 27:8.

⁵⁹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Joshua 9:27.

⁶⁰ Bible: New Living Translation, Joshua 11:1-3, 16-17.

"This Jeroboam restored the boundary of Israel from Lebo-hamath (Hama, Syria, north of Damascus) to the Sea of the Arabah (arid steppe west of Dead Sea in southern Judah), according to the word that the LORD, the God of Israel, had spoken through His servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath-hepher. For YHVH saw that the affliction of the Israelites, both slave and free, was very bitter. There was no one to help Israel, and since YHVH had said that He would not blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash" (2 Kings 14:25-27).⁶¹

The original border to the north included Beirut, Tripoli, Homs, all the way through to Hama, some 274 kilometres by road to Kafr Kila, Lebanon at the Good Fence border — with Metula on the northern tip of Israel opposite. This is currently where Israeli troops are stationed on the border with high concrete barriers.⁶² As you can see, even Lebanon and southeastern Syria were part of the Promised Land, and formed part of the ancient Kingdom of Israel. Thus, when ancient Roman and Greek writers were discussing Palestine and Syria, they were referring to the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Keep this in mind as we investigate Philistia.

Who were the Ancient Philistines of Philistia?

During the Middle Kingdom of Egypt and into the New Kingdom (Egyptian Empire), the land of Israel (Canaan), Philistia (Gaza strip), Lebanon, and Syria were called "Retjenu" (*Retenu*) prior to the arrival of the Israelites.⁶³ After the return of the Israelite army circa 1406BC after wandering in the wilderness, the region was called בָּאָרֵץ בְּנֵי יִשֶׁרְאֵל (erez bene Yisrael, meaning "the land of the children of Israel") for it is written: "During this period Joshua destroyed all the descendants of Anak, who lived in the hill country of Hebron, Debir, Anab, and the entire hill country of Judah and Israel. He killed them all and completely destroyed their towns. None of the descendants of Anak were left in all the land of Israel, though some still remained in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod. None of the Anakim (Anakites) were left in <u>the land of the children of Israel</u>; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod" (Joshua 11:21-22). The Anakites were giants of Hebron,⁶⁴ and "were considered Rephaites, but the Moabites called them Emites" (Deuteronomy 2:11), descendants of the Nephilim and formidable enemies of Israel.⁶⁵

As I discussed in my introduction, a group of archaeologists led by Dr Yosef Garfinkel of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dr David Ben-Shlomo of the Ariel University, and Naomi Korn of Naomi Korn Associates (who consult for numerous universities), found significant evidence of a prehistoric tribe they call "Yarmukians" dating at least 5,500-6,000 years ago in region of the Yarmuk River and a number of sites throughout Syria, Lebanon, and the Levant.⁶⁶ Although the vast majority of archaeologists are secular because of the nature of their science, they admitted, "Anthropomorphic statues may be related to the myths of the creation of man in the Sumerian and biblical traditions".⁶⁷ Towards the end of the Yarmukians existence, there is evidence of Canaanite blades being used, which suggests they were either part of the Canaanite kingdom or certainly traded with the Canaanites. In a 1932 archaeological report by McDonald for the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, they found flint hoes in several sites, including *Wady Ghazzeh* (illuvial

⁶¹ Bible: New Living Translation, 2 Kings 14:25-27.

⁶² Israeli and UN Troops Stationed in Israel's Metula, Near the Lebanon Border, 2023,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WamJeQWizvk.

⁶³ 'Some Observations on the Name of Palestine', 1–2.

⁶⁴ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Deuteronomy 9:2, Joshua 14:15.

⁶⁵ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Deuteronomy 2:11, 9:2.

⁶⁶ Garfinkel, Ben-Shlomo, and Korn, *Symbolic Dimension of the Yarmukian Culture: Canonization in Neolithic Art*, 3:1–4.

⁶⁷ Garfinkel, Ben-Shlomo, and Korn, 3:315.

beds from Be'er Sheva to Gaza), where, *"Professor Petrie suggests that the H tribe drove the A people into Trans-Jordan, from where they appeared thousands of years later with the Israelites; making their identical forms of hoes at 1100BC"* therefore these ancient Yarmukians were likely Hebrews descended from Noah after the great flood,⁶⁸ and either were conquered, driven out, or assimilated into Israelite society. I have not found any DNA results to confirm which tribe they descend from.

The word Philistia (the Gaza strip) is a Hebrew word פָּלְשֶׁת (Pelesheth, from primary root פָּלְשׁ) "act of mourning, from burrowing in" and the Philistines are derived from the Hebrew Philistines, inhabitants of Philistia).69 The earliest mention of Philistines in Philistia in פרלשתים the Bible is in 2057BC with Abimelech making a treaty with Abraham at Beersheba, which was later breached by the Philistines over jealousy and water rights of Isaac, and soon reinstated with Isaac because of God's blessing over him.⁷⁰ The Armenian Nestorian, Solomon of Akhlat, who became bishop of Basrah circa 1222AD,⁷¹ wrote a Biblical treatise asserting the Philistines were of Hebrew origin descended from Noah through Ham to: "Yaphtuhim, Pathrusim, and Casluhim, from whom went forth the Philistines" though he counted them separately to the other descendants of Ham for good reason.⁷² Interestingly, the ancient region of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, and Jaffa were originally settled by the Hebrews, possibly Israelites, as they used Jewish burial rites and perfumed oils, as revealed by the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon led by archaeologist Lawrence Stager.⁷³ Stager said the discovery *could lead to a shift in how the* civilization and perhaps its most famous warrior, Goliath, is seen, as well as how we use the word "Philistine".⁷⁴ Director of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, Dr Daniel M. Master said the DNA tests are "better matches from Crete," emphasizing until there are more samples available, "at the moment we cannot prove the specific location from whence they came" though they had some markers from Mycenaean Greece.75

Dr Master suggested that "once they arrived on the shores of Philistia, the Philistine migrants began intermarrying — or at least inter-procreating," with the local Arab and Jewish population, such as the records surrounding Naomi of Bethlehem and her two daughters-in-law Orpah and Ruth, both sisters of Moab.⁷⁶ David was the son of Jesse and Natzvat bat Ada'el (Natzvat, daughter of Ada'el).⁷⁷ Ruth was the grandmother of Jesse through Boaz, and they bore a son named Obed, who bore Jesse; thus David was the great grandson of Ruth. According to *Babylonian Talmud Sotah 42b*, Orpah bore four giant sons, Saph, Madon, Ishbi in Nob, and Goliath,⁷⁸ however the time gap between David (being the great grandson of Ruth) and Goliath being Orpah's son (Ruth and

⁶⁸ McDonald, Starkey, and Harding, *Beth-Pelet II: Prehistoric Fara*, 11.

⁶⁹ James Strong, 'Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible' (BibleHub, 2004), 6428–30, https://biblehub.com/strongs/.

⁷⁰ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Genesis 21:22-34, 26:12-35.

⁷¹ Solomon of Akhlat, *The Book of the Bee: The Syriac Text*, Preface.

⁷² Solomon of Akhlat, *The Book of the Bee: The Syriac Text*.

⁷³ John Noble Wilford, 'Philistines Were Cultured After All, Say Archeologists', *New York Times*, 29 September 1992, https://www.nytimes.com/1992/09/29/science/philistines-were-cultured-after-all-say-archeologists.html.

⁷⁴ Wilford.

⁷⁵ Amanda Borschel-Dan, 'Know Thine Enemy: DNA Study Solves Ancient Riddle of Origins of the Philistines', *The Times of Israel*, 3 July 2019, https://www.timesofisrael.com/know-thine-enemy-dna-study-solves-ancient-riddle-of-origins-of-the-philistines/.

⁷⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Ruth 1.

⁷⁷ Babylonian Talmud, 2nd ed. (Venice: Daniel Bomberg, 1519), Bava Batra 91a, 16.

⁷⁸ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, 2 Samuel 21:16–20; Babylonian Talmud, Sotah 24b.

Orpah were sisters) would place Goliath in his elderly years when David killed his distant $cousin.^{79}$

By the 7th century BC, there were six kings over the six major Philistine cities, named: Hanun, Sidqa, Mitinti, Ahimilki, Padi, and Ikausu, all being of Semitic (Hebrew, Aramaic, or Arabic) origin except for Ikausu of Ekron.⁸⁰ Seals and pottery found in the region during archaeological digs from 1985 to 2014 found Hebrew inscriptions on much of the pottery of the Gaza region.⁸¹ The kings of these cities were all subjugated to the Neo-Assyrian Empire (Iraq and Iran), providing regular tributes to the Assyrians for three centuries (911-605BC), and the *Annals of Sennacherib* describe the Assyrian king returning to Assyria after receiving a large tribute from Judah as well.⁸² This is confirmed in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, *'King Sennacherib of Assyria came to attack the fortified towns of Judah and conquered them. King Hezekiah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. I will pay whatever tribute money you demand if you will only withdraw. The king of Assyria then demanded a settlement of more than eleven tons of silver and one ton of gold" (2 Kings 18-13-14).⁸³ This massive tribute of silver and gold was not the only major expense by King Hezekiah, for he also had to bear the costs of reconstruction after the war, which Röthlin and le Roux claim is often overlooked by scholars:*

- 1. Hezekiah worked hard at repairing all the broken sections of the wall, erecting towers, and constructing a second wall outside the first. He also reinforced the supporting terraces in the City of David and manufactured large numbers of weapons and shields (2 Chronicles 32:5).
- 2. He also constructed many storehouses for his grain, new wine, and olive oil; and he made many stalls for his cattle and pens for his flocks of sheep and goats (2 Chronicles 32:28).
- 3. He built a pool and dug a tunnel to bring water into the city (2 Kings 20:20).
- 4. He also conquered the Philistines as far distant as Gaza and its territory, from their smallest outpost to their largest walled city (2 Kings 18:8).⁸⁴

In the time of King Hezekiah, Isaiah prophesied over the Philistines the year King Ahaz died, circa $719BC:^{85}$

Do not rejoice, you <u>Philistines</u>, that the rod that struck you is broken that the king who attacked you is dead. For from that snake a more poisonous snake will be born, a fiery serpent to destroy you! I will feed the poor in my pasture; the needy will lie down in peace. But as for you, I will wipe you out with famine and destroy the few who remain. Wail at the gates! Weep in the cities!

⁷⁹ *Babylonian Talmud*, Sotah 24b.

⁸⁰ Joseph Naveh, 'Writing and Scripts in Seventh-Century B.C.E. Philistia: The New Evidence from Tell Jemmeh', *Israel Exploration Journal* 35, no. 1 (1985): 9.

 ⁸¹ Naveh, 'Writing and Scripts in Seventh-Century B.C.E. Philistia: The New Evidence from Tell Jemmeh'.
 ⁸² 'Sennacherib and Jerusalem', *The Metropolitan Museum of Art* (blog), 2023,

https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2014/assyria-to-iberia/blog/posts/sennacherib-and-jerusalem.

⁸³ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, 2 Kings 18-13–14.

⁸⁴ Gail A. Röthlin and Magdel le Roux, 'Hezekiah and the Assyrian Tribute', *Verbum et Ecclesia* 34, no. 2 (January 2013): 1–8, http://dx.doi. org/10.4102/ve.v34i2.809.

⁸⁵ 'Jewish Encyclopedia' (Philadelphia, PA: The Kopelman Foundation, 2021), AHAZ, King of Judah (735-719 B.C.), https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/.

Melt with fear, you <u>Philistines</u>! A powerful army comes like smoke from the north. Each soldier rushes forward eager to fight.

What should we tell the <u>Philistine</u> messengers? Tell them, "The LORD has built Jerusalem; its walls will give refuge to his oppressed people" (Isaiah 14:28-32).⁸⁶

Here we see the power of Amos 3:7 fulfilled, "Indeed, the Sovereign LORD never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets" for this prophecy was fulfilled soon after it proceeded from Isaiah's mouth, and King Hezekiah and his armies destroyed the Philistines right across in the Gaza region, and <u>never to be seen again.</u>⁸⁷ This is disputed in the Annals of Sennacherib, who claimed victory himself, as revealed by *The Metropolitan Museum of Art:*

When the Philistine city of Ashkelon succumbed, Sennacherib removed the king, his wife, sons, daughters, brothers, and kin, and exiled them back to Assyria. Turning to the east, Sennacherib overwhelmed Philistine Ekron and suspended the bodies of its rebellious leaders on stakes throughout the city. Sennacherib's annals also record that the former king Padi, a pro-Assyrian vassal who had been expelled by his own people and held captive by Hezekiah, was returned to his throne in exchange for payment in recognition of Sennacherib's overlordship.⁸⁸

Any Philistines that remained, were almost certainly destroyed in 604 BC, when King Nebuchadnezzar II of the Neo-Babylonian Empire invaded Israel. If any remained, they would have assimilated into the Persian Empire, like many other groups. Therefore, **the Palestinians are not descendants of the Philistines**, and they have **no native title claim over any part of Israel**.

This is confirmed by the Greek historian, Herodotus in *The Histories* 7:89 wrote of Palestine in 430BC as follows with their three hundred naval ships:

Greek: Τῶν δὲ τριηρέων ἀριθμὸς μὲν ἐγένετο ἑπτὰ καὶ διηκόσιαι καὶ χίλια, παρείχοντο δὲ αὐτὰς οἴδε, Φοίνικες μὲν σὺν Σύροισι τοῖσι ἐν τῆ **Παλαιστίνη** τριηκοσίας, ὧδε ἐσκευασμένοι· περὶ μὲν τῆσι κεφαλῆσι κυνέας εἶχον ἀγχοτάτω πεποιημένας τρόπον τὸν Ἑλληνικόν, ἐνδεδυκότες δὲ θώρηκας λινέους, ἀσπίδας δὲ ἴτυς οὐκ ἐχούσας εἶχον καὶ ἀκόντια. οὖτοι δὲ οἱ Φοίνικες τὸ παλαιὸν οἴκεον, ὡς αὐτοὶ λέγουσι, ἐπὶ τῆ Ἐρυθρῆ θαλάσσῃ, ἐνθεῦτεν δὲ ὑπερβάντες τῆς Συρίης οἰκέουσι τὸ παρὰ θάλασσαν· τῆς δὲ Συρίης τοῦτο τὸ χωρίον καὶ τὸ μέχρι Αίγὑπτου πᾶν **Παλαιστίνῃ** καλέεται.

English: The number of the triremes (warships) was twelve hundred and seven, and they were furnished by the following: the Phoenicians with the Syrians of **Palestine** furnished three hundred; for their equipment, they had on their heads helmets very close to the Greek in style; they wore linen breastplates, and carried shields without rims, and javelins. These Phoenicians formerly dwelt, as they themselves say, by the Red Sea; they crossed from there and now inhabit the seacoast of Syria. This part of Syria as far as Egypt is all called **Palestine**.⁸⁹

As we can see, it was the Phoenicians and the Syrians (under the rule of Achaemenid Persians) who furnished three hundred ships. Herodotus describes them as being most similar in style to the Greeks. There were no Philistines in Palestine by 430BC. It is worth noting a following comment by Herodotus, *"Persians and Medes and Sacae served as soldiers on all the ships... The leaders of each nation are not worthy of mention, and every city of each nation had a leader of its*

⁸⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Isaiah 14:28-32.

⁸⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, 2 Kings 18:3-27.

⁸⁸ 'Sennacherib and Jerusalem'.

⁸⁹ Herodotus and A. D. Godley, *Herodotus, with an English Translation*, Perseus Tufts (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1920), The Histories 7.89,

https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0126%3Abook%3D1%3 Achapter%3D1%3Asection%3D0.

own. These came not as generals but as slaves, like the rest of the expedition; I have already said who were the generals of supreme authority and the Persian commanders of each nation."⁹⁰

This does attest to the fact that any remaining Philistines assimilated into the Persian Empire. It was the Persians who coined the phrase <u>"between the river to the sea"</u> (from Hebrew Scripture) in reference to the land "between the Euphrates and the Mediterranean from Cilicia to Egypt is called Coele-Syria", as revealed by Louis H. Feldman.⁹¹ This means the region of Coele-Syria was from modern day Mersin, Adana, and Gaziantep in Turkey, through Lebanon, all the way down to Egypt. The Muslim slogan has been taken out of context of its original meaning— it was the geographical location of the land of Israel and Judah. Even in the Qur'an, Al-Baqarah 2:191-3 states the following:

وَٱقْتْلُو هُمْ حَيْثُ تَغِفْتُمُو هُمْ وَأَخْرِجُو هُم مِّنْ حَيْثُ أَخْرَجُوكُمْ ۖوَٱلْفِتْنَةُ أَشَدُ مِنَ ٱلْقَتْلِ ۚ وَلَا تُقَاتِلُو هُمْ عِندَ ٱلْمَسْجِدِ ٱلْحَرَامِ حَتَّى يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِيهِ مُخْإِن قَاتَلُو هُمْ فَقْتْلُو هُمْ ^قَذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ ٱلْكَافِرِينَ ١٩١ وَقَاتِلُو هُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ ٱلدِينُ لِلَهِ ^{ضَ}فَانِ ٱنتَهَوْ أَ فَلَا عُدُوْنَ إِلَّا عَلَى ٱلظَّلِمِينَ

English: Kill them wherever you come upon them and drive them out of the places from which they have driven you out. For persecution is far worse than killing. And do not fight them at the Sacred Mosque unless they attack you there. If they do so, then fight them—that is the reward of the disbelievers.

Fight against them 'if they persecute you' until there is no more persecution, and 'your' devotion will be to Allah 'alone'. If they stop 'persecuting you', let there be no hostility except against the aggressors.⁹²

The preceding verses discuss the Pilgrimage, and fighting "<u>only</u> against those who <u>wage war</u> <u>against you</u>".⁹³ Context is everything! I believe Hamas co-founder Mahmoud al-Zahar has taken it out of context.⁹⁴ Did Israel attack the Arabs of Gaza? No, Hamas attacked innocent civilians on Shabbat. Who were the original ones who took it out of context? The Persians, who are known today as the country of Iran. Palestine and Syria were also named part of the Fifth Province by Herodotus, including the Island of Cyprus off the coast of Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon:

The fifth province was the country (except the part belonging to the Arabians, which paid no tribute) between Posideion, a city founded on the Cilician and Syrian border by Amphilochus son of Amphiaraus, and Egypt; this paid three hundred and fifty talents; in this province was all Phoenicia, and the part of <u>Syria</u> called <u>Palestine</u>, and <u>Cyprus</u>.⁹⁵

Herodotus recorded the Scythians coming down around the Caucasus Mountains from Russia to Ashkelon, although we hear no more from them in Israel.⁹⁶ I also note Herodotus preceded the Roman Empire by 565 years, where the Roman emperor Hadrian <u>allegedly</u> changed the name of Israel to the Roman province *"Syria Palaestina"* to punish the Jewish people in 135AD after the Bar Kokhba revolt.⁹⁷ Hadrian is simply not the earliest case, because Palestine is cited by the ancient Greeks in the 5th century BC by Herodotus. Then we have Aristotle in his treaty on meteorology (Latin: *Meteorologica*) penned circa 340BC that mentions *Palestine* and the Dead Sea, referring the <u>whole land of Israel</u> at the time which was under Achaemenid Empire (First

⁹⁰ Herodotus and Godley, The Histories 7.96.

⁹¹ 'Some Observations on the Name of Palestine', 1.

⁹² The Qur'an (Quran.com, 2023), Al-Baqarah 2:191-3, https://quran.com/1.

⁹³ *The Qur'an*, Al-Baqarah 2:189-90.

⁹⁴ 'Senior Hamas Leader: Quran Tells Us to Drive Jews out of Palestine's Entirety', *The Times of Israel* (blog), 16 March 2017, https://www.timesofisrael.com/senior-hamas-leader-quran-tells-us-to-drive-jews-out-of-palestines-entirety/.

⁹⁵ Herodotus and Godley, *Herodotus, with an English Translation*, Histories 3.91.1.

⁹⁶ Herodotus and Godley, 1.104-5.

⁹⁷ 'Jewish Virtual Library', Origins of the Name "Palestine" and Palestinian Nationalism.

Persian Empire), or the ancient Iranians.⁹⁸ The Roman poet Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid) lived just prior to the time of Christ (during Roman Rule) and wrote in *Fasti*, Book II: February 15 - The banks of the Euphrates of Palestine circa 8AD:

Latin: inque <u>Palaestinae</u> margine sedit aquae. populus et cannae riparum summa tenebant, spemque dabant salices hos quoque posse tegi. dum latet, insonuit vento nemus; illa timore pallet et hostiles credit adesse manus,

English: And sat by the brink of the waters of <u>Palestine</u>. Reeds and poplars grew by the banks, And willows too gave hope of shelter there. While she hid, the grove rustled in the wind: She turned pale with fear, and thought enemies nearby.⁹⁹

Both Josephus and Philo used the name "Syria" or "Judea" rather than "Palestine" even though they were both Jewish authors. The Hasmonean region of Judea, Samaria, and Idumea, were adopted by the Romans as part of their Levantine extending over parts of the former regions of the Hasmonean and Herodian kingdoms of Judea over the whole land of Israel, rather than merely Gaza, like a number of other authors. We should understand why, to clear up any antisemitic propaganda today. Philo of Alexandria (~20BC – 50AD) was a Hellenistic-Jewish philosopher of Egypt, who travelled to Rome as part of the Jewish delegation. While visiting Israel, he visited the Temple of Jerusalem, and noticed the following on the shores of Ashkelon, north of Gaza (though previously Philistine territory):

There is a city of <u>Syria</u>, on the sea shore, <u>Ascalon</u> by name: when I was there, at the time when I was on my journey towards the temple of my native land for the purpose of offering up prayers and sacrifices therein, I saw a most incalculable number of pigeons on the roads and about every house; and when I inquired the cause of their being there in such numbers, they said that it was not lawful to catch them, for that the use of them had been prohibited to the inhabitants from the earliest ages; and so the bird had become so thoroughly tame through fearlessness, that it not only hovered about the roofs and came into the houses, but approached their tables also, and grew luxurious in the alliance which it had thus formed.¹⁰⁰

The Roman-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (Josephus, ~37-100AD) cited Judea referring to the *Roman province of Judea* in Antiquities of the Jews 13:1 as follows:

But then the son of Onias the high priest, who was of the same name with his father, and who fled to king Ptolemy, who was called Philometor, lived now at Alexandria, as we have said already. When this Onias saw that <u>Judea</u> was oppressed by the Macedonians and their kings, out of a desire to purchase to himself a memorial and eternal fame he resolved to send to king Ptolemy and queen Cleopatra, to ask leave of them that he might build a temple in Egypt like to that at Jerusalem, and might ordain Levites and priests out of their own stock.¹⁰¹

Earlier in Chapter 8:2 and 8:3, Josephus wrote of King Solomon firmly in his kingdom, taking the daughter of Pharoah as his wife (1 Kings 3:1), building the First Temple of Jerusalem with completion circa 957BC in the land of Canaan:

⁹⁸ Aristotle, 'Meteorologica' (Harvard University Press, 340AD), LCL 397: 158-159, 10.4159/DLCL.aristotle-meteorlogica.1952.

⁹⁹ P. Ovidius Naso, *Fasti*, ed. Sir James George Frazer, Perseus Tufts (Harvard University Press, 1933), 2.464-8.

¹⁰⁰ Philo and Peter Kirby, 'The Works of Philo (Book 39)', 2023, The Providence 2:64, https://www.earlychristianwritings.com/yonge/book39.html.

¹⁰¹ Josephus and Wiston, *The Antiquities of the Jews*, 13:1.

SOLOMON having already settled himself firmly in his kingdom, and having brought his <u>enemies to</u> <u>punishment</u>, he married the daughter of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and <u>built the walls of Jerusalem</u> much larger and stronger than those that had been before, and thenceforward he managed public affairs very peaceably.

SOLOMON began to build the temple in the fourth year of his reign, on the second month, which the Macedonians call Artemisius, and the Hebrews Jur, five hundred and ninety-two years after the Exodus out of Egypt; but one thousand and twenty years from <u>Abraham's coming out of Mesopotamia into Canaan</u>, and after the deluge one thousand four hundred and forty years; and from Adam, the first man who was created, until Solomon built the temple, there had passed in all three thousand one hundred and two years.¹⁰²

Gaius Plinius Secundus (23AD – 79AD) known as Pliny the Elder wrote in *The Natural History* of a number of Palestinian cities and their occupiers:

Proceeding along the coast we come to the region of <u>Samaria</u>; <u>Ascalon</u> (Ashkelon), a free town, <u>Azotus</u> (Ashdod), the two <u>Jamniæ</u> (Jamnia), one of them in the interior; and Joppe, a city of the Phœnicians, which existed, it is said, before the deluge of the earth. It is situated on the slope of a hill, and in front of it lies a rock, upon which they point out the vestiges of the chains by which Andromeda was bound. Here the fabulous goddess Ceto is worshipped.¹⁰³

Pausanias in his geographical work of *Description of Greece* in the 2nd century AD during his travels mentioned Palestine as follows: *"Hard by is a sanctuary of the Heavenly Aphrodite; the first men to establish her cult were the Assyrians, after the Assyrians the <u>Paphians of Cyprus and the Phoenicians who live at Ascalon in Palestine;</u> the Phoenicians taught her worship to the people of <i>Cythera."*¹⁰⁴ Thus, by the 2nd century AD, the city of Ashkelon was occupied by the Phoenicians and worshippers of Aphrodite from Paphos, Greece. Phoenicia was the ancient border cities of Tyre and Sidon in Lebanon during the New Testament Period, although these lands were previously held by the Canaanites prior to the arrival of Abraham.¹⁰⁵

Therefore, we can conclude the earliest surviving people group dating back to the Middle Kingdom were the Hebrews, who became the Israelites,¹⁰⁶ later calling the land: בָּאֶרֶץ בְּנֵייִשֶׁרְאֵל (erez bene Yisrael, meaning *"the land of the children of Israel"*. The Philistines of Philistia were wiped out by King Hezekiah and they were <u>never to be seen again</u>.¹⁰⁷ Any Philistines that remained, were almost certainly destroyed in 604 BC, when King Nebuchadnezzar II of the Neo-Babylonian Empire invaded Israel. If any remained, they would have been women and children, and assimilated into the Persian (Iranian) Empire.

Aelia Capitolina

After the siege of Jerusalem in 63BC by Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey the Great), Judæa became as vassal state of Rome. Pompey reinstated Hyrcanus II as the High Priest, and instead of his royal title, gave him the title of "ethnarch" (governor) in 47 BC. Refer to the Herodian Dynasty

¹⁰² Josephus and Wiston, 8.2-8.3.

¹⁰³ Pliny the Elder, John Bostock, and T. H. Riley, *The Natural History* (London: Taylor and Francis, 1855), 5.14,

https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0137%3Abook%3D1%3 Achapter%3Ddedication.

¹⁰⁴ W. H. S. Jones and H. A. Ormerod, *Pausanias: Description of Greece with an English Translation in 4 Volumes*, Perseus Tuffs (London: William Heinemann Ltd, 1918), pt. 1:14,

http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0160%3Abook%3D1%3A chapter%3D1%3Asection%3D1.

¹⁰⁵ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Genesis 10:19.

¹⁰⁶ 'Some Observations on the Name of Palestine', 1–2.

¹⁰⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, 2 Kings 18:3-27.

that followed. The Latin name Colonia Aelia Capitolina was given to the Roman colony of Jerusalem in 135AD upon the visit of Emperor Hadrian, after Titus destroyed the Second Temple in 70AD for his father Emperor Vespasian. Hadrian came from the plebian family *gens Aelia* or Aelius, and Capitolina refers to the Campidoglio (Temple of Jupiter) in Rome. Both Josephus and Eusebius (a 3rd century AD Christian Israeli historian of Caesarea) wrote of 1,100,000 Jewish and Christian people perishing during the destruction of Jerusalem, and Josephus recorded 97,000 people were enslaved in the Egyptian mines.¹⁰⁸ The vessels of the Temple of Jerusalem that were remade in the time of Judah Maccabee were taken and paraded through the streets of Rome, which can be still be viewed on the Arch of Titus today. The later Roman province of Coele Syria was based upon the Persian region of *Coele-Syri*, though it did not include Israel in this Roman province. This was the Roman province of *Judæa* after the Kingdom of Judah and the colony of Aelia Capitolina. Under Roman emperor Diocletian who reigned 284-286AD, he appointed a Dux Palaestinaæ (Leader of Palestine) and renamed the region into Palaestina Prima, Palaestina Secunda, and Palaestina Tertia.¹⁰⁹ This continued until at least 409AD, where there is a record of ceasing payment to "limitanei militis" (farmer soldiers) in "primam, secundam ac tertiam Palaestinam" (First, Second, and Third Palestine).¹¹⁰



Figure 2 - Photo of Arch in Rome by D.Nalor (Used by Permission)

On 1 November 312AD, Roman Emperor Constantine had a vision of an enormous cross of fire in the heavens. This single account changed Jerusalem, all of Israel, and the entire world from that time onwards, because this vision from God was the start of the Roman Catholic Church. Constantine's account of what happened is as follows:

One day, while he was in front of his tent with his officers and troops around him, he had a vision of an enormous cross of fire in the heavens. On one side of the cross were the words, in the Greek language: "In hoc signo vinces", the translation of which is "By this sign thou shalt conquer."

¹⁰⁸ Eusebius, *EUSEBIUS, Ecclesiastical History, Volume I: Books 1-5*, trans. Kirsopp Lake (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1926), Book II, Ch VII, v3,

https://www.loebclassics.com/view/LCL153/1926/volume.xml; Flavius Josephus and William Wiston, *The Wars of the Jews (Book VI)* (A.M. Auburn and Buffalo, 1895), 9.3.

¹⁰⁹ H. H. Ben-Sasson, *A History of the Jewish People*, 1st ed. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1985), 351.

¹¹⁰ Isaac Benjamin, *The Near East under Roman Rule: Selected Papers* (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 1998), 371.

Constantine was astonished at the wonderful vision, and he gazed at it until it faded away. He could not understand what it meant and was greatly troubled. But that night he dreamed that Christ appeared to him in robes of dazzling white, bearing a cross in his hands and that he promised Constantine victory over his enemies if he would make the cross his standard.

Constantine now declared himself a Christian and had a standard made in the form of a cross with a banner attached to it bearing the initial letters of the name of Christ. This banner was called the "Labarum", and it was afterwards the standard of the Roman emperors.¹¹¹

Byzantine-Sasanian Period

On 3 July 324AD, Constantine defeated Licinius at Chrysopolis and he surrendered, securing Constantine sole Augustus of the Roman Empire. Jews were only allowed to enter Jerusalem once a year to pray on Tisha B'Av. Constantine sent his mother Flavia Julia Helena on a tour of the Holy Land, following in the footsteps of Jesus, arriving in Jerusalem in 326AD and found the *"True Cross"* where she dedicated her life to God. This led to her excavating the mount opposite the ruins of the Second Temple and uncovered the Cave of Resurrection, uncovered the Rock of Golgotha and issued decrees for the building of the Martyrdom Basilica and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.¹¹² Constatine selected the ancient city of Byzantium as the new capital of the Roman Empire, and rebuilt the walls of the city, built cisterns, built the famous *Hagai Irene* Eastern Orthodox Church (meaning *Holy Peace*), and a number of pagan temples to satisfy his Roman subjects. Constantine initiated to First Council of Nicæa in 325AD in the Roman city of Nicæa (İznik, Turkey). This resulted in the Nicene Creed — a statement of belief for Christians around the world, which ultimately became our tenants of faith.

Back in Israel, the First, Second, and Third Palestine provinces became Eastern Orthodox Christian under the new Byzantine Empire all the way through to 614AD when the Sasanian-Jewish army took Palestine. This was Shahrbaraz, prince of the Iranian Sasanian Empire, who invaded from Syria with support from the Jewish forces led by Nehemiah ben Hushiel and Benjamin of Tiberias who captured Jerusalem without resistance.¹¹³ However, by 617AD the king of Iran, Khosrow II, betrayed Israel and instead taxed them heavily.¹¹⁴ The Sasanian Empire held the region until 629AD, when Byzantine emperor Heraclius retook Jerusalem, and it was reannexed into the Byzantine Empire.

Early Muslim Period

In 638AD, Rashidun caliph Umar the Great, and father-in-law of Muhammad, conquered Jerusalem under the command of Abu Ubayda, but on the prophecy of a Jew: "O Commander of the Faithful, you will not return to your country before God has granted you victory over Jerusalem."¹¹⁵ Muhammad wrote this <u>spurious</u> passage in the Qur'an, Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:78-79: "Those of the

¹¹¹ John Haaren, 'Constantine the Great', *Heritage History* (blog), 2023, https://www.heritagehistory.com/index.php?c=read&author=haaren&book=rome&story=constantine.

¹¹² Mike F., 'The Martyrium Basilica and the Holy Sepulchre in the Fourth Century', 2023, https://users.ox.ac.uk/~mikef/durham/hs.html.

¹¹³ James Howard-Johnston and Tim Greenwood, *The Armenian History Attributed to Sebeos, Part 1*, vol. 31 (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1999), 207.

¹¹⁴ Eli Kohen, *History of the Byzantine Jews: A Microcosmos in the Thousand Year Empire* (University Press of America, 2007), 37.

¹¹⁵ Mujammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari, *The History of Al-Tabari Vol. 12: The Battle of al-Qadisiyyah and the Conquest of Syria and Palestine*, trans. Franz Rosenthal (State University of New York Press, 1989), 189, https://www.muslim-library.com/english/the-history-of-al-tabari-vol-12-the-battle-of-al-qadisiyyah-and-the-conquest-of-syria-and-palestine/.

Children of Israel who took to unbelief have been cursed by the tongue of David and Jesus, son of Mary, for they rebelled and exceeded the bounds of right. They did not forbid one another from doing evil. Evil indeed was what they did!"¹¹⁶ This is likely what caused the schism between the Jews and Muslims, and likely infuriated Christians as well during this period. The Christian Patriarch, *Sophronius the Sophist, refused to yield Jerusalem unless Umar personally came and they made a treaty as follows:*

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. This is the assurance of safety which the servant of God, Umar, the Commander of the Faithful, has given to the people of Jerusalem. He has given them an assurance of safety for themselves for their property, their churches, their crosses, the sick and healthy of the city and for all the rituals which belong to their religion. Their churches will not be inhabited by Muslims and <u>will not be destroyed</u>. Neither they, nor the land on which they stand, nor their cross, nor their property will be damaged. They will not be forcibly converted. <u>No Jew will live with them in Jerusalem</u>. The people of Jerusalem must pay the taxes like the people of other cities and must expel the Byzantines and the robbers. Those of the people of Jerusalem who want to leave with the Byzantines, take their property and abandon their churches and crosses will be safe until they reach their place of refuge. The villagers may remain in the city if they wish but must pay taxes like the citizens. Those who wish may go with the Byzantines and those who wish may return to their families. Nothing is to be taken from them before their harvest is reaped. If they pay their taxes according to their obligations, then the conditions laid out in this letter are under the covenant of God, are the responsibility of His Prophet, of the caliphs and of the faithful.¹¹⁷

Unfortunately, Sophronius like many early Christians, because of the <u>alleged</u> sin of the 1st century Pharisees, made a pact with Umar to prevent the Jewish people returning to Jerusalem. All Christians should understand that Jesus predicted his death (Matthew 20:17-19), surrendered his life for his people (Matthew 26:50), and too many Christians have fallen into sin by judging the Jewish people (Matthew 7:1).¹¹⁸ Even Umar the Great was surprised when he entered the Gate of Jerusalem, and he said: *"O God, I am ready to serve you in what you love most"* after being counselled by a Yemenite Jew named Ka'b al-Abbar, who converted to Islam. Umar *"headed towards the rock imitating a Jew"*, taking off his shoes, prayed, uncovered the remains of the Temple, saying, *"O people, what am I doing?"*¹¹⁹ Ka'b al-Abbar explained what the Romans/Byzantines had done to the city and Umar was horrified.¹²⁰ *"O Constantinople, what did your people do to My House?"* After 500 years, Jews were allowed into the city of Jerusalem again.

After the assassination of Rashidun caliph Ali ibn Abi Talib on 28 January 661AD, his son Hasan ibn Ali ibn Abi Talib became caliph, but soon abdicated. Mu'awiya I ruled from 661-80AD. During his reign, he allowed Jews to practise but had to pay *jizya* (tribute), and he settled a large number of Jews in Tripoli.¹²¹ Mu'awiya I was the first of the Umayyad Caliphate. His successor, caliph Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan only reigned three years, though he is most famous for the building the Dome of the Rock circa 687-91AD.¹²² Circa 705AD, the caliph Al-Walid ibn Abd al-Malik ibn

¹¹⁶ The Qur'an, Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:78-79.

¹¹⁷ ibn Jarir al-Tabari, *The History of Al-Tabari Vol. 12: The Battle of al-Qadisiyyah and the Conquest of Syria and Palestine*, 191–92.

¹¹⁸ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Matthew 7:1, 20:17-19, 26:50.

¹¹⁹ ibn Jarir al-Tabari, *The History of Al-Tabari Vol. 12: The Battle of al-Qadisiyyah and the Conquest of Syria and Palestine*, 195.

¹²⁰ ibn Jarir al-Tabari, 196.

¹²¹ John W. Jandoro, 'Developments in Islamic Warfare: The Early Conquests', *Studia Islamica* 64 (1986): 111, https://doi.org/10.2307/1596048.

¹²² Diane Slavik, *Cities through Time: Daily Life in Ancient and Modern Jerusalem* (Geneva, Illinois: Runestone Press, 2001), 60; Guy Le Strange, *Palestine under the Moslems; a Description of Syria and the Holy Land from A.D. 650 to 1500* (London: A.P. Watt, 1890), https://archive.org/details/palestineundermo00lestuoft.

Marwan built the al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount. Under caliph Marwan ibn Muhammad ibn Marwan they lost the Battle of the Zab in 750AD to the Abbasid Caliphate, descended from Muhammad's youngest uncle, Abbas ibn Abd al-Muttalib. The capital was moved to Baghdad. Abū al-'Abbās 'Abd Allāh ibn Muḥammad al-Saffāḥ had many Jews within his government.¹²³ The Abbasid Caliphate reigned just over a century, then he Tulunids, Turkish Mamluk, followed by the Ikhshidid governors of Egypt (935–969), who had great persecution and clashes against Christians. To understand why, the Muslim geographer Al-Maqdisi (945-991AD) wrote around a century before the Crusaders on the geography and people of Jerusalem, as recorded by Le Strange:

That the <u>Christians and Jews had the upper hand in Jerusalem</u> in the century preceding the first Crusade is certainly a curious and noteworthy fact. In his introductory chapter <u>Mukaddasi states</u> that "in Jerusalem no one can find either defect or deficiency. Wine is not publicly consumed, and there is no drunkenness. The city is devoid of houses of ill-fame, whether public or private. The people, too, are noted for piety and sincerity. At one time, when it became known that the Governor drank wine, they built up round his house a wall, and thus prevented from getting to him those who were invited to his banquets."¹²⁴

They attacked the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, resulting in the collapse of the dome standing over the Tomb of Jesus, setting the Church on fire, and murdered Patriarch Yūḥannā ibn Jamī (John VII) and dragged his body out and set it on fire in the atrium of the Martyrdom Basilica in front of everyone during the Muslim riot of 28-30 May 966AD.¹²⁵ The murder and destruction of these Churches, coupled with the East-West Schism of 1054AD which was a catalyst in the Church towards the Crusades. The schism began with Cardinal Humbert, legate of Pope Leo IX, marching into the altar on 16 July 1054 at the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia, reading from a Papal bull proclaiming the Patriarch of Constantinople, Michael Cerularius, is excommunicated.¹²⁶ He marched out of the church. At a synod held on 20 July 1054, Cerularius in turn excommunicated the legates.¹²⁷ This schism still stands between east and west today, just as Catholic and Protestants are today. All Christians in Israel at that time came under the jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, which was another catalyst towards the Crusades.

The Crusades and the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem (1095-1291AD)

In the lead-up to the First Crusade, many Jews remained in the courts of King Louis VII of France up until he passed away on 18 September 1180AD. Soon after Philip August II of France (1180-1223AD) succeeded Louis VII at the age of fifteen, the Christian Monk Rigord reported, he despoiled all of the Jewish synagogues of their gold, silver, and their ancient relics:

By his command, the Jews throughout all France were seized in their synagogues and then bespoiled of their gold and silver and garments, as the Jews themselves had spoiled the Egyptians at their exodus from Egypt.¹²⁸

¹²³ Matthews, A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 2 of 3).

https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190067946.003.0008.

¹²⁶ George T. Dennis, '1054 The East-West Schism', *Christian History Institute* (blog), 1990, https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/east-west-schism.

¹²⁷ Dennis.

¹²⁸ Marcus, Jacob (1978), The Jew in the Medieval World: A Sourcebook, Atheneum, taken from The Expulsion of the Jews from France, 1182 CE. Fordham University. https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/jewish/1182-jewsfrance1.asp

¹²⁴ Le Strange, Palestine under the Moslems; a Description of Syria and the Holy Land from A.D. 650 to 1500, 86.

¹²⁵ Daniel Reynolds, 'Death of a Patriarch: The Murder of Yūḥannā Ibn Jamī (d. 966) and the Question of "Melkite" Identity in Early Islamic Palestine', September 2021, 188–226, https://doi.org/10.1002/cas/0720100067046.002.0000

Philip's next vile act against the Jews was to listen to Bernard the Hermit, who convinced him of releasing all Christians of all loans made by Jews in France, but this was not an act towards the average poor fellow of France by Philip, because the "Nasi-Benveniste" family had loaned the crown of France more than Philip could ever pay, so what Philip was really doing was expelling the Jews to forgive his own ever-increasing massive debt, and kept 20% of the collections for himself. It was recorded by Rigord in the Gesta Philippi Augusti as follows:

He took counsel with a certain hermit, Bernard by name, a holy and religious man, who at that time dwelt in the forest of Vincennes, and asked him what he should do. By his advice the King released all Christians of his kingdom from their debts to the Jews, and kept a fifth part of the whole amount for himself... In the year of our Lord's Incarnation 1182, in the month of April, which is called by the Jews Nisan, an edict went forth from the most serene king, Philip Augustus, that all the Jews of his kingdom should be prepared to go forth by the coming feast of St. John the Baptist [June 24]. And then the King gave them leave to sell each his movable goods before the time fixed, that is, the feast of St. John the Baptist. But their real estate, that is, houses, fields, vineyards, barns, winepresses, and such like, he reserved for himself and his successors, the kings of the French. [Some of this wealth may have been used to build the Louvre.]¹²⁹

During the First Crusade, four official Crusader armies started out for Palestine led by French and Norman nobility led by Godfrey of Bouillon and his brothers (Eustace and Baldwin of Boulogne), Raymond of Toulouse (Saint-Gilles), Bohemond of Taranto, and Robert of Flanders, with a collective infantry of around 30,000 Crusaders, consisting of 5,000 Knights, 25,000 infantry, including a large number of senior clerics in the Church.¹³⁰ Godfrey of Bouillon and his band of Teutonic Knights slaughtered thousands of Rhineland Jews, in the pursuit of gold, silver and other possessions along the way to fund their cause. Whilst most of the Crusaders burnt their wonderful Jewish books, some of the Crusaders were interested in their books, such as Raymond of Toulouse (a Nasi-Benveniste descendant), who was interested in their torah scrolls, codexes, and particularly the early Zoharic texts, because of their mystical powers. We must remember these Knights Templar followed the early masonic traditions dating back to Egyptian times. Albert of Aix recorded throughout the Rhineland how the Crusaders murdered the Jews, destroyed their houses and synagogues, and took all of their possessions:

I know n whether by a judgment of the Lord, or by some error of mind; they rose in a spirit of cruelty against the Jewish people scattered throughout these cities and slaughtered them without mercy, especially in the Kingdom of Lorraine, asserting it to be the beginning of their expedition and their duty against the enemies of the Christian faith. This slaughter of Jews was done first by citizens of Cologne. These suddenly fell upon a small band of Jews and severely wounded and killed many; they destroyed the houses and synagogues of the Jews and divided among themselves a very large, amount of money. When the Jews saw this cruelty, about two hundred in the silence of the night began flight by boat to Neuss. The pilgrims and crusaders discovered them, and after taking away all their possessions, inflicted on them similar slaughter, leaving not even one alive.¹³¹

It was recorded that The Count of Emicho and Flonheim was a *vir militaris* (military commander) with lands in the area of Mainz. He raised an army that persecuted the Jews of Speyer, Worms, Mainz and Cologne in the name of Jesus, believing he would ultimately march on Constantinople and overcome the forces of darkness and fulfil the Book of Revelation. Some

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Murray, Alan V. (1992), The army of Godfrey of Bouillon, 1096-1099 : Structure and dynamics of a contingent on the First Crusade, Revue belge de Philologie et d'Histoire, pp. 301-29. https://www.persee.fr/doc/rbph_0035-0818_1992_num_70_2_3824

¹³¹ Krey, August C. (1921), The First Crusade: The Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Participants, Princeton, pp 54-6. Albert of Aix and Ekkehard of Aura: Emico and the Slaughter of the Rhineland Jews. https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1096jews.asp

scholars claim The Count of Emicho's atrocities against the Jews of the Rhineland were not typical of the Knights Templar, but research confirms these atrocities might have been carried out by Godfrey himself.¹³² They began their expedition from the Kingdom of Lorraine slaughtering Jews without mercy, which is where Godfrey was from.¹³³ Godfrey was there in the Rhineland during these massacres of 1096, as he extorted money from many Jewish communities along the way. The Hebrew chronicles of 1096 tells of how he threatened to harm Rabbi Kalonymous ben Mashullam, who wrote to Emperor Henry IV to restrain his noble. A large gift of silver by way of extortion was conveyed to Godfrey,¹³⁴ thus the Jews funded the Crusades in one way or another. The Count of Emicho (Godfrey) led a band of Teutonic Knights (Germanic Templar Order) in pursuit of great riches and spoils that continued them all the way to Jerusalem:¹³⁵

There Count Emico, a nobleman, a very mighty man in this region, was awaiting, with a large band of Teutons, the arrival of the pilgrims who were coming thither from diverse lands by the King's highway. The Jews of this city, knowing of the slaughter of their brethren, and that they themselves could not escape the hands of so many, fled in hope of safety to Bishop Rothard. They put an infinite treasure in his guard and trust, having much faith in his protection, because he was Bishop of the city. Then that excellent Bishop of the city cautiously set aside the incredible amount of **money received from them.** He placed the Jews in the very spacious hall of his own house, away from the sight of Count Emico and his followers, that they might remain safe and sound in a very secure and strong place. But Emico and the rest of his band held a council and, after sunrise, attacked the Jews in the hall with arrows and lances. Breaking the bolts and doors, they killed the Jews, about seven hundred in number, who in vain resisted the force and attack of so many thousands. They killed the women, also, and with their swords pierced tender children of whatever age and sex. The Jews, seeing that their Christian enemies were attacking them and their children, and that they were sparing no age, likewise fell upon one another, brother, children, wives, and sisters, and thus they perished at each other's hands. Horrible to say, mothers cut the throats of nursing children with knives and stabbed others, preferring them to perish thus by their own hands rather than to be killed by the weapons of the uncircumcised. From this cruel slaughter of the Jews a few escaped; and a few because of fear, rather than because of love of the Christian faith, were baptized. With very great spoils taken from these people, Count Emico, Clarebold, Thomas, and all that intolerable company of men and women then continued on their way to Jerusalem, directing their course towards the Kingdom of Hungary, where passage along the royal highway was usually not denied the pilgrims.¹³⁶

From a Jewish perspective, the victims numbered more than 10,000.137

¹³² Sicherman, Harvey; Gevaryahu, Gilad, J. (1999), Rashi and the First Crusade: Commentary, Liturgy, Legend, Judaism:spring 1999. p5.

http://www.gevaryahu.com/Rashi%20and%20the%20First%20CrusadeWP.pdf

Sicherman found the original manuscript which identified the Count of Emicho as "Godfrey". ¹³³ Krey, August C. (1921), The First Crusade: The Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Participants,

Princeton, pp 54-6. Albert of Aix and Ekkehard of Aura: Emico and the Slaughter of the Rhineland Jews. https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1096jews.asp

¹³⁴ Sicherman, Harvey; Gevaryahu, Gilad, J. (1999), Rashi and the First Crusade: Commentary, Liturgy, Legend, Judaism: spring 1999. p5.

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¹³⁶ Krey, August C. (1921), The First Crusade: The Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Participants, Princeton, pp 54-6. Albert of Aix and Ekkehard of Aura: Emico and the Slaughter of the Rhineland Jews. https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1096jews.asp

¹³⁷ Liber, Maurice (1906), Rashi, The Jewish Publication Society of America.

The Siege of Jerusalem of 1099AD

During the First Crusade, in the Siege of Jerusalem, Raymond of Toulouse (Saint-Gilles), was interested in the Hebrew and Aramaic Torah scrolls, codex's, and other volumes. The Crusaders under the command of Raymond of Toulouse captured numerous Muslim 'prisoners of war' and effectively looted two hundred and thirty bible codices including the אֶרֶם צוֹרָאָרָם (Aleppo Codex), one hundred other volumes, and eight Torah scrolls,¹³⁸ which he deported and held ransom from the southern Italian region of Apulia.¹³⁹ After Jerusalem fell, the following letter was sent from three prominent members of the Jewish community of Ashkelon (Israel, above Gaza) to another town asking for financial assistance:

We thank the Most High who gave us the opportunity of fulfilling this pious deed, and granted to you to take a share in it with us. We spent the money for the ransom of some of the captives, after due consideration of the instructions contained in your letter, that is, we send what was available to those who [had already been ransomed.] We did not fail to reply to what you have written us, and indeed we answered, but we were seeking a man who would bring our reply to you. Afterwards it happened that these illnesses came upon us; plague, pestilence, and leprosy, which filled our minds with anxiety, that we ourselves or some of our relatives might be stricken with the disease. A man whom we trust went from here and must have explained to you the position with respect to the sums you sent: that they reached us safely and that they were spent in the manner indicated [in your letter.] News still reaches us that among those who were redeemed from the Franks and remained in Ascalon some are in danger of dying of want. Others remained in captivity, and yet others were killed before the eyes of the rest, who themselves were killed afterwards with all manner of tortures; [for the enemy murdered them] in order to give vent to his anger on them. We did not hear of a single man of Israel who was in such plight without exerting ourselves to do all that was in our power to save him. The Most High has granted opportunities of relief and deliverance to individual fugitives, of which the first most perfect instance-after the compassion of Heaven-has been the presence in Ascalon of the honourable Shaykh 'Abu I-Fadl Sahl son of Yusha 'son of Shay'a (may God preserve him), an agent of the sultan (may God bestow glory upon his victories), whose influence is great in Alexandria where his word is very much heeded. He arranged matters wisely and took great pain in securing the ransom; but it would require a lengthy discourse to explain how he did it. But he could only ransom some of the people and had to leave the others. In the end, all those who could be ransomed from [the Franks] were liberated, and only a few whom they kept remained in their hands, including a boy of about eight years of age. It is reported that the Franks urged the latter to embrace the Christian faith of his own free will and promised to treat him well, but he told them, how could he become a Christian priest and be left in peace by them [the Jews], who had disbursed on his behalf a great sum. Until this day these captives remain in their [Franks] hands; as well as those who were taken to Antioch, but these are few; and not counting those who abjured their faith because they lost patience as it was not possible to ransom them, and because they despaired of being permitted to go free. We were not informed, praise be to the Most High, that the accursed ones who are called Ashkenazim (Germans) violated or raped women, as did the others. Now, among those who have reached safety are some who escaped on the second and third days following the battle and left with the governor who was granted safe conduct; and others who, after having being caught by the *Franks*, remained in their hands for some time and escaped in the end; these are but few. The majority consists of those who were ransomed. To our sorrow, some of them ended their lives under all kind of suffering and affliction. The privations which they had to endure caused some of them to leave for this country without food or protection against the cold, and they died on the way. Others in a similar way perished at sea; and yet others after having arrived here safely, became exposed to a "change of air"; they came at the height of the plague, and a number of them died. And when the

¹³⁸ Rustow, Marina (2014), Heresy and the Politics of Community: The Jews of the Fatimid Caliphate, Cornell University Press, ISBN 9780801455308, pp. 343-4.

¹³⁹ Goitein, S.D. (1952), Contemporary Letters on the Capture of Jerusalem by the Crusaders, Journal of Jewish Studies 3, pp. 162-177.

aforementioned honoured shaykh arrived, he brought a group of them, *i.e.*, the bulk of those who had reached *Ascalon*; he spent the Sabbath and celebrated Passover with them on the way in the manner as is required by such circumstances. He contracted a private loan for the sum that he had to pay the camel drivers and for their maintenance on the way as well as caravan guards and for other expenses, after having already spent other sums of money, which he did not charge to the community.¹⁴⁰

The Karaite Jewish community of Ashkelon paid the ransom at the extremely high price of 700 dinars plus communal property, medical treatment and potions, and practically whatever the Crusaders demanded over a period of months during negotiations.¹⁴¹ This was quite a sum of money because twenty-five dinars was around a year's income for a lower middle class family, so 700 dinars was the yearly income for an entire Jewish ghetto.¹⁴² The Jews paid a heavy price for their relics during the Crusade. In a way, the Jewish communities of Fustat (Egypt) and Ashkelon funded the Crusades, along with the thousands of Jews who were murdered for their riches along the way.

The Curse of the Codex

The Vaticanus, Alexandrinus, Sinaiticus, Lenigrad, and Aleppo Codices are the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world. Interestingly, there is an inscription on the Aleppo Codex that defiles any person stealing the Codex, which may have been the very reason the Crusaders lost the Temple Mount:

Among the inscriptions that were on the Aleppo Codex there was one inscription half in Arabic and half in Hebrew. This inscription was on the first page of the codex, and it relates the ransoming of the Keter and its dedication to the synagogue in Old Cairo known as "Knisat {Knesset?}That an Arabic form of the word. Yerushalayim" YES NO, because its founders and members had come from Jerusalem. The inscription describes the stage at which the Keter reached Egypt, and here is a translation of it: Transferred [to the possession of the synagogue of the Jerusalemites] according to the law of redemption from imprisonment [in which it had fallen] in Jerusalem, the Holy City, may it be rebuilt and re-established, to the congregation in Egypt of Knisat Yerushalayim, may it be built and established in the life of Israel. "Blessed be he who preserves it and cursed be he who steals it, and cursed be he who sells it, and cursed be he who pawns it. It may not be sold and it may not be defiled forever." The declaration that ownership of the book was transferred according to the law of redemption from the captivity, into which it had fallen in Jerusalem, is important, because it justifies violating the prohibition against selling it, which is stated specifically in the earlier dedicatory inscriptions, written by the Karaites in Jerusalem.¹⁴³

This refers to the Hebrew Prophet Zechariah who wrote in post exile after the first fall of Jerusalem in circa 576BC during the reign of Darius, in Zechariah 5:1-4 as follows:

I looked up again and saw a scroll flying through the air.

"What do you see?" the angel asked.

"I see a flying scroll," I replied. "It appears to be about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide."

Then he said to me, "This <u>scroll contains the curse</u> that is going out over the entire land. One side of the scroll says that those who steal will be banished from the land; the other side says that those who swear falsely will be banished from the land. And this is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies

¹⁴⁰ Contemporary Letters on the Capture of Jerusalem by the Crusaders, Journal of Jewish Studies, Vol 3, No 4. 1952, pp 162-77.

¹⁴¹ Rustow, Marina (2014), Heresy and the Politics of Community: The Jews of the Fatimid Caliphate, Cornell University Press, ISBN 9780801455308, pp. 343-4.

¹⁴² Meri, Josef, W. (2006) Medieval Islamic Civilisation: An Encyclopedia, https://epdf.tips/medieval-islamic-civilization-an-encyclopedia.html

¹⁴³ The Vicissitudes of the Aleppo Codex: 4.4 The Crusades and the Ransoming of Books, http://www.aleppocodex.org/10.html

says: I am sending this curse into the house of every thief and into the house of everyone who swears falsely using my name. And my curse will remain in that house and completely destroy it—even its timbers and stones."

Clearly, according to Scripture, the Crusaders were cursed, and this may have been the reason Christendom does not still hold the Temple Mount to this day. The siege of Jerusalem began on 20 September 1187AD by Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub (Saladin), and it the Kingdom of Jerusalem was surrendered by Balian of Ibelin on 2 October 1187AD. Despite eight further crusades, they were unsuccessful in keeping the Holy Land, with 106,000 Templars and Christians slain or captured and 300,000 Saracen slain in the final battle of Acre in 1291AD:

When the other Saracens without the city saw that they had thus, as it were, failed utterly, they treacherously made a truce with the Templars and Christians on the condition that they should yield up the castle, taking all their goods with them, and should destroy it, but should rebuild the city on certain terms, and dwell therein in peace as heretofore. The Templars and Christians, believing this, gave up the castle and marched out of it, and came down from the city towers. <u>When the Saracens had by this means got possession both of the castle and of the city towers, they slew all the Christians alike, and led away the captives to Babylon. Thus Acre has remained empty and deserted even to this day. In Acre and the other places Dearly a hundred and six thousand men were slain or taken, and more than two hundred thousand escaped from thence. Of the Saracens more than three hundred thousand were slain, as is well known even to this day... Since that day all Christian women, whether gentle or simple, who dwell along the eastern shore [of the Mediterranean] dress in black garments of mourning and woe for the lost grandeur of Acre, even to this day.¹⁴⁴</u>

In 1244AD, the Ayyubids allowed the Khwarazmians (Persian Sunni Muslims from Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia) to occupy Jerusalem, who killed every living soul in sight. This brought about the Seventh Crusade, *"In the said battle, then, the power of the was Christians crushed, and the number of slain in both armies was incomputable"*.¹⁴⁵ This was the end of the Knights Templar; they just didn't see it. Raymond of Toulouse died a gruesome death on 28 February 1105AD after being burned in the castle of Mons Peregrinus (Pilgrim's Mountain) in Tripoli a few months earlier in September 1104AD, taking months of pain and anguish to die.¹⁴⁶

Latter Muslim Period

Upon the capture of Jerusalem, the Karaite Jewish community of Ashkelon returned to Israel, upon being summoned by the sultan of Egypt, allowing Jews to resettle in their homeland.¹⁴⁷ The Jews were spread throughout the Ayyubid territories because they offered trade, manufacturing, medicine, and especially finance. Moses ben Nahman-Nasi (Bonastruc ça Porta) (1194-1207AD) also known as *"Nahmanides"* or the *RaMBaN*, made Aliyah to Jerusalem in 1267AD, establishing the Ramban Synagogue. Al-Malik al-Zahir Rukn al-Din Baybars al-Bunduqdari (Abu al-Futuh) was the fourth Mamluk sultan of Egypt and Syria during the time of the RaMBaN. The RaMBaN was the one who sent the manuscript of Rabbi Shim'on ben Yohai (Rashbi) from the land of Israel to Spain, where it came into the hands of Rabbi Moshe de Leon.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁴ Paul Halsall, 'Medieval Sourcebook: Ludolph of Suchem: The Fall of Acre, 1291', *Fordham University* (blog), 1997, https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1291acre.asp.

¹⁴⁵ Paul Halsall, 'Medieval Sourcebook: The Capture of Jerusalem, 1244', *Fordham University* (blog), 1997, https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1144falljlem.asp.

¹⁴⁶ Amin Maalouf, *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes* (New York: Schocken Books, 1984), 75.

¹⁴⁷ Sol Scharfstein, *Chronicle of Jewish History: From the Patriarchs to the 21st Century* (KTAV Publishing House Inc, 1997), 1.

¹⁴⁸ Miller, Moshe (2016), The Zohar's Mysterious Origins.

https://www.chabad.org/kabbalah/article_cdo/aid/380410/jewish/The-Zohars-Mysterious-Origins.htm

I am referring to the Mantuan 1558-60 Aramaic and Hebrew *Sefer ha-Zohar al ha-Torah* (Book of Zohar, on the Torah) literally meaning, *"Radiance on the Torah"* (the Zohar), printed in three parts in three volumes (188 - 204 x 137 mm), attributed to the 2nd century tannaitic sage Rabbi Shim'on ben Yohai, translated by the scribe Meir ben Ephraim of Padua and printing supervised by Rabbi Isaac Bassano of Mantua.¹⁴⁹ Needless to say, whilst it was a great day for the Jewish people, I still believe the only reason the Muslims were given the keys to the kingdom, so to speak, is because Raymond of Toulouse stole the two hundred and thirty bible codices including the קרח צוֹרָא (Aleppo Codex), one hundred other volumes, and eight Torah scrolls,¹⁵⁰ and held them to ransom, for it is written: *"I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt"* (Genesis 12:3). This should be a warning to the world! Unless you wish to fight with God, never "(urse") or steal from Israel, especially their ancient and historical manuscripts.¹⁵¹

The Maluk Sultanate was reformed by the Baybars, with Qalāwūn aṣ-Ṣāliḥī rising to power in 1279AD. In 1377, the Circassian (from Russia) Mamluks revolted, and Al-Malik Az-Zahir Sayfad-Din Barquq became the first Sultan of the Circassian Mamluk Burji dynasty of Egypt in 1382AD. The following year, King Henry IV of England made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and died on 20 March 1,413AD during a session of Parliament in "The Jerusalem Chamber"—the former abbot's house adjacent Westminster Abbey built in 1386AD. Next came the Ottoman Turkish Empire under Selim I who defeated the last Mamluk Sultan Al-Ashraf Qansuh al-Ghawri beginning at the Battle of Marj Dabiq on 24 August 1516 near Aleppo, and the Battle of Yaunis Khanon 28 October 1516AD in Gaza on their way back to Egypt.¹⁵² On his way to Cairo, Selim I visited Jerusalem and after conquering Sultan Al-Ashraf Qansuh al-Ghawri at the Battle of Ridaniya on 22 January 1517AD, he gained control of Mecca and Medina, edifying himself as: *'The Servant of The Two Holy Cities*' similar to the *'Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques*' are today.¹⁵³ Jews, Christians, and Muslims were permitted in the city, and later divided in subgroup to prevent tension.

Where Did the Name "Palestinian" Arabs Originate?

In an interview on 15 June, 1969 by Frank Giles of The Sunday Times, with Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, Giles asked, *"Do you think the emergence of the Palestinian fighting forces, the Fedayeen, is an important new factor in the Middle East?"* Rather than provide a clipped version of her reply, I provide it in full as follows for context:

Important, no. <u>A new factor, yes. There was no such thing as Palestinians.</u> When was there an independent Palestinian people with a Palestinian state? It was either southern Syria before the First World War and then it was a Palestine including Jordan. It was not as though there was a Palestinian

¹⁴⁹ Matthews, A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3), 1:71.

¹⁵⁰ Rustow, Marina (2014), Heresy and the Politics of Community: The Jews of the Fatimid Caliphate, Cornell University Press, ISBN 9780801455308, pp. 343-4.

¹⁵¹ Strong, 'Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible', 779-arar.

¹⁵² Sir William Muir, *The Mameluke; or, Slave Dynasty of Egypt, 1260-1517, A. D.* (Elder Smith, 1896), 199, https://archive.org/details/mamelukeorslaved00sirw.

¹⁵³ 'Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz', *Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia* (blog), 2010,

https://web.archive.org/web/20110120070401/http://www.saudiembassy.or.jp/En/SA/custodian2.ht m.

people in Palestine considering itself as a Palestinian people and we came and threw them out and took their country from them. <u>They did not exist!</u>¹⁵⁴

Golda Meir (1898-1978AD) knew something about "lived experience" in the British region of "*Mandatory Palestine*" that many of us today know very little about, especially the naive activists campaigning for "*Freedom of Palestine*" in her home city of Kiev, Ukraine.¹⁵⁵ Golda Meir emigrated from Ukraine to Wisconsin in 1906, then in 1921 with her husband to *Mandatory Palestine*, starting her new life in Israel as part of the Histadrut, a Labor Zionist movement, living in the kibbutz of, south of Nazareth, close to the modern border of the West Bank.¹⁵⁶ Whilst some claim she was anti-Palestinian, Meir went on to call the mass expulsion of Arabs before the 1947-48 Palestine war "dreadful", likening it to Nazi-occupied Europe.¹⁵⁷ Meir certainly believed that in 1969, the name "Palestinian" was: "<u>A new factor, yes. There was no such thing as Palestinians…</u> <u>They did not exist!</u>" For some perspective, Dr Justin McCarthy offers the perfect background:

Palestine was a combat zone in World War I. After abortive Ottoman attacks on the Suez Canal in 1915 and 1916, the British invaded from Egypt in 1917. In a series of quick battles, all of Palestine was conquered between October 1917 and September 1918. Beersheba fell on October 30, 1917, followed by Gaza on November 7 and Jaffa on November 16. Jerusalem was taken on December 9 and the British line extended to north of Jericho by February, 1918. After a respite and a limited attack across the Jordan, the British completed the conquest of Palestine in September. By October 1, all of Palestine was effectively in their hands.¹⁵⁸

In 1935, Michael Assaf had a book published, titled, *Toldot ha-shilton ha-Arvi be-Erets Yisrael: Toldot Ha-Shilton Ha-Aravi (History of the Arabs in Palestine: The History of Arab Rule in Palestine)* where he asserted the term "Arabs" even as late as 1935 refers to the Bedouin community in Israel.¹⁵⁹ Looking back even further at a census of Palestine in 1914 under the Ottoman Empire, there were allegedly 698,275 Muslims of the Mutessariflik (Ottoman) regions with 84,660 Jews, with 11,660 of them in Jewish colonies.¹⁶⁰ Though frankly, the Jewish population is vastly underestimated, because on "Black Thursday" on 17 December 1914, the Ottoman ruler of Jaffa "ordered the mass deportation of 'enemy subjects', including 6,000 Russian-born Jewish residents of Jaffa" alone.¹⁶¹ This was only the beginning of Jewish people who fled their homeland as World War I opened up different fronts. Once the British conquered the Ottomans in December 1917 under the command of General Sir Edmund Allenby, and kept it British rule until it could be passed back to the Israelites. The influx began progressively with 1,806 in 1919; 8,223 in 1920; 8,294 in 1921; and 8,685 in 1922 Jews who made Aliyah.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁴ Benny Morris, 'Review: Rashid Khalidi—"Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness", *Indiana University Press* 3, no. 1 (1988): 266; Meron Medzini, *Golda Meir: A Political Biography* (De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2017).

¹⁵⁵ Ashley Smith, 'In Newly Released Letter, Ukrainian Activists Declare Solidarity With Palestine', *Truthout* (blog), 22 November 2023, https://truthout.org/articles/in-newly-released-letter-ukrainian-activists-declare-solidarity-with-palestine/.

¹⁵⁶ Medzini, *Golda Meir: A Political Biography*; 'Encyclopedia Britannica', Golda Meir.

¹⁵⁷ Medzini, *Golda Meir: A Political Biography*, 155.

¹⁵⁸ Dr Justin McCarthy, *The Population of Palestine: Population History and Statistics of the Late Ottoman Period and the Mandate (Institute for Palestine Studies Series)* (Columbia University Press, 1990), 25.

¹⁵⁹ Michael Assaf, *Toldot Ha-Shilton Ha-Arvi Be-Erets Yisrael: Toldot Ha-Shilton Ha-Aravi (History of the Arabs in Palestine: The History of Arab Rule in Palestine)* (Tel Aviv: Davar, 1935), 279; Dr Zachary J. Foster, 'The Invention of Palestine' (Princeton University, 2017), 74, https://www.academia.edu/34686627.

 ¹⁶⁰ J. B. Barron, 'Report and General Abstracts of the Census of 1922' (Jerusalem, 23 October 1922), 3.
 ¹⁶¹ Glenda Abramson, 'The 1914 Deportation of the Jaffa Jews: "A Little Footnote of War"?', *Israel Affairs* 28, no. 5 (19 August 2022): 706–23, https://doi.org/10.1080/13537121.2022.2112388.

¹⁶² McCarthy, The Population of Palestine: Population History and Statistics of the Late Ottoman Period and the Mandate (Institute for Palestine Studies Series), 26.

By the next census on 23 October 1922, there were 83,794 Jews, 73,024 Christians, 692,377 Muslims in Israel, with the vast majority of the Muslims in southern Israel (200,920) and Jerusalem and Jaffa (262,198), and 72,890 were Bedouins, and 634 Turkish speaking Muslims.¹⁶³ McCarthy stated, *"The vast majority of the Muslims in Ottoman Palestine were Sunnis, the largest theological group of Islam, whose adherents predominated in Anatolia, Greater Syria, and Egypt"*.¹⁶⁴ Interestingly, there was only <u>16,722 Sunni Muslims in the region of Gaza</u>; 3 were Metawilehs (Shia Muslims), 701 were Christian, and 54 Jewish.¹⁶⁵ **Therefore, the vast majority of Arabs calling themselves Palestinians in Gaza arrived after 1922**. Nazareth had 2,486 Muslims, 4,885, Christians, and 53 Jews.¹⁶⁶ The same goes for all regions now occupied by Muslims. Anyone who suggests otherwise has no credibility, because these are the from the actual censuses taken.

The earliest census of the Ottoman's date back to 1877 had 205,016 Muslims (mostly Sunni), 6,529 Jews, 21,100 Christians living in the region of Palestine (Israel and Judah).¹⁶⁷ By 2023, there are 7,145 million Jews out of population of 9.73 million people in Israel,¹⁶⁸ less approximately 1,650 murdered by Hamas on the day and since. As a result of the Circassian genocide perpetrated by the Russian Empire in the 19th century during the Russo-Circassian War, many of the Circassian Mamluks (Sunni Muslims) and other Muslim refugees emigrated to Palestine, Turkey, and other areas of the Middle East, although only 656 of the Circassians asserted keeping and speaking their Mother Tongue in the 1922 census, which increased to 838 in 1931.¹⁶⁹ The ancient Greek historian and philosopher, Strabo suggested the Circassians resided above Iran through to Albania, and across the top of the former Soviet Union.¹⁷⁰

Now in 2023, there is an estimated 2,098,389 people in Gaza of which 99% are Sunni Muslim, <1.0% Christian, and the balance unspecified.¹⁷¹ The Ottoman Empire was once the largest Sunni empire, and now Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia are rising Sunni empires that we should not take our eyes away from, for it is written: *"My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the defeat of my wicked opponents. But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to YHVH's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God"* (Psalms 92:11-13).¹⁷²

Most Palestinians do not even know their own ancestry prior to 1917 when the British conquered the Ottomans in Israel.¹⁷³ Professor of History in the Middle East Studies Department at Ben-Gurion University, Benny Morris, stated: *"It is well to recognise that there was also a parallel process at work during the 19th century, namely the immigration to Palestine of tens of thousands*

¹⁶³ Barron, 'Report and General Abstracts of the Census of 1922', 3.

¹⁶⁴ McCarthy, *The Population of Palestine: Population History and Statistics of the Late Ottoman Period and the Mandate (Institute for Palestine Studies Series)*, 11.

¹⁶⁵ Barron, 'Report and General Abstracts of the Census of 1922', 7.

¹⁶⁶ Barron, 7.

¹⁶⁷ McCarthy, The Population of Palestine: Population History and Statistics of the Late Ottoman Period and the Mandate (Institute for Palestine Studies Series), 9.

¹⁶⁸ 'Israel's Independence Day 2023', Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (blog), 24 April 2023,

https://www.cbs.gov.il/en/mediarelease/Pages/2023/Israel-Independence-Day-2023.aspx.

¹⁶⁹ McCarthy, The Population of Palestine: Population History and Statistics of the Late Ottoman Period and the Mandate (Institute for Palestine Studies Series), 81, 84.

¹⁷⁰ Strabo and H. L. Jones, *The Geography of Strabo* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1924), Strabo 6.4.

¹⁷¹ 'Gaza Strip', *CIA* (blog), 6 December 2023, https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/gaza-strip/.

¹⁷² Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Psalms 92:11-13.

¹⁷³ Palestinians: Were Your Ancestors Jews or Christians?, 2023,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvU-VpQdl_s.

of Maghrebi (North African), Egyptian, Bosnian, Kurdish and Caucasian peasants and Bedouin tribes, either on their own volition or by Ottoman design".¹⁷⁴ Their DNA is closest genetically to Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq, closely followed by Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Egypt, possibly Algeria, even some Israeli,¹⁷⁵ as were the ancient Amalekites.¹⁷⁶ The Zohar does share some light on this subject, explaining that the Palestinian name حماس (Arabic) or קמָס (Hebrew: Hamas, meaning "violence") refers to one of the five groups of an any (erev rav, "mixed multitude"), in this case the descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau, who "attacked you when you were exhausted and weary, and they <u>struck down those who were straggling behind</u>. <u>They had no fear for God</u>" (Deuteronomy 25:18), where it is written: "the earth is filled with דָמָס (Hamas, meaning "violence") through them" (Genesis 6:13).¹⁷⁷ Whilst Hamas (acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement) was created in 1987 by Palestinian imam and activist Ahmed Yassin during the First Intifada in 1987,¹⁷⁸ it appears to have ancient roots going back to the Amalekites: "Article 15: The day that enemies usurp part of Muslim land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In face of the Jews' usurpation of Palestine, it is <u>compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised</u>" and in "Article 31: It is the duty of the followers of other religions to stop disputing the sovereignty of Islam in this region, because the day these followers should take over there will be <u>nothing but carnage</u>, <u>displacement</u> and terror."179 This is the ancient evil of Hamas, also known to Israel as Haman the Agagite, a descendant of Agag, king of the Amalekites. In 474-73BC, Haman tried to eradicate the Jews in the time of Queen Esther,¹⁸⁰ just as Hamas today.

British Mandate for Palestine

The First Zionist Congress was held in Basel, Switzerland on 29-31 August 1897 with twenty speeches and group sessions to establish a Jewish state in Palestine under international law, which allegedly grew from a group led by Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston, who did not agree with the Ottoman Governor Muhammad Ali in the 1840's.¹⁸¹ In fact, the Russian Tsar emperor Alexander III temporarily ratified the May Laws, which caused various pogroms against Jews in the Russia Empire, forcing many Ukrainian Jews to make Aliyah to Israel, beginning on 31 July 1882. A map of Israel, Judea, Samaria, Galilee, with and inset of Jerusalem and the twelve tribes of Israel dated 1897 is displayed overleaf, originally published in the Nouveau Larousse illustré by Claude Augé, Paris (1897).

¹⁷⁴ Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 40–41.

¹⁷⁵ Maria C. Terroros et al., 'Mitochondrial DNA and Y-Chromosomal Stratification in Iran: Relationship between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula', *Journal of Human Genetics* 56 (17 February 2011): 239, https://doi.org/10.1038/jhg.2010.174.

¹⁷⁶ Haim Watzman, 'The Haman Gene', South Jerusalem (blog), 10 March 2009,

https://southjerusalem.com/2009/03/the-haman-gene/.

¹⁷⁷ Rabbi Shim'on bar Yochai and Rabbi Michael Berg, *The Zohar: Volume 1* (Kabbalah Centre International Inc., 2003), BeReshit 20:224-31, 288-92.

¹⁷⁸ Mosab Hassan Yousef, Son of Hamas: A Gripping Account of Terror, Betrayal, Political Intrigue, and Unthinkable Choices (Tyndale Momentum, 2011).

¹⁷⁹ 'Doctrine of Hamas', *Wilson Centre* (blog), 20 October 2023,

https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/doctrine-hamas.

¹⁸⁰ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Esther 3:1.

¹⁸¹ Leonard Stein, *The Balfour Declaration* (Simon & Schuster, 1961), 5–9.



Figure 3 - 1897 Map of Israel, Judea, Samaria, Galilee, and Lebanon with inset of Jerusalem & 12 Tribes of Israel

The Ottoman Empire lost the First Balkan War (1912–1913), the *"largest and best known battles fought at sea"* — Battle of Lepanto on <u>7 October</u> 1571 (which may have been the reason Hamas attacked on 7 October),¹⁸² and soon after were defeated in World War I upon British General Sir Edmund Henry Hynman Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby, entering Jerusalem on foot on 9 December 1917, on the beginning of Hanukkah in respect of the Jewish people and God Himself.¹⁸³ One week earlier, the British signed the 1917 Balfour Declaration, stating the following for all of the Jewish people around the world (which they should remember now):

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

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¹⁸² Jan Glete, *Warfare at Sea, 1500-1650: Maritime Conflicts and the Transformation of Europe* (London: Routledge, 1999), 105.

¹⁸³ David Fromkin, A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East (MacMillan, 2009), 312–13.

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.¹⁸⁴

On the 30 January 1919, the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference decided that "*the conquered Arab provinces were not to be restored to Turkish rule*".¹⁸⁵ On the 3 February 1920, the Zionist movement presented a draft for what we now know as the Balfour Declaration.¹⁸⁶ The Balfour Declaration included the Trans-Jordan region (see overleaf maps). On 25 April 1920, The League of Nations allowed Britain to create Mandatory Palestine. *Mandatory Palestine* encompassed the entire nation of Israel and it was established to return the land to the Jewish people after World War I, who are the only people group with any native title claim upon the entire region. During a visit to Cairo in 1921, Winston Churchill half tanked said, *"With the stroke of a pen one Sunday afternoon in Cairo"* the British mandate of Transjordan (The Emirate of Transjordan) was negotiated with Abdullah I bin Al-Hussein of Jordan (who later became King of Jordan), and the wobbly line between Israel and Jordan was allegedly Churchill's hiccup, while joking about drinking that day.¹⁸⁷ Even though Churchill took two-thirds of the land granted to Israel, they didn't complain, instead moving to finalize the British Mandate of Palestine, signed on 24 July 1922, which has 28 articles with an opening principle as follows:

Whereas the Principal Allied Powers have also agreed that the Mandatory should be responsible for putting into effect the declaration originally made on 2 November 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty (George V), and adopted by the said Powers, in favour of the <u>establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people</u>, it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which might 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; and

Whereas recognition has thereby been given to the <u>historical connection of the Jews people with</u> <u>Palestine and to the grounds for reinstituting their national home in that country</u>.¹⁸⁸

On 24 August 1929, one hundred Jewish families who had been living in a Hebron ghetto for 800 years were attacked, with 67 Jews massacred, 53 wounded and survived, houses looted, synagogues and yeshivas (Jewish schools) within the ghetto desecrated.¹⁸⁹ Doesn't this sound familiar? Why did it happen? From a survivor, Aharon Reuven Berzweig, *"We had heard talk of disturbances in Jerusalem, that Arabs and Jews were fighting"* and it had got extremely tense in Hebron: *"Arabs armed with long iron bars, long knives, and axes… Arabs had begun breaking into Jewish homes. The screams pierced the heart of the heavens… They were going from door to door, slaughtering everyone who was inside."*¹⁹⁰

I must mention that 280-300 Jewish residents were hidden by Arab non-combatants. There were a number of righteous Muslims who did not hold to the radical ideologies. I believe this incident was the first real signs of radicalized Islamic terrorism in Israel, which led to the creation

¹⁸⁴ Arthur Balfour et al., 'Balfour Declaration (Public Declaration by the British Government)', 2 November 1917; Stein, *The Balfour Declaration*, 5–9.

¹⁸⁵ Lord Robert Peel, *Palestine Royal Commission* (London: HM Stationery Office, 1937), 28, https://unispal.un.org/pdfs/Cmd5479.pdf.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ 'Jewish Virtual Library', When Churchill Severed Transjordan From Palestine (1921).

¹⁸⁸ 'Mandate for Palestine and Memorandum by the British Government Relating to Its Application to Transjordan', *US Library of Congress* (blog), n.d., 1,

https://www.loc.gov/resource/gdcwdl.wdl_11572/?st=pdf.

¹⁸⁹ Meyer Greenberg, 'The Hebron Massacre of 1929: A Recently Revealed Letter of a Survivor', *Hebron 1929* (blog), n.d., http://hebron1929.info/Hebronletter.html.

¹⁹⁰ Greenberg.

of the *Haganah* — the earliest form of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).¹⁹¹ Now I must reveal the origins of this belief by the Arabs, which was *"that the Jews aim is to take possession of the Mosque al-Aqsa gradually, on the pretence that it is the Temple, by starting with the Western Wall".¹⁹²*



Balfour Declaration 2 November 1917 (approx.)

British Mandate 24 July 1922 (approx.)

The British discovered the reason for this belief was the use of screens at the Wailing Wall at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem by the Jews to separate the men from the women,¹⁹³ which has been a custom since the early 1st century AD when Hillel the Elder wrote *Pirkei Avot* 1:5. The Jewish Council wrote an open letter denying any intention of impinging the rights of Muslims. On 15 August 1929, a couple of hundred young Jews raised an Israeli flag and sung the *Hatikvah* (Israeli national anthem). Maybe they should have been given a warning or temporarily evicted, but instead the Muslims were filled with rage and burnt all the prayers on the Wailing Wall, and attacked and killed 133 Jews in Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed, and throughout rural areas along the way.¹⁹⁴ This brought about the White Paper of 1930 by the British, which of course went against the Jewish population yet again.

By 1936, leaving no restriction on Muslim immigration, there was 1,300,000 total population, with only 384,000 of those being Jewish, because they were restricted to 75,000 per year, though they did not rise above 61,854 in 1935.¹⁹⁵ Tel Aviv had a population of around 150,000, being all Jewish.¹⁹⁶ Between April and September 1937, there were 438 attacks with either firearms or bombs, killing 97 and injuring 149 people, although the British did not record how many each side.¹⁹⁷ Money and weapons were smuggled by Arabs from Syria and Lebanon, increasing the

¹⁹¹ 'War of Independence', *IDF - War and Operations* (blog), 3 December 2017, https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/wars-and-operations/war-of-

 $independence/\#:\sim: text=The\%20 birth\%20 of\%20 the\%20 IDF, together\%2C\%20 ill\%2Dequipped\%20 army$

¹⁹² The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration (Jerusalem, Israel: HM Stationery Office, 1947), 9.

¹⁹³ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 9.

¹⁹⁴ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 10.

¹⁹⁵ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 15.

¹⁹⁶ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 15.

¹⁹⁷ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 20.

terrorist atrocities in Israel, with police and government buildings fire bombed.¹⁹⁸ During further conflicts between 1936-41, the British government appointed Lord Robert Peel in 1936 to investigate the causes of unrest between Arabs and Jews. It began with three Jews being murdered by Arabs on 15 April 1936 near Nablus, and two Arabs were killed the following night.¹⁹⁹ They titled the report, *"Palestinian Royal Commission"* though commonly referred to as the *Peel Commission Report*, which was presented to British Parliament in July 1937 with the conflict summarized as follows:

First, the desire of the Arabs for national independence; secondly, their antagonism to the establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine, quickened by their <u>fear</u> of Jewish domination. Among contributory causes were the effect on Arab <u>opinion</u> of the attainment of national independence by Iraq, Trans-Jordan, Egypt, Syria and the Lebanon; the rush of Jewish immigrants escaping from Central and Eastern Europe; the inequality of opportunity enjoyed by Arabs and Jews respectively in placing their case before Your Majesty's Government and the public; the growth of Arab <u>mistrust</u>; Arab <u>alarm</u> at the continued purchase of Arab land by the intensive character and the "modernism" of Jewish nationalism; and lastly the general uncertainty, accentuated by the ambiguity of certain <u>phrases</u> in the Mandate, as to the ultimate intentions of the Mandatory Power.²⁰⁰

I note the use of "their fear" of Jewish domination and "Arab opinion of the attainment of national independence by Iraq, Trans-Jordan, Egypt, Syria and the Lebanon" meaning the conflict started out of the ego (fears, insecurities) of the Arab Muslims, and the idea of "the river to the sea" by their Muslim brothers. I believe Qur'an Al-Baqarah 2:191-3 was taken out of context because Muslims were only called to fight if they were attacked first: "only against those who wage war against you".201 Again, I believe Hamas co-founder Mahmoud al-Zahar had taken it out of context.²⁰² It does not mean unilaterally *"removing the Jews from the 1948 borders"* as he asserted — this is what we call heresy! They should be reminded of the following verse: "If you raise your hand to kill me, I will not raise mine to kill you, because I fear Allah—the Lord of all worlds" so does that mean they ignore this part?²⁰³ It turns the entire Qur'an into hypocrisy if they only believe in killing Jews. What about the passage from Al-Anfal 8:61 as follows: "If the enemy is inclined towards peace, <u>make peace with them</u>. And put your trust in Allah" (Al-Ma'idah 5:28).²⁰⁴ Do they not fear or trust Allah? The conclusions of the Peel Commission of 1937 tried to take more land off Israel to appease the "violent Arabs" in Palestine, as they called them: "The rest of the territory under discussion was left to 'the Arab State or Confederation of States'. In the Syrian interior such advice and administrative assistance as were wanted by the Arabs would be supplied by France, in northern Iraq and the country east of the Jordan by Britain."205 They tried to backpedal in the Balfour Declaration, claiming: "Lord Balfour did not mention Syria. At the time of his speech the chance of an agreed settlement based on the co-operation of King Hussein and the Emir Feisal was being nullified by the policy of the French Government."206 If in doubt, blame the French!

The Arabs in Palestine turned down their own state, asserting, "No national government and no handing over to such government are contemplated. The matter does not go beyond the appointment of some Palestinian officers, in the existing system of government, who would be subject

¹⁹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹⁹ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 19.

²⁰⁰ Peel, *Palestine Royal Commission*.

²⁰¹ *The Qur'an*, Al-Bagarah 2:189-90.

²⁰² 'Senior Hamas Leader: Quran Tells Us to Drive Jews out of Palestine's Entirety'.

²⁰³ *The Qur'an*, Al-Ma-iad 5:28.

²⁰⁴ *The Qur'an*, Al-Anfal 8:61.

²⁰⁵ Peel, Palestine Royal Commission, 28.

²⁰⁶ Peel, 27.

*to the same rules and conditions as other officials...!"*²⁰⁷ It came down to the fact that they did not acknowledge the Israeli heritage and land rights, yet they knew or ought to have known of Israeli heritage from a cheeky self-indulgent record of the fourth pharaoh of the Nineteenth Dynasty of Ancient Egypt, Merenptah, who wrote of Israel over 1,800 years prior to Islam.²⁰⁸ The Peel Commission did however find seven factors that they summarized, which I will mention the first two:

- i. The effect of Arab opinion in Palestine of the attainment of national independence first by Iraq, to a less complete extent by Trans-Jordan, then by Egypt and lastly, subject to a short delay, by Syria and Lebanon. The weight of this factor has been augmented by close contact between Arabs in Palestine and Arabs in Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, and by the willingness shown by the Rulers to do what they properly could to assist them.
- ii. The pressure on Palestine exerted by World Jewry in view of the sufferings and anxieties of the Jews in Central and Eastern Europe. The increase in this pressure from the beginning of 1933 onwards and the consequent high figures of Jewish immigration gravely accentuated Arab <u>fears</u> of Jewish domination over Palestine.²⁰⁹

Here the Muslims were with a population of around three times that of the Jews in Palestine, yet the Muslims still claimed a "fear" of Jewish domination. By 1937, we can clearly see, the Muslims were dominating Palestine, and I assume either living in fear (because that is their nature) or they are simply telling lies for their own ends. The statistics don't lie. By 1946, the population was 1,887,000 with only around 625,000 Jews.²¹⁰ How in the world could you live in fear with three to one? I suggest it was the other way around.

On 1 May 1939, the British government issued a White Paper called: *Palestine Statement of Policy presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty May, 1939.*²¹¹ The precursor for this white paper was an invitation on 9 November 1938, by the British government inviting representatives of the Arabs of Palestine and selected neighbouring countries and Jewish representatives to discuss the future policy of Palestine.²¹² The Arabs had already turned down their offer of an Arab state within Palestine in 1937, after the Peel Commission Report.²¹³ Instead, they rioted and attacked and murdered innocent Jewish families.²¹⁴ The White Paper of 1939 again offered the Arabs of Palestine and the Arab Higher Committee a joint state for the Arabs in Palestine in writing:

The objective of His Majesty's Government is the establishment within ten years of an independent Palestine State in such treaty relations with the United Kingdom as will provide satisfactorily for the commercial and strategic requirements of both countries in the future. This proposal for the establishment of the independent State would involve consultation with the Council of the League of Nations with a view to the termination of the Mandate.

²⁰⁷ 'Reply of the Arab High Committee: For Palestine to the White Paper Issued by the British Government on May 17, 1939' (Arab High Council, 1939),

https://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/pdf/palestine1/Reply-of-the-Arab-Higher-Commitee-White-Paper.pdf. ²⁰⁸ Michael Hasel, *Merenptah's Reference to Israel: Critical Issues in Early Israelite History*, ed. Richard S.

Hess, Gerald A. Klingbeil, and Paul J. Ray Jr. (University Park, Pennsylvania: Eisenbrauns, 2008), 52.

²⁰⁹ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 22.

²¹⁰ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 32.

²¹¹ 'White Paper: Palestine Statement of Policy Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty May, 1939' (HM Stationery Office, 1 May 1939), 1.

²¹² 'White Paper: Palestine Statement of Policy Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty May, 1939', 1.

²¹³ 'Reply of the Arab High Committee: For Palestine to the White Paper Issued by the British Government on May 17, 1939', 1–2.

²¹⁴ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 20.

The independent State should be one in which Arabs and Jews share in government in such a way as to ensure that the essential interests of each community are safeguarded.²¹⁵

With the outbreak of World War I looming and the persecution of Jews throughout Europe, the British did the unimageable to the Jewish people in this White Paper of 1939: *"Jewish immigration during the next five years will be at a rate which, if economic absorptive capacity permits, will bring the Jewish population up to approximately <u>one-third</u> of the total population of the country. Taking into account the expected natural increase of the Arab and Jewish populations, and the number of illegal Jewish immigrants now in the country, this would allow of the admission, as from the beginning of April this year, of some 75,000 immigrants over the next five years." As we can see, the 3:1 ratio was designed by the British! They restricted immigration of Jews from 1939-1944 to a quota of 10,000 Jews per year from 75,000 per year, during the time the Nazis committed genocide by gassing 2.7 million Jewish men, women, and children in concentration camps, 2 million at mass shootings, and around 1.3 million in their homes or attempting to evade the Nazis.²¹⁶ This number of Jewish immigrants over 5 years. There was no restriction on Muslim immigrants.*

Both the Jews and the Muslims rejected the deal, with the Arabs of Palestine and the Arab Higher Committee writing their own *Reply of the Arab High Committee: For Palestine to the White Paper Issued by the British Government on May 17, 1939.*²¹⁷ The reply clearly states in response to the Confirmation of the Jewish Home: *"The Arabs do not recognise the Jewish Home, which they consider a clear trespass upon their sacred..."* and reiterated for the world, *"The National Home has always been the fundamental cause of the calamities, rebellions, bloodshed and general destruction"* that they claim was perpetrated by the Jews, while having a 3:1 ratio of Muslims to Jews.²¹⁸ I suggest few rational minds are naive enough to believe this propaganda. They have said from the beginning that a single-state or two-state solution will never be accepted, because they do not recognize the Jewish state. They insisted on bringing the immigration of Jews to Palestine to an *"immediate stoppage"*.²¹⁹ They admit in some form that the Jewish State has been the fundamental cause for terrorist attacks. The British were prevented from concluding negotiations when Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany, in response to the German Nazis invading Poland, murdering Jews, Roma, Serbs and Christians (the first stages of the holocaust during WVII).²²⁰

Despite a 3:1 ratio, the Jews provided 27,000 recruits for World War II, and the Arabs only 12,000 — thus it became a Jewish brigade.²²¹ One would have thought they would have demanded 81,000 Muslim recruits, yet no such demand was placed on record. Not surprisingly, they did not meet the 75,000 Jewish immigrants during WWII because too many were murdered trying to

²¹⁵ 'White Paper: Palestine Statement of Policy Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty May, 1939', 5.

²¹⁶ 'How Many People Did the Nazis Murder?', *Unites Staates Holocaust Memorial Museum* (blog), 26 September 2023, https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/documenting-numbers-of-victims-of-the-holocaust-and-nazi-persecution.

²¹⁷ 'Reply of the Arab High Committee: For Palestine to the White Paper Issued by the British Government on May 17, 1939'.

²¹⁸ 'Reply of the Arab High Committee: For Palestine to the White Paper Issued by the British Government on May 17, 1939', 7.

²¹⁹ 'Reply of the Arab High Committee: For Palestine to the White Paper Issued by the British Government on May 17, 1939', 10.

²²⁰ Matthews, A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3), 1:Inside Cover. ²²¹ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 29.

escape the Nazis and these people knew there was a cap on immigration.²²² The British were trying to deport around 1,800 Jewish refugees from Europe, and on 25 November 1940, Munya M. Mardor of the Jewish group *Haganah* bombed the British SS Patria, a French built transatlantic ocean liner in the hope of freeing the refugees, but he miscalculated the blast and killed 267 people (around 50 British crew) and injured 172.²²³ The rest of the survivors were given Aliyah to Israel. From 30 January 1946, the British opened up the immigration to Jewish refugees to 1,500 per month, therefore Mr Mardor did achieve something out of his protest against the British.²²⁴

In 1947 after the war, Britian had become tired of tensions in the Middle East and proposed the *UN Partition Plan 1947*. The plan was accepted by the Jewish Movement represented by the World Zionist Organization and the Mapai (Workers Party of Israel). There was some objection, though it was accepted in principle as the first step towards a Jewish State.²²⁵ By this time the Muslims represented 70% of the population, who again rejected the deal, proposing their own terms yet again knowing it would be boycotted. It was proposed to give them Acre to Safed and down past Nazareth, Judea and Samaria, Gaza, and a great proportion of the Negev Desert,²²⁶ and the Arab state was proposed to be part of the Transjordan, originally offered to the Jewish state in the Balfour Declaration. They could not agree, even though they were to gain 43% of Mandate Palestine for an Arab population of 66%.²²⁷ By February 1947, there were around 1.200,000 Arabs and 600,000 Jews in Palestine.²²⁸ Resolution 181 was adopted by the UN on 29 November 1947 dividing Mandatory Palestine into Israel and Jordan, creating the Jewish State officially on 15 May 1948, with countries who voted against Israel: *"Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen."*²²⁹

The mandatory Power shall use its best endeavours to ensure that an area situated in the territory of the Jewish State, including a seaport and hinterland adequate to provide facilities for a substantial immigration, shall be evacuated at the earliest possible date and in any event not later than 1 February 1948.

Independent Arab and Jewish States and the Special International Regime <u>for the City of Jerusalem</u>, set forth in part III of this plan, shall come into existence in Palestine two months after the evacuation of the armed forces of the mandatory Power has been completed but in any case not later than 1 October 1948. The boundaries of the Arab State, the Jewish State, and the City of Jerusalem **shall** be as described in parts II and III below (religious and minority rights, citizenship, international conventions and financial obligations).²³⁰

²³⁰ 'Resolution 181: Resolution Adopted on the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question' (United Nations, 29 November 1947), https://daccessods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/RES/181(II)&Lang=E.

²²² The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 30.

²²³ Munya M. Mardor, *Strictly Illegal*, 1st ed. (Robert Hale Ltd, 1957).

²²⁴ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 30.

²²⁵ Alex Winder, 'UN Partition Plan, 1947', *Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question* (blog),

^{2023,} https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/159/un-partition-plan-1947. ²²⁶ Winder; 'Encyclopedia Britannica', United Nations Resolution 181.

²²⁷ Winder, 'UN Partition Plan, 1947'.

²²⁸ The Political History of Palestine Under British Administration, 40.

²²⁹ '1947: The International Community Says YES to the Establishment of the State of Israel', *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (blog), 2013, https://mfa.gov.il/Jubilee-years/Pages/1947-UN-General-Assembly-Resolution-181-The-international-community-says-Yes-to-the-establishment-of-the-State-of-Israel.aspx.

The State of Israel to Today

Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, delivered a speech and 37 members of the Provisional Council signed the Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv on 14 May 1948. Part of that declaration included clauses inviting full and equal citizenship to all Arabs and peace with neighbouring countries who were preparing their forces along the Israel border:

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to <u>preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship</u> and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND <u>our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good</u> <u>neighborliness</u>, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.²³¹

The United Nations Palestine Commission proposal in Resolution 181 to roll out the UN decision became effective on the date that Israel became a Jewish State on 15 May 1948. Early that morning the Arab League comprised of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and the Arabs of Palestine attacked from every direction. Most countries would think the Jews didn't stand a chance, though I recall the passage where Mordecai appeals to Queen Eshter to risk her life for the nation of Jews: "If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as *this?*" (Esther 4:14).²³² It only takes one valiant soul to stand for a nation, then the rest will see that faith and join them. This is what we have seen in 2023! Never underestimate a Jew with a deep faith in HaShem, for it is written: They will no longer be prey for other nations, and wild animals will no longer devour them. They will live in safety, and no one will frighten them. "And I will make their land famous for its crops, so my people will never again suffer from famines or the insults of foreign nations. In this way, they will know that I, YHVH their God, am with them. And they will know that they, the people of Israel, are my people, says Adonai-YHVH. You are my flock, the sheep of my pasture. You are my people, and I am your God. I, the Adonai-YHVH, have spoken!" (Ezekiel 34:28-31).²³³ This day has not yet been fulfilled, because there are still wars, though Israel was very close with the Abraham Accords.

Israel had put together a decent military force by the 1948 Arab-Israeli War with around 35,000 mobilized and deployed fighters for the *Haganah, Lehi,* and *Irgun* militia to form the IDF of 11 brigades comprised of men and women, many from the British armed forces, including artillery, armoured units, the beginnings of an air force and navy.²³⁴ The Haganah did not just operate in Mandatory Palestine; The virtual Jewish Library tells us, *"It had branches in other parts of the world, including the United States, Poland, Germany, Italy, France, and Morocco"* which is perfectly depicted in the 2022 Amazon Prime documentary "Plan A" set around Nuremburg, Germany.²³⁵ With enlistments, the IDF grew to 63,00 by July 1948.²³⁶ They became a force to be

https://main.knesset.gov.il/en/about/pages/declaration.aspx.

²³¹ 'Declaration of Independence', *The Knesset* (blog), 14 May 1948,

²³² Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Esther 4:14.

²³³ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Ezekiel 34:28-31.

²³⁴ Morris, The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited, 16.

²³⁵ 'Plan A' (Nuremberg, Germany, 2022), https://www.amazon.com/Plan-August-Diehl/dp/B0B65T7NR9.

²³⁶ Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited*, 17.

reckoned with to this very day. The Arab League may have come in hard, though after 10 months of fighting, they were defeated by the newly formed IDF. Syria and Lebanon came in from the north and northeast, Iraq and Jordan from the east, and Egypt from the south, with the Arabs of Palestine fighting in Lydda, al-Ramla, Jerusalem, and Haifa. Their commander had already died, leaving Ottoman Shaykh Hasan Salama as leader, who died in the Israeli village of Ras al-Ein, east of Acre towards the Sea of Galilee during the war. His radicalized son Ali Hassan Salameh was allegedly assassinated in 1979 by Mossad for multiple acts of terrorism. Both were born in Palestine, and identified as wealthy Palestinians, the latter known as "the Red Prince".²³⁷ Israel signed the 1949 Armistice Agreements with Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon ceasing all hostilities, though the armistice did not last. Professor of History in the Middle East Studies Department at Ben-Gurion University, Benny Morris, summarized the root of the problem:

Palestine's towns, for centuries little more than overblown villages, during the last decades of the 19th century and first decades of the 20th began to grow as land lessor poor fellahin left the villages...But it is well to recognise that there was also a parallel process at work during the 19th century, namely the immigration to Palestine of tens of thousands of Maghrebi (North African), Egyptian, Bosnian, Kurdish and Caucasian peasants and Bedouin tribes, either on their own volition or by Ottoman design...The Palestinian national movement took root mainly among the urban elite and middle classes, but over the decades of British rule, in which there was a major growth in education and literacy, the national idea began to filter down to the urban and peasant masses.²³⁸

In East Jerusalem 1964, Ahmad Al-Shuqayri founded the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) was also founded in 1964 by the Arab League as a military wing of the PLO. It was alleged that Ahmad Al-Shuqayri coined the phrase *"from the river to the sea"* though I have proven it was coined many centuries before him. Even his PLO counterpart from Beirut, Sharif al-Hut, accompanying him to the Arab League Summit between 29 August – 11 September 1967 denied this was the case. During Ahmad's speech, he allegedly called on Arabs *"to throw the Jews into the sea!"* Sharif al-Hut recorded the following in his memoirs, as discovered by Moshe Shemesh:

When Shuqayri finished speaking the atmosphere at the summit was tense. If the session had not concluded immediately after the speech, more than one responsible Arab would have pounced on Shuqayri, and for various reasons would have placed on him, unjustifiably, the responsibility for the entire defeat. The circles hostile toward him were accustomed to daily repeats of the 'lie' in Shuqayri's speech regarding the PLO's determination to <u>'throw the Jews into the sea</u>!²³⁹

Yet for the last fifty-five years, the Arabs of Palestine are still chanting this antisemitic expression that has been taken out of context from Genesis 15 from a promise given to Abraham circa 2081BC, around 2,650 years before Muhammad was born. The speech by Ahmad Al-Shuqayri occurred two months after the Six-Day War between 5-10 June 1967, which I mentioned briefly in the opening introduction in relation to Psalm 83. Marcel Serr celebrating 50 years since the Six-Day War wrote in *The National Interest:*

Israel's Six-Day War turned the Middle East upside down. Hardly any other war has changed the political landscape of a region so fast and so fundamentally. The stunning victory of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) over three Arab armies in just six days established the Jewish state as a regional great power, and the territorial conquests provided Israel with strategic depth for the first time.

²³⁷ 'Ali Hasan Salameh', All 4 Palestine (blog), 2023,

https://www.all4palestine.org/ModelDetails.aspx?gid=13&mid=1611&lang=en.

²³⁸ Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited*, 40–41.

²³⁹ Moshe Shemesh, 'Did Shuqayri Call for "Throwing the Jews into the Sea"?', *Israel Studies* 8, no. 2 (2003): 72.

However, the annexations of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights burdened Israel's international relations. Thus, the legacy of the Six-Day War has influenced Israeli politics until today.²⁴⁰

Egypt under President Gamal Abdel Nasser was encouraging Arab فدائيون (fedayeen, guerrilla terrorists) to commit terror attacks from the Gaza strip against Israel between 1948 to his death on 28 September 1970,²⁴¹ and blocked the Tiran Straits into the Red Sea and the Suez Canal to stop Israeli shipping getting through,²⁴² just as Iran and the Houthi Shia Islamic militants are attempting to do today, while Hezbollah are firing rockets from Lebanon and Syria into the north of Israel.²⁴³ We must remember that Iran, Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon were four of the thirteen countries who voted against Israel in the 1947 Partition Plan: "Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen".²⁴⁴ Iran became an allay for a number of years after 1948, while Nasser announced the nationalization the Suez Canal Company for Egypt, which was a joint venture between the British and French from 1869.²⁴⁵ On 29 October 1956, Israel invaded the Gaza strip and Egyptian Sinia Desert, both of which were part of the Promised Land to Israel. Professor Michael Laskier of Bar-Ilan University and Beit Berl College in Israel recorded how the British, French, and even Egyptian Jewry were forced to flee the country of Egypt in late 1956:

According to representatives in Egypt of an important international relief organization, at least 900 Jews had been arrested as of 7 December 1956. Five hundred were interned in the Jewish school at Abbasiyya in Cairo. As of 3 December, 261 of these 500 were stateless; the rest were Egyptian citizens. At the Abraham Batesh Jewish school in Heliopolis, another 42 Jews were detained, most of them women, many of them aged. This group included 19 stateless persons and 23 others. At Les Barrages prison north of Cairo, 300 Jews were detained, half of them stateless; the other half British and French subjects.²⁴⁶

The Six-Day War between 5-10 June 1967 was decisive, opening with the Israeli Air Force (IAF) sending around 200 fighter jets taking out 280 aircraft in the Egyptian air force in a matter of hours. The IDF pushed back the Syrian and Jordanian troops in Galilee, Judea and Samaria, while pushing further into the Suez Canal and the Gaza strip.²⁴⁷ When the Jordanian troops attacked the IDF at Mount Scopus northeast of the Old City of Jerusalem, the IDF moved into East Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). Professor Peter Boyce AO wrote a piece titled *'The Six Day War at 50'* for The Australian Institute of International Affairs, where he asserted, *"Palestinians played little part in the Six Day War"* though Palestinian terrorists were reported to have *"used Syria as a base for their operations against Israel"*.²⁴⁸ By the sixth day, Israel controlled

²⁴⁵ 'The Suez Crisis, 1956', US Office of the Historian (blog), 2023,

https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/suez.

²⁴⁰ Marcel Serr, 'How the Six-Day War Changed the Middle East', *The National Interest*, 9 May 2017, https://nationalinterest.org/feature/how-the-six-day-war-changed-the-middle-east-20585.

²⁴¹ 'Oxford Languages Dictionary' (Oxford University Press, n.d.), fedayeen,

https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/.

²⁴² 'The Sinai Campaign (1956)', Israel Mission Around the World (blog), 2024,

https://embassies.gov.il/MFA/AboutIsrael/Maps/Pages/The-Sinai-Campaign-1956.aspx.

²⁴³ Jacob Magid and AP, 'Iran "Deeply Involved" in Planning Houthi Attacks on Red Sea Shipping — White House', *The Times of Israel*, 23 December 2023, https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-deeply-involved-in-planning-houthi-attacks-on-red-sea-shipping-white-house/.

²⁴⁴ '1947: The International Community Says YES to the Establishment of the State of Israel'.

 ²⁴⁶ Prof Michael M. Laskier, 'The Jews of Egypt: 1920-1970: Egyptian Jewry under the Nasser Regime, 1956-70', 1991, http://www.hsje.org/Egypt/Egypt%20Today/egyptian_jewry_under_the_nasser_.htm.
 ²⁴⁷ Serr, 'How the Six-Day War Changed the Middle East'.

²⁴⁸ 'The Six Day War at 50', *Australian Institute of International Affairs* (blog), 6 June 2017, https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/the-six-day-war-at-50/; Serr, 'How the Six-Day War Changed the Middle East'.

East Jerusalem, the entire Sinai Peninsula as well as the Gaza strip, Judea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights in the north, with more 20,000 Arab casualties. These terrorist attacks did not stop after the Six-Day War on 1967, with various attacks against Jews all over the world by the *Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine* (PFLP) founded in 1967 by an Arab of Mandatory Palestine named George Habash.²⁴⁹

On 6 October, 1973 on the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), Egypt and Syria carried out a surprise attack against Israel, aided by Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Arabs who call themselves Palestinians.²⁵⁰ We know it today as the Yom Kippur War of 1973. Despite overwhelming forces, Israel managed to push them back by mobilizing their reserve forces, just as they have done today. Palestinian militias used Russian Katyusha rocket launchers and antitank missile fired all over the Israeli border communities from southern Lebanon, although Defense Minister Moshe Dayan didn't want to divert his forces away from the Syrian frontlines to deal with them.²⁵¹ Resolutions 339-341 dated 23-27 October 1973, called a ceasefire between "Israel and the Arab Republic of Egypt, using for this purpose the personnel of the United Nations" now in the Middle East and first of all, the personnel now in Cairo".²⁵² What followed was an extraordinary 13-day summit and treaty with Egypt on 19 September 1978 called the Camp David Accords, signed by US President Jimmy Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat with three parts: "a process for Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza, a framework for the conclusion of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, and a similar framework for peace treaties between Israel and its other neighbours."253 This was the beginning of the 1993 Oslo Accords with the Arabs of Palestine, though the road was difficult along the way for Israel.

Between 1968-75, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) began executing Israeli citizens during the time Yassar Arafat as Chairman, and Fatah became the dominant party, calling for Jihad from Article 9 of *The Palestinian National Charter: Resolutions of the Palestine National Council July 1-17, 1968, "Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine. This it is the overall strategy, not merely a tactical phase. The Palestinian Arab people assert their absolute determination and firm resolution to continue their armed struggle and to work for an armed popular revolution for the liberation of their country and their return to it."²⁵⁴ They forgot Article 6 from their own Charter: "<u>The Jews who had normally resided in Palestine until the beginning of the Zionist invasion will be considered Palestinians</u>" and Article 3, where they "<u>possess the legal right to their homeland</u>".²⁵⁵ Even article 7 admits, "there is a Palestinian community and that it has material,*

²⁵³ 'Encyclopedia Britannica', Camp David Accords.

²⁴⁹ '1967-1993: Major Terror Attacks', *Israeli Missions Around The World* (blog), 2023, https://embassies.gov.il/MFA/AboutIsrael/Maps/Pages/1967-1993-0(20Majar@/20Terror@20Attacks.com/

^{% 20} Major % 20 Terror % 20 Attacks. as px.

²⁵⁰ 'Jewish Virtual Library', The Yom Kippur War: Background&Overview (October 1973).

²⁵¹ Abraham Rabinovich, *The Yom Kippur War: The Epic Encounter That Transformed the Middle East*, 1st ed. (Knopf US, 2006), 411.

²⁵² 'Resolutions 339-341 Dated 23-27 October 1973', *United Nations* (blog), 23 October 1973, http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=S/RES/341%20(1973)&Lang=E.

²⁵⁴ 'The Palestinian National Charter: Resolutions of the Palestine National Council July 1-17, 1968', *Yale School of Law, The Avalon Project* (blog), 2008, Article 9.

²⁵⁵ 'The Palestinian National Charter: Resolutions of the Palestine National Council July 1-17, 1968', Articles 3 and 6.

spiritual, and historical connection with Palestine are indisputable facts".²⁵⁶ Absolute hypocrites! How can they assert one thing and commit acts of terror on the another?

There were a series of Intifadas (Uprisings) between 9 December 1987 and September 1993, and the Second Intifada September 200 to the end of 2005, with stabbing, throwing of rocks, Molotov cocktails, along with rifle, hand grenade, and suicide bombers attacked Israelis.²⁵⁷ The Palestinian group حماس (Arabic) or جماں (Hebrew: Hamas, meaning "violence") (acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement) was created in 1987 by Palestinian imam and activist Ahmed Yassin during the First Intifada in 1987,²⁵⁸ and became far more popular than the PLO towards the end of the Second Intifada because of clauses calling for Jihad: "Article 15: The day that enemies usurp part of Muslim land, *lihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim*. In face of the Jews' usurpation of Palestine, it is <u>compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised</u>" and in "Article 31: It is the duty of the followers of other religions to stop disputing the sovereignty of Islam in this region, because the day these followers should take over there will be nothing but carnage, displacement and terror. "259 This was likely because the terrorist Mahmoud Abbas became chairman of the PLO in November 2004 following the death of Yassar Arafat, who was widely known for his heretical dissertation titled 'The Relationship Between Zionists and Nazis, 1933-1945' pushing scientific atheism, communism, and a denial of the Holocaust, connecting Zionists and Nazis.²⁶⁰ I believe it was a work of pure evil and hate that should never be reprinted! Hamas won the election of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) by 74 of 132 seats in the second Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) on 25 January 2006 out of 1,024,424 people who tendered a voting card.²⁶¹ It was one evil or another: Hamas under Ahmed Yassin and Hassan Yousef or the PLO under Mahmoud Abbas, the latter also trivializing the Holocaust and has been accused of sedition.²⁶²

On 15 August 2005, *Israel's Disengagement from Gaza and North Samaria (2005)* put to the Knesset by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was implemented, with the IDF removing 9,000 Israeli citizens living in 25 villages, including the exhumation of Jewish graves from the entire Gaza strip, and four villages in Homesh, Sa-Nur, Kadim, and Ganim within northern Samaria.²⁶³ The Australian Jewish Association published a video on YouTube in 2021 of Hamas digging up water pipes to make rockets; *"When Israel administered Gaza from 1967 before withdrawing in 2005, the infrastructure was improved including water supply for residential areas and for agriculture. The massive greenhouse agriculture was quickly destroyed and Hamas has been 'harvesting' the water pipes laid by the Israelis throughout Gaza for rocket casing."²⁶⁴ They quoted Bassem Eid, Palestinian Human Rights Activist as saying, <i>"Hamas does not care about Palestinians! ...they cut off water supplies to Palestinians in Gaza so that they could use the water pipes to build more*

https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/arts-letters/articles/mahmoud-abbas-soviet-dissertation.

²⁶¹ 'The Final Results for the Electoral Lists', 10 September 2008, http://www.elections.ps/pdf/Final_Results_PLC_Summary_Lists_Seats_2_En.pdf.

²⁵⁶ 'The Palestinian National Charter: Resolutions of the Palestine National Council July 1-17, 1968', Article 7.

²⁵⁷ 'Encyclopedia Britannica', intifada.

²⁵⁸ Yousef, Son of Hamas: A Gripping Account of Terror, Betrayal, Political Intrigue, and Unthinkable Choices.

²⁵⁹ 'Doctrine of Hamas'.

²⁶⁰ Izabella Tabarovsky, 'Mahmoud Abbas' Dissertation', *Tablet* (blog), 18 January 2023,

²⁶² 'Berlin Police Are Investigating Abbas', 19 August 2022, https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/berlinermittlungen-polizei-abbas-101.html.

²⁶³ 'Israel's Disengagement from Gaza and North Samaria (2005)', *Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (blog), 14 November 2021.

²⁶⁴ Hamas Was Digging Up Water Pipes to Make Rockets, 2021, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=St_S6YunPgs.

rockets. Hamas cares more about killing Israelis than it does about providing clean water for *Palestinians.*^{"265} This has been confirmed in 2023 by the IDF seeking out and destroying these underground weapons manufacturing plants under mosques, schools, hospitals, and residential buildings. In the Battle of Gaza (2007), between Fatah and Hamas between 10-15 June 2007, that resulted in Judea and Samaria being governed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), and the Gaza strip being governed by Hamas, with Fatah expelled or executed. Hamas established their own form of government, comprised of Hamas members, with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh as Prime Minister, living in Qatar, off the tip of Saudi Arabia.²⁶⁶ On 31 January 2018, the US State Department listed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh as a *"Specially Designated Global Terrorist"*.²⁶⁷

This gesture of good faith by the Israelis was met with terror tunnels, kidnapping, murder, rape, constant rockets and wars. The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories reported, *"From the beginning of the second intifada at the end of September 2000 through the end of September 2017, Palestinians killed 813 Israeli civilians, including 135 minors".*²⁶⁸ On 12 June 2014, Hamas kidnapped three Israeli teenagers, Gil-ad Sha'er, Naftali Frankel, and Eyal Yifrach, murdering and burying their bodies in a shallow graves near the city of Halhul in the region of Judea (the West Bank).²⁶⁹ In a pre-dawn raid, the IDF killed the Arab suspects, Marwan Qawasmeh and Amer Abu Aisha, during a tense gun battle, arresting numerous others.²⁷⁰ Hamas fired 730 rockets were fired from the Gaza strip, when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared "the gloves are off" towards the Hamas terrorists, mobilizing 1,500 IDF troops in *Operation Protective Edge* on the border of the Gaza strip.²⁷¹ Over 1,400 Israeli citizens and 1,460 Arabs of Gaza died in 50 days.²⁷² In my opinion, the fault was the Palestinian people by electing the terrorist organization Hamas as their governing party, no different to any other country — we pay the price of our civic leaders sins. Surely, they knew what they were getting themselves into, because they supported Hamas.

In 2018, at the fence around Gaza that was erected to stop them killing innocent Israeli citizens, Hamas organized the Arabs of Gaza to violently protest to "cover attacks".²⁷³ Hundreds of potential terrorists tried to get through the fence and 138 were killed by IDF.²⁷⁴ On 8 May 2021, Muslim worshippers at the Temple Mount and the Damascus Gate were chanting in favour of Hamas reigning down terror upon Tel Aviv:

²⁶⁵ Hamas Was Digging Up Water Pipes to Make Rockets.

²⁶⁶ 'Ismail Haniyeh', 16 November 2023, https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/ismail-haniyeh.

²⁶⁷ 'Jewish Virtual Library', Ismail Haniyeh (1955-).

²⁶⁸ 'Targeting of Israeli Civilians by Palestinians', *The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories* (blog), 11 November 2017, https://www.btselem.org/israeli_civilians#data.

²⁶⁹ Harriet Sherwood, 'Israeli Forces Kill Two Palestinians Suspected of Murdering Teenagers', *The Guardian*, 23 September 2014, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/23/israel-kills-palestinian-suspects-teenagers-murder.

²⁷⁰ Sherwood.

²⁷¹ Lea Speyer, 'Netanyahu: "Gloves Are Off" against Hamas, Launches "Operation Protective Edge", *Israel365News*, 8 July 2014, https://www.israel365news.com/284623/idf-launches-operation-protective-edge-gaza-terror/.

²⁷² Gabriel Levin, 'How Does Israel's Last Invasion of Gaza Compare to Now?', *Middle East*, 17 October 2023, https://www.voanews.com/a/how-does-israel-s-last-invasion-of-gaza-compare-to-now-/7314700.html.

 ²⁷³ 'Palestinians Try to Rip through Gaza Border Fence, Drawing Heavy Israeli Fire', *CBS News*, 27 April
 2018, https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gaza-israel-violence-at-border-fence-2018-04-27/.
 ²⁷⁴ 'Palestinians Try to Rip through Gaza Border Fence, Drawing Heavy Israeli Fire'.

קריאות בהר הבית המעודדות את הזרוע הצבאית של חמאס "להכות בתל אביב" ו"ברוח ובדם נפדה את אקצא

Chants on the Temple Mount encouraging the military wing of Hamas to "hit Tel Aviv" and "Aqsa has been redeemed in spirit and in blood". 275

Why did this occur? It apparently began once again over Arabs claiming land rights belonging to Israeli Jews in the Shimon HaTzadik settlement in East Jerusalem, three portions of land purchased in 1876 by the Sephardi Community Council and the Ashkenazi General Council of the Congregation of Israel, who jointly purchased the cave of Shimon HaTzadik, the Small Cave of Sanhedrin, and a lot of 17,500m2 nearby.²⁷⁶ The dispute arose over eviction notices given to Palestinian residents, even though several court orders had been given over a number of years.²⁷⁷ This is an important burial chamber for the Jewish community, because it houses seven of *Anshei Knesset HaGedolah* (the Assembly's Members), most notably the last surviving member, Shimon HaTzadik or Simeon the Just.²⁷⁸ The IDF went to quell the violence on the Temple Mount, which resulted in a joint terrorist attack by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad firing 4360 rockets, of which 3,400 landed in Israel.²⁷⁹

Now we fast forward to current events of 7 October 2023, where Hamas terrorist leader Yahya Sinwar committed a coordinated terrorist attack of ten Islamic terrorist groups united together with a force of 40,000 terrorists committing "crimes against humanity" upon the innocent citizens of Israel.²⁸⁰ The Times of Israel wrote on 29 December 2023, just before hundreds more rockets were launched on New Year's Even from the Gaza strip:

Thousands of Hamas-led terrorists streamed out of Gaza into southern Israel, overrunning military positions and infiltrating over a dozen communities and towns, as well as an outdoor rave festival, under cover of heavy rocket fire on southern and central Israel. Some 1,200 people were killed in the ensuing massacres, most of them civilians, often slaughtered in their homes, gunned down in fields or butchered on roads. The bloodletting included atrocities from rape to torture, mutilations and executions of bound captives. Around 240 people — including young children and the elderly — were kidnapped and taken into Gaza to be used as bargaining chips; some 129 of them remain there, though some are thought to have since been killed... While Hezbollah began firing at northern Israel the next day in support of Hamas's mission, its attacks have largely been limited to anti-tank missile strikes, launching armed drones and sporadic rocket fire, mostly aimed at since-evacuated

²⁷⁵ Aaron Boxerman, "Strike Tel Aviv": Palestinians at Temple Mount Chant in Support of Hamas', *The Times of Israel*, 8 May 2021, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/strike-tel-aviv-palestinians-at-temple-mount-chant-in-support-of-hamas/.

²⁷⁶ Lior Lehrs and Yitzhak Reiter, 'The Sheikh Jarrah Affair: The Strategic Implications of Jewish Settlement in an Arab Neighborhood in East Jerusalem' (The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Affairs, 2010), https://jerusaleminstitute.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PUB_sheikhjarrah_eng.pdf.

²⁷⁷ Lehrs and Reiter, 30–31.

²⁷⁸ Elkan Nathan Alder, *Jewish Travellers in the Middle Ages: 19 Firsthand Accounts* (Mineola, New York: Dover Publications, 2011), 240; Lehrs and Reiter, 'The Sheikh Jarrah Affair: The Strategic Implications of Jewish Settlement in an Arab Neighborhood in East Jerusalem', 23–31.

²⁷⁹ Zen Read, 'Hamas Chief: We Will Continue Fighting Until Al-Aqsa Mosque Is Liberated', *Haaretz*, 20 May 2021, https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2021-05-20/ty-article/israeli-workers-threaten-not-to-repair-power-in-gaza-until-bodies-of-soldiers-return/0000017f-f496-d044-adff-f7ff61b30000.

²⁸⁰ Robert F Kennedy Jr. On Israel-Hamas War PBD TownHall 12 6 23 (FORT LAUDERDALE, FL: Town Hall, 2023), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suEn7lFxtAU&t=2s; 'How Hamas Built a Force to Attack Israel on 7 October', *BBC News*, 27 November 2023, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67480680.

border towns. A source with fellow Iran-backed terror group Islamic Jihad also tells the paper that it has kept a lid on attacks against Israel.²⁸¹

Unfortunately, I have watched the recent video of the Victims of October 7 by the IDF published on 7 January 2024, and I was horrified at the graphic barbaric and depraved Hamas,²⁸² along with their accomplices from the Gaza strip who joined in for the sake of \$10,000 and an apartment in Gaza if they returned with Israeli civilian hostages, especially women and children.²⁸³ There were mutilated bodies strewn across the road, the fields, in their homes, even young children and babies, who were burnt, decapitated, and shot in their baby capsules.²⁸⁴ They burned and blew up many homes and cars. Women were intentionally shot in the face, breasts, and their genitals to mutilate their bodies in the worst possible way to shock coroners and family.²⁸⁵ It was reported, a woman from the Nova Festival, *"saw gunmen gang rape one woman and cut off the breast of another and throw it on the street"* while another was shot in the head while being raped.²⁸⁶ Women were gang raped until blood poured down their legs, then murdered in the most graphic ways. Do they not know their own punishment in the Qur'an for rape with a weapon?

إِنَّمَا جَزُّوُا ٱلَّذِينَ يُحَارِ يُونَ ٱللَّهُ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَسْعَوْنَ فِى ٱلْأَرْضِ فَسَادًا أَن يُقَتَّلُوٓا أَوْ يُصَلَّبُوٓا أَوْ تُقَطَّعَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَرْ جُلْهُم مِّنٌ خِلَفٍ أَوْ يُنفَوْاً مِنَ ٱلأَرْضِ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ لَهُمْ جَزْمِّ فِى ٱلْدُنْيَا أَ وَلَهُمْ فِى ٱلْمُاحِرَةِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ٣٣

Indeed, the penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger and spread mischief in the land is death, crucifixion, cutting off their hands and feet on opposite sides, or exile from the land. This "penalty" is a disgrace for them in this world, and they will suffer a tremendous punishment in the Hereafter.²⁸⁷

Having studied ancient history and medieval European history, I have never seen anything so obscene, despicably wicked, and disturbing throughout the ages of mankind. This can only be compared to the atrocities committed by ISIS in the Yazidi genocide of Iraq in 2014 or the German Nazis between 1939-45, both of whom murdered, raped, mutilated women's genitals, and burned babies. Hamas and their Islamic cohorts in the Gaza strip appear to be following the ISIS and Nazi playbooks. Obviously, they do not understand Scripture, for Jesus said, *"Blessed are those who wash their robes"* referring to those who have lived a clean life unto God, *"They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life"* (Revelation 22:14). For murderers and rapists, he said, *"Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie"* (Revelation 22:15). The Qur'an holds Jesus in high regard as a prophet, yet they fail to listen to his warnings. Maybe they choose to be dogs, for the Qur'an Al-Ma'idah 5:118 states regarding Jesus and Judgement Day, *"If You*"

²⁸¹ Toi Staff, 'Report Details Hamas's Secret Buildup to Oct 7, Terror Group's Isolation in Its Wake', *The Times of Israel*, 29 December 2023, https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-details-ultra-secret-buildup-to-october-7-and-isolation-of-hamas-in-its-wake/.

²⁸² The Victims of October 7 (Tel Aviv: Israel Defense Force, 2024),

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ta7ScT67vQ0.

²⁸³ Ruth Marks Eglash, 'Captured Hamas Terrorists Reveal Being Offered \$10,000, Apartment for Kidnapping Israelis', *Jewish Insider*, 24 October 2023, https://jewishinsider.com/2023/10/hamas-terrorists-hostages-israelis-nurit-cooper-yocheved-lifshitz/.

²⁸⁴ The Victims of October 7.

²⁸⁵ Tovah Lazaroff, 'Israeli Female Soldiers Shot in Crotch, Vagina, Breasts on October 7', *The Jerusalem Post*, 5 December 2023, https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-776654.

²⁸⁶ Maayan Lubell and Emily Rose, 'Israeli Accounts of Sexual Violence by Hamas Rise but Justice Is Remote', *Reuters*, 6 December 2023, https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/accounts-sexual-violence-hamas-attack-mount-justice-is-remote-israels-victims-2023-12-05/.

²⁸⁷ *The Qur'an*, AlMa'idah 5:33.

punish them, they belong to You after all" for they are still God's creation, even though beastly like a golem without a soul.²⁸⁸

There are innocent Christians (<1%) and Muslims amongst the Arabs of Gaza; however, the latter are only 13% who opposed the Hamas attack, based upon a survey by Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD).²⁸⁹ A whopping 98% of Palestinians felt a greater pride after the 7 October attacks upon Israel, and 86% supported the rape, murder, and torturing of innocent Jewish Israelis.²⁹⁰ The crazy part of this survey was *"98% stated that they will never forget and will never forgive what Israel did and is continuing to do during this war"* whereas *"65% perceived the present war as a conflict targeting all Palestinians, while only 18% viewed it as a war between Israel and Hamas"*.²⁹¹ This is a culture of antisemitism, radicalized terrorism, and the atrocities of 7 October 2023 are clearly "crimes against humanity" with sentences up to <u>30 years of imprisonment with repatriation to the victims</u>, as defined by the International Criminal Court as follows:

Crimes against humanity are acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, such as murder, deportation, torture and rape. The ICC prosecutes the perpetrators even if the crimes were not committed in times of war.²⁹²

In this case, these atrocities were committed against innocent people going about their day on Shabbat 7 October 2023. What is so sinister, this was the Shabbat of Shemini Atzeret (Eighth day of Assembly) on the 22nd day of Tishrei to celebrate the joy completion of reading the Torah cycle, and the beginning anew for this year. Many were murdered at the *Supernova Sukkot Gathering*, in the secular kibbutz of Re'im in southern Israel – young people just wanting to open their New Year with music. To all the families, may God comfort you among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and I pray God will avenge their blood. For the perpetrators, ימָח שָׁמוֹ וְיָכָרוֹ shemo ve-zichro, "May his name and his memory be erased") in Hebrew Gematria 10+40+8+300+40+6+6+7+20+200+6=643, meaning camel-men join together to agitate, a sacrifice, to bring pain, to piece or cut, even holes in caves to flee in haste – a sickness or disease upon the land that will bring barrenness if left untreated.²⁹³ This crime against humanity cannot go unpunished. We must ask ourselves, where is this heading especially with accusations against Israel in the International Criminal Court? Do we not understand, this is heading towards the

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlgFvSXJBXc; Guy Azriel and Paz Grace, 'Survey Finds Majority in the West Bank Support the Oct 7 Massacre', *I24 News*, 17 November 2023,

 $icc\#:\sim:text=Crimes\%20 a gainst\%20 humanity\%20 are\%20 acts, committed\%20 in\%20 times\%20 of\%20 warms and the state of the$

²⁹³ Bill Heidrick, 'Hebrew Gematria', 2019, 643, http://www.billheidrick.com/works/hgemat.htm.

²⁸⁸ *The Qur'an*, Al-Ma'idah 5:118.

²⁸⁹ 'Wartime Poll: Results of an Opinion Poll Among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: Data Collected between 31 October and 07 November 2023' (Arab World for Research and Development, 7 November 2023),

https://www.awrad.org/files/server/polls/polls2023/Public%20Opinion%20Poll%20-%20Gaza%20War%202023.pdf.

²⁹⁰ Survey Finds 86% of Palestinians Support October 7 Massacre (Tel Aviv: i24 News, 2023),

https://www.i24 news.tv/en/news/middle-east/palestinian-territories/1700158968-survey-finds-majority-in-the-west-bank-justify-the-oct-7-

massacre#:~:text=After%20the%20October%207%20attacks,for%20humanity%20in%20the%20future .%22.

²⁹¹ 'Wartime Poll: Results of an Opinion Poll Among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: Data Collected between 31 October and 07 November 2023'.

²⁹² 'Crimes within the Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court' (The International Criminal Court (ICC), n.d.), https://www.government.nl/topics/international-peace-and-security/international-legal-order/the-international-criminal-court-

fulfilment of prophecy where the world will be judged accordingly? How can Israel live peacefully with a radicalized people set on killing every last one of them? The evidence suggests Iran was involved,²⁹⁴ and evidence presented herein shows ancient Iran was also responsible for the numerous attacks on Israel thorough history. When will this threat be eliminated, or demilitarized and deradicalized, so that Israel may live in peace? Israel cannot be held accountable for protecting themselves from repeated terrorist attacks. Mr Netanyahu has said since 2018 that Iran's goal is to annihilate Israel. Do they now have to deal with this threat alone? When will the world stand with Israel? If the world stands against Israel, we may well see Ezekiel's prophecies unfold extremely quickly. The prophet Joel warned the world around 2,859 years ago (circa 835BC), yet we do not heed the warnings:

"At the time of those events," says the LORD, "when I restore the prosperity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather the armies of the world into the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will judge them for harming my people, my special possession, for scattering my people among the nations, and for dividing up my land. They threw dice to decide which of my people would be their slaves. They traded boys to obtain prostitutes and sold girls for enough wine to get drunk" (Joel 3:1-3).²⁹⁵

The Role of Israel in Eschatology

"Before the birth pains even begin, Jerusalem gives birth to a son. Who has ever seen anything as strange as this? Who ever heard of such a thing? Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment? But by the time Jerusalem's birth pains begin, her children will be born. Would I ever bring this nation to the point of birth and then not deliver it?" asks the LORD. "No! I would never keep this nation from being born," says your God (Isaiah 66:7-9).²⁹⁶ What does Isaiah mean when referring to the birth pangs? Women will understand the pain associated with the beginning of childbirth. These are the birth pangs Jesus spoke of to his disciples: "Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come" (Matthew 24:7-8).²⁹⁷ We have already seen the birth pangs with World War I (1914-18), the Intercommunal conflict in Mandatory Palestine (1920-48), World War II (1939-45) and the Holocaust, before the "single day" Israel became a nation on 14 May 1948, which also marked the beginning of the End Times. As soon as Israel was declared a country on 14 May 1948, they were at war with the Arab League Arab League comprised of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and the Arabs of Palestine on 15 May 1948, known as the 1948 Arab–Israeli War or the First Arab– Israeli War that followed on from the Intercommunal conflict in Mandatory Palestine.

Isaiah foretold what would come next — the Aliyah of the exiles: "In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to bring back the remnant of his people—those who remain in Assyria and northern Egypt; in southern Egypt, Ethiopia, and Elam; in Babylonia, Hamath, and all the distant coastlands. He will raise a flag among the nations and assemble the exiles of Israel. He will gather the scattered people of Judah from the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 11:11-12²⁹⁸). This was contingent upon the opening passage in the 1st century AD, "Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root" (Isaiah 11:1), meaning Jesus, a descendant of King David, for "In that day the <u>wolf</u> and the <u>lamb</u> will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The <u>calf</u> and the yearling will be safe with the <u>lion</u>, and <u>a little child</u> will lead them all. The cow will graze near the <u>bear</u>. The <u>cub</u> and the <u>calf</u> will lie down together. The lion

²⁹⁴ IDF Exposes Iran-Hamas Connection, 2024, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0pYY4K7WZQ.

²⁹⁵ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Joel 3:1-3.

²⁹⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, Isaiah 66:7-9.

²⁹⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, Matthew 24:7-8.

²⁹⁸ Bible: New Living Translation, Isaiah 11:11-12.

will eat hay like a cow… Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isaiah 11:6, 9).²⁹⁹ To understand this prophecy, the <u>Palestinian bear</u> was carnivorous, and a danger to mankind, especially Israel (Daniel 7:5; Amos 5:19).³⁰⁰ The tribes of Judah, Israel and Gad are the lion,³⁰¹ the tribe of Dan like the snake,³⁰² Benjamin the wolf,³⁰³ Joseph a foal of a wild donkey, the majesty of a young bull, and the horns of a wild cow,³⁰⁴ Naphtali the doe,³⁰⁵ Christians the lamb,³⁰⁶ Ishmael was always recorded as the wild donkey from the vision of Hagar,³⁰⁷ and finally Issachar a strong donkey.³⁰⁸ Now for the prophetic word on the destruction of Gaza that follows: *"Then at last the jealousy between Israel and Judah will end. They will not be rivals anymore. They will join forces to swoop down on Philistia to the west"* (Isaiah 11:13-14). The Scripture tells us this war will not stop at Gaza, *"Together they will attack and plunder the nations to the east…"* (Isaiah 11:14).³⁰⁹ Was this the *Six-Day War* or the Yom Kippur War, or is it still to come? I believe it is still to come, because verse 1 alludes to the Messiah, Jesus Christ, out of the stump of King David's family.

In Jewish eschatology, the *Matnitin* (Our Mishnah) teaches on the Creation of this world occurred in six days, and one day is as a thousand years on earth, therefore it will last six thousand years.³¹⁰ On the seventh day, God rested, referring to the thousand year millennial reign of Christ from Jerusalem. It is the Hebrew year 5,784 (2023), therefore the Messiah is expected to arrive/return anytime between now and nightfall of on sunset of 29 September 2239 (the Hebrew year 6,000). Thus, we have around 216 years remaining in this millennium. Zohar 1:117a tells us Christ must return in the next 216 years at the latest:

In the 600th year of the sixth thousand, the gates of wisdom on high and the wellsprings of lower wisdom will be opened. This will prepare the world to enter the seventh thousand, just as man prepares himself toward sunset on Friday for the Sabbath.³¹¹

According to Christian Scripture, we must prepare ourselves for the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, and be ready at all times.³¹² The Lamb of God is Jesus the Messiah, who will return for his people. According to Revelation 7:4-8, there were 144,000 Jews who will be marked with the seal of God, from all the tribes of Israel:

from Judah	12,000
from Reuben	12,000
from Gad	12,000
from Asher	12,000
from Naphtali	12,000
from Manasseh	12,000
from Simeon	12,000

²⁹⁹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Isaiah 11:1, 6, 9.

Book of the Alphabet, ISBN 9781988631394, p85.

³⁰⁰ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Daniel 7:5, Amos 5:19.

³⁰¹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Genesis 49:9, Numbers 23:24, Deuteronomy 33:20.

³⁰² Bible: New Living Translation, Genesis 49:17.

³⁰³ Bible: New Living Translation, Genesis 49:27.

³⁰⁴ Bible: New Living Translation, Genesis 49:22, Deuteronomy 33:17.

³⁰⁵ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Genesis 49:21.

³⁰⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, John 1:29.

³⁰⁷ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Genesis 16:12.

³⁰⁸ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Genesis 49:14.

³⁰⁹ Bible: New Living Translation, Isaiah 11:13-14.

³¹⁰ Eleazar of Worms; Del Tin, Fabrizio (2018), Sodei Razaya: Sefer Ha-Cheshek - Secrets of Raziel:

³¹¹ Zohar 1:117a.

³¹² Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Matthew 25:1-13.

from Levi	12,000
from Issachar	12,000
from Zebulun	12,000
from Joseph	12,000
from Benjamin	12,000

This has nothing to do with the false claims of the Jehovah Witnesses being the 144,000 faithful, and everything to do with Israel, dating back to the singers from the Asaph family in the Second Temple,³¹³ virgins who will sing before the Lamb of God.³¹⁴ According to the Zohar, the redemption of Israel is through the letter (Vav) in the sixth millennium when Christ returns to usher in the Messianic Age. During Shabbat, while YHVH rests, it is the "luminaries of fire" who rule on Shabbat, after the blessing is recited over the holy lamp.³¹⁵ "Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads" (Revelation 14:1). In Ezekiel, we find the command, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it" (Ezekiel 9:4) for every angel has a mark in Hebrew on their forehead, for the righteous are given the mark of n (Tav) to represent: "My Name is in him" (Exodus 23:21) and *"the LORD God will live among us"* (Psalm 68:18),³¹⁶ thus he is spared. Idolaters and rapists (such as Hamas) are given the mark of death, also described as the mark of the beast: χις (Greek from Revelation 13:18) and are given over to the Angel of Death (Satan) for destruction, for it is written: "It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name" (Revelation 13:16-17).³¹⁷

The writer goes to great length to explain, "<u>Wisdom is needed here</u>. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666" (Revelation 13:18, NLT). Most early Biblical scholars translated the number as 666, however wisdom is needed to interpret this number. In the earliest 5th century Greek Codex *Ephraemi Rescriptus*, it gives the number of the beast as $\chi_{I\zeta}$ (616), which actually refers to the Hebrew Name of God using the number of the beast as used to destroy the firstborn of Israel with the 63-letter Name of God using the combination: (יוד, הי, ואו, הי, ואלהים (HaVaYaH Elohim) that was used to destroy the firstborn of Israel with the 63-letter Name of God using the combination: (יוד, הי, ואו, הי, ואו, הי, ואו, הי) (English: Yod-Vav-Dalet, He-Yod, Vav-Alef-Vav, He, Yod) for the code of the mark of the beast, and the meaning behind the Name of HaVaYaH Elohim, the last I AM who will Come to purge the world of "evil men".³¹⁸ According to the tradition of Judaism, Israel plays a vital role in rebuilding the Third Temple of Jerusalem. Without Israel, the world perishes, for it is written:

In the end, the enemies of Jerusalem who survive the plague will go up to Jerusalem each year to worship the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, and to celebrate the Festival of Shelters (Festival of Sukkot). Any nation in the world that refuses to come to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, will have no rain. If the people of Egypt refuse to attend the festival, the LORD will

International Bible College, 1986), 92; *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Revelation 14:3-5, Ch 4, 5:9. ³¹⁵ Matt, Dr Daniel C. (2002-2014), The Zohar, Pritzker Edition, Stanford University Press, Sections

³¹³ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Ezra 2:41, 2 Kings 19:21, Isaiah 37:22, Lamentations 2:13. ³¹⁴ Dr Tony Keyes, *'I Was In the Spirit On the Lord's Day' (Rev 1:10)* (Brisbane, Australia: Jubilee

^{1:21(}a) in Vol 1, pp. 158-9.

³¹⁶ Fabrizio Del Tin, *Sodei Razaya: Sefer Ha-Cheshek - Secrets of Raziel: Book of the Alphabet* (David Smith Publishers (eUniversity.pub), 2018), 279.

³¹⁷ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Revelation 13:16-17.

³¹⁸ Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 2 of 3)*, 2:Sonnet 55, p5.

punish them with the same plague that he sends on the other nations who refuse to go. Egypt and the other nations will all be punished if they don't go to celebrate the Festival of Shelters (Zechariah 14:16-19).³¹⁹

The death of Hasan Bitmez, a Turkish MP, who had a massive heart attack and died after threatening Israel with "the wrath of Allah" during the Festival of Sukkot on 12 December 2023 should shake all Islamic militants and sympathizers into realizing you simply "cannot kick against the goads" (Acts 26:14), meaning you cannot fight against God or you may face injury or 'the sting of death'.³²⁰ We are to learn from the Churches of Revelation 3, particularly those who persevere: "All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name" (Revelation 3:12).³²¹ Now to the false Jews, Jesus said he will hand you over to Satan for 10 days: "I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days" (Revelation 2:9-10).³²²

If only the world would live in peace together, then we could prevent the war of Gog of the land of Magog, mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39. Gog was the prince who ruled over the nations of Meshech and Tubal (Ezekiel 38:2), both sons of Japeth who hate peace and are surrounded by graves.³²³Josephus recognized Magog as Scythians: "Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians".³²⁴ The Scythians were an ancient nomadic people from Iran, all the way through to Ukraine, southwestern Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and perhaps Mongolia and parts of China.³²⁵ Herodotus recorded the Scythians as coming down around the Caucasus Mountains from Russia to Azerbaijan making "themselves masters of all Asia" for 28 years and "the whole land was ruined because of violence" circa 653-625BC,³²⁶ where they even reached Ashkelon, Israel.³²⁷ "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya will join you, too, with all their weapons. Gomer and all its armies will also join you, along with the armies of Beth-togarmah from the distant north, and many others" (Ezekiel 38:5-6), for translated directly from the Hebrew, we find בוש (Persia - Iran); כוש (Cushites found in the Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Nile Valley [Sudan and Egypt], and Great Lakes [Tanzania and Kenya], meaning descendants of Cush, a son of Ham in 1 Chronicles 1:8)'³²⁸ and ¹³⁹ (descendants of Put, son of Ham, founder of ancient Libya and Egypt).³²⁹ Gomer was the elder son of Japheth and his descendants were known as the Cimmerians, who were displaced from southern Russia by the Scythians,³³⁰ though many believe they returned after the

³¹⁹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Zechariah 14:16-19.

³²⁰ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Acts 26:14; Strong, 'Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible', 2759-kentron.

³²¹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Revelation 3:12.

³²² *Bible: New Living Translation*, Revelation 2:9-10.

³²³ Bible: New Living Translation, Psalm 120:5, Ezekiel 32:26.

³²⁴ Josephus and Wiston, *The Antiquities of the Jews*, 1.122.

³²⁵ 'Scythians / Sacae', *Livius.Org* (blog), 2020, https://www.livius.org/articles/people/scythians-sacae/.

³²⁶ J. P. J Oliver, 'Notes on a Possible Connection between Zephaniah and the Scythians', 1 January 1971, 54.

³²⁷ Herodotus and Godley, *Herodotus, with an English Translation*, 1.104-5.

³²⁸ Acts 8:23; Goulbourne, Harry (2001), Who is a Cushi?, Race and Ethnicity: Solidarities and communities, New York: Routledge, ISBN 9780415224994.

³²⁹ Josephus and Wiston, *The Antiquities of the Jews*, 1.130.

³³⁰ Herodotus and Godley, *Herodotus, with an English Translation*, 1.15.

Scythians were conquered. Why have I delved into the details? Because too many people are claiming we are now in the Battle of Armageddon, and <u>this couldn't be further from the truth</u>!

Firstly, Iran has not joined forces with the Cushites, nor the Libyans, nor the Egyptians. Therefore, the battle in Ezekial 38-39 has no bearing whatsoever on the terrorist attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023. Indeed, one day Gog might come (at the resurrection of the dead),³³¹ but their destiny is already set in stone if they do: "At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 38:16). How do we know it is not today? Because the resurrection of the dead has not come. Secondly, because this battle references the Battle of Armageddon in Christian theology, where the enemy kings will plot against Jerusalem: "Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against YHVH and against his anointed one (the Messiah)" (Psalms 2:1-2), "But the one who rules in heaven laughs. Adonai scoffs at them" (Psalm 2:4). His message is very clear to the kings plotting against Israel, "Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry, and <u>you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities</u>—for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him!" (Psalm 2:12).³³²

I will say there are a few passages that do remind me of this terrorist event:

- *"Their little children will be dashed to death before their eyes. Their homes will be sacked, and their wives will be raped"* (Isaiah 13:16), although this was perpetrated against Babylon (Iraq) by the Persians (Iran).
- "Our enemies rape the women in Zion and the young girls in all the towns of Judah" (Lamentations 5:11).
- *"Young men are led away"* (Lamentations 5:13), though we do not know yet whether they were forced to labour like to Book of Lamentations.
- "Joy has left our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning" (Lamentations 5:15).

Now for the War to End all Wars in the Dead Sea Scrolls, commonly called Armageddon. This great battle referred to in The War Scroll (1QM, 4Q491-496) will usher in an age of peace (Millennial Reign of 1000 years), therefore we are told not to fear (Revelation 2:10). The Jewish Kabbalists throughout the ages teach us Armageddon will be a war in the minds of men and women. Rabbi Yechezkel Abramsky, a 20th century Torah scholar, has been quoted as saying, *"We have a tradition from the Vilna Gaon (Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, 1720-1797AD) that the war of Gog and Magog will last 12 minutes. A third of the world will die, a third will suffer from plague and a third will survive."*³³³ Most modern Kabbalists believe it will come in the form of nuclear war, though I believe it can be prevented. Here is the entry in the Dead Sea Scrolls:

For the In[structor, the Rule of] the War. The first attack of the Sons of Light shall be undertaken against the forces of the Sons of Darkness, the army of Belial: the troops of Edom, Moab, the sons of Ammon, the [Amalekites], Philistia (Gaza), and the troops of the Kittim of Asshur. Supporting them are those who have violated the covenant. The sons of Levi, the sons of Judah, and the sons of Benjamin, those exiled to the wilderness, shall fight against them with [...] against all their troops, when the exiles of the Sons of Light return from the Wilderness of the Peoples to camp in the Wilderness of Jerusalem. Then after the battle they shall go up from that place a[nd the king of] the Kittim [shall enter] into Egypt. In his time he shall go forth with great wrath to do battle against the

³³¹ Rabbi Shim'on bar Yochai and Rabbi Michael Berg, *The Zohar: Volume 9* (Kabbalah Centre International Inc., 2003), Beshalach 20:290 and Synopsis.

³³² Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Psalms 2:1-2, 4, 12.

³³³ 'The Connection Between Sukkot and Gog and Magog', *The Israel Bible* (blog), 24 September 2021, https://theisraelbible.com/connection-between-sukkot-and-gog-magog/.

kings of the north and in his anger he shall set out to destroy and eliminate the strength of I[srael]. Then there shall be a time of salvation for the People of God, and a time of dominion for all the men of His forces, and eternal annihilation for all the forces of Belial.

There shall be g[reat] panic [among] the sons of Japheth. Assyria shall fall with no one to come to his aid, and the supremacy of the Kittim shall cease, that wickedness be overcome without a remnant. There shall be no survivors of [all the Sons of] Darkness.

Then [the Sons of Rig]hteousness shall shine to all ends of the world, continuing to shine forth until end of the appointed seasons of darkness. Then at the time appointed by God, His great excellence shall shine for all the times of e[ternity]; for peace and blessing, glory and joy, and long life for all Sons of Light. On the day when the Kittim fall there shall be a battle and horrible carnage before the God of Israel, for it is a day appointed by Him from ancient times as a battle of annihilation for the Sons of Darkness. On that day the congregation of the gods and the congregation of men shall engage one another, resulting in great carnage. The Sons of Light and the forces of Darkness shall fight together to show the strength of God with the roar of a great multitude and the shout of gods and men: a day of disaster. It is a time of distress fo[r al] the people who are redeemed by God. In all their afflictions none exists that is like it, hastening to its completion as an eternal redemption. On the day of their battle against the Kittim, they shall g[o forth for] carnage in battle. In three lots the Sons of Light shall stand firm so as to strike a blow at wickedness, and in three the army of Belial shall strengthen themselves so as to force the retreat of the forces [of Light. And when the] banners of the infantry cause their hearts to melt. then the strength of God will strengthen the he[arts of the Sons of Light.] In the seventh lot the great hand of God shall overcome [Belial and al] the angels of his dominion, and all the men of [his forces shall be destroyed forever].³³⁴

The above is only a summary of 13 pages of battles, and it reflects a battle in the heavenlies while a battle occurs here on earth (As Above, As Below). The "Sons of Darkness" are also mentioned in the Dead Sea Scrolls work of Daniel as enemies of the Jewish people (who are Sons of Light — consisting of the sons of Levi, the sons of Judah, the sons of Benjamin, and the exiles who have returned), alluding to the ones who held Daniel captive, meaning King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, who was conquered by Persian (Iranian) Cyrus the Great. Many of these nations mentioned are Islamic nations. They rise up against Israel unto their own complete and total destruction.³³⁵

What was God's purpose? "For on that day I will begin to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem" (Zechariah 12:9).³³⁶ When this begins, it is to reveal the Messiah, Jesus Christ to the nations, "Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past. On that day <u>his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem</u>. And the Mount of Olives will <u>split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west</u>. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south… And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day there will be one LORD—his name alone will be worshiped" (Zechariah 14:3-4, 9).³³⁷ This has not happened yet! When the Messiah does come, "the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne" (Matthew 25:31) for the judgement of the world.³³⁸ "On that day life-giving waters will flow out from Jerusalem, half toward the Dead Sea and half toward the Mediterranean, flowing continuously in both summer and winter" (Zechariah 14:8).³³⁹ This has not happened yet, therefore it is to come.

³³⁴ Michael Owen Wise, Martin G. Abegg, and Edward M. Cook, *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation* (San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 1996); Florentino Garcia Martinez, trans., *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: The Qumran Texts in English* (New York: Brill, 1994), 115–23.

³³⁵ Martinez, The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: The Qumran Texts in English, 117.

³³⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Zechariah 12:9.

³³⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, Zechariah 14:3-4, 9.

³³⁸ Bible: New Living Translation, Matthew 25:31.

³³⁹ Bible: New Living Translation, Zechariah 14:8.

Fourthly, and most importantly, Israel has not built the Third Temple as foretold by Jesus to the Pharisees and the Apostle John. Before the seventh trumpet and the 144,000 Jews can worship God, the Temple must be built. In the beginning of Jesus' ministry, he went to Jerusalem for Passover celebration, and noticed thew moneychangers buying and selling sacrifices and turned over their tables. The Pharisees rebuked him, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it" (John 2:18). "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19), for Jesus was not talking about the physical building of the Third Temple on earth, but the Third Temple in Heaven. The Second Temple may have been destroyed by the Romans in 70AD, but *Babylonian Talmud*, Toma 9b explains, "Why was the Second Temple destroyed? It was destroyed due to the fact that there was wanton hatred during that period."340 This reminds me of today with all the antisemitic protesters around the world. The Third Temple existed in heaven upon Jesus' resurrection (3 days after death), although it did not take him 3 days — it happened instantaneously. Jesus said in the Greek, often translated to English as "May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10) or more precisely "As Above, As Below" from the Aramaic, relating to connection from the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Jerusalem to the Third Temple in heaven.³⁴¹ Some Christians stand on one verse in Revelation 21:22 to deny the Third Temple exists: "I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." Biblical scholar and founder of Jubilee International Bible College, Dr Tony Keyes, explains the word Temple is translated from the Greek word ναός (naos) referring to the *Holy of Holies*, rather than $v\alpha \delta v$ (naon) which actually refers to the Temple; thus the Upper Courts have no need of the Holy of Holies.³⁴² It will be HaShem (God the Father), the Messiah Jesus Christ who died for all Jews, and Shekhinah in the new city of Zion, for they are One. For those who do not understand, Jesus said to the woman, "I was sent only to help God's lost *sheep*—<u>the people of Israel</u>" (Matthew 15:24) and one of the most powerful prayers in Judaism is the Shema: "Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is One" (Deuteronomy 6:4).³⁴³

Rabban Gamaliel I is important to Jewish eschatology. Gamaliel is cited as a Pharisee νομοδιδάσκαλος (doctor of Mosaic law),³⁴⁴ for Gamaliel was a Jewish scholar who not only encouraged the Sanhedrin to show mercy towards Christians,³⁴⁵ but he educated the Apostle Paul, previously known as Saul of Tarsus.³⁴⁶ Then Paul said, *"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and I was brought up and educated here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. As his student, I was carefully trained in our Jewish laws and customs. I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today" (Acts 22:3).³⁴⁷ Knowing that Paul was also a Pharisee and scholar of Mosaic law, the key to Israel's future destiny and salvation lies in his warning of the antichrist who will rise up to sit in the Third Temple of Jerusalem as a false Messiah and claim himself as God:*

Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. <u>He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call</u>

³⁴⁰ Babylonian Talmud, Toma 9b.

³⁴¹ Rabbi Shim'on bar Yochai and Rabbi Michael Berg, *The Zohar: Volume 2* (Kabbalah Centre International Inc., 2003), 32:138-46.

³⁴² Keyes, 'I Was In the Spirit On the Lord's Day' (Rev 1:10), 142.

³⁴³ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Matthew 15:24.

³⁴⁴ Bible: New Living Translation, Acts 5:34.

³⁴⁵ Bible: New Living Translation, Acts 5:33-39.

³⁴⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, Acts 22:3.

³⁴⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, Acts 22:3.

god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God...This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 9-12).³⁴⁸

The Jewish people have seen many false Messiahs, such as Theudas (1st century); Simon bar Kokhba (2nd century); Moses of Crete (5th century); Isaac ben Jacob al-Isfahani (8th century); Seren (8th century); Menahem ben Solomon (12th century); Abraham ben Samuel Abulafia (13th century); Asher Lemmlein (early 16th century); Sabbatai Zevi (17th century) and his cult following: Barukhia Russo, Mordecai Mokai, Jacob Querido, Abraham Miguel Cardoso, Löbele Prossnitz, Mordecai Mokiaḥ (late 17th century), a follower of Sabbatai Zevi after his death, and the famous Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto (early 18th century), who unfortunately left the sound teaching of Rabbi Isaiah Bassano and followed the writings of Nathan Benjamin ben Elisha Hayyim haLevi of <u>Gaza</u> (late 17th century); Eve Frank (18th century); Shukr Kuhayl I (19th century); Judah ben Shalom (19th century); Moses Guibbory (20th century); and Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson (20th century).³⁵⁰ Many started out as rabbis or teachers who were deceived by their own egos, and others intended to deceive, like Sabbatai Zevi whose story is perfectly preserved by a member of my extended family, the 19th century Jewish historian and noblewoman, Lady Katie Magnus in her book: *Jewish Portraits: The Story of a False Prophet.*³⁵¹

The Epistles of John warned of the "antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come" (1 John 2:18), referring to those who "oppose Christ" or "oppose the real Messiah" just as we see in Daniel 11:36, "The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of gods. He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place."352 Why are we repeatedly told to be careful of people like this? Because they can cause great harm: "For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones. See, I have warned you about this ahead of time" (Matthew 24:24-25).353 We must be on our guard, and line everything they say up against the Scriptures. "Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ" John tells us is an antichrist, and he went further to call out anyone who denies the Father and the Son: "Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist" (1 John 2:22).³⁵⁴ Even those who "deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body" is a deceiver and an antichrist (2 John 1:7).355 Therefore, even my ultra-orthodox Jewish friends must be careful how they talk about Christ; they should learn from Rabban Gamaliel I and be kind to all, as Jesus said, "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other" (John 13:34), which is taken from Leviticus 19:18, "...love your neighbor as yourself. I am YHVH."356 After all, Jesus was a Gallilean Jew, and his teaching comes directly from the Torah, Law of the Prophets, Mishnah, Talmud, Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Zohar.357

³⁴⁸ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 9–12.

³⁴⁹ Matthews, A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3).

³⁵⁰ 'Jewish Encyclopedia', Pseudo-Messiahs.

³⁵¹ Lady Katie Magnus, Jewish Portraits (David Nutt Publishing, 1897), 158–77.

³⁵² Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, 1 John 2:18, Daniel 11:36.

³⁵³ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Matthew 24:24-25.

³⁵⁴ Bible: New Living Translation, 1 John 2:22.

³⁵⁵ Bible: New Living Translation, 2 John 1:7.

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³⁵⁷ Matthews, A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3).

We are to learn from the Churches of Revelation 3, particularly those who persevere: "All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name" (Revelation 3:12).³⁵⁸ Towards the end of the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John saw a vision of the New Jerusalem in heaven: "And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband" (Revelation 21:2) and "So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:10).³⁵⁹ John begins describing what he sees within the city, including "a Tree of Life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations" (Revelation 22:2).³⁶⁰ In Judaism, the wisdom of Torah is recognized as the Tree of Life, offering blessing to those who hold fast to her.³⁶¹ Daniel also teaches us on the End Times which we are now in, where he wrote of a Sealed Book:

At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a <u>secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase (Daniel 12:1-4).³⁶²</u>

As we now know, this refers to the return of Christ who is coming very soon. It the meantime, there is a "Sealed Book" that contains the information to help us "shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever" (Daniel 12:3).³⁶³ What is this Sealed Book? Daniel was in prison under torture because they wanted to understand the 'Sealed Book', but he was told to "keep this prophecy secret" until the appointed time.³⁶⁴ The Hebrew words are "information"</sup> (shine like the Zohar), because the Hebrew name of the Sealed Book is the Zohar!³⁶⁵ Many of the parables and stories that Jesus told are contained in this book. "Many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase... Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined by these trials. But the wicked will continue in their wickedness, and none of them will understand. Only those who are wise will know what it means" (Daniel 12:4, 10).³⁶⁶ This is the problem with the false Messiahs — none of them will understand the wisdom within its pages. That is why they will rely on Jewish and Christian scholars to decipher the secret codes within the text — do not help them! "Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction" (2 Thessalonians 2:3).³⁶⁷

There are many passages of Scripture left unfulfilled, such as "Though I have scattered them like seeds among the nations, they will still remember me in distant lands. They and their children will survive and return again to Israel. I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will resettle them in Gilead and Lebanon until there is no more room for them all"

³⁵⁸ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Revelation 3:12.

³⁵⁹ Bible: New Living Translation, Revelation 21:2, 10.

³⁶⁰ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Revelation 22:2.

³⁶¹ Bible: New Living Translation, Proverbs 3:18.

³⁶² Daniel 12:1-4, NLT.

³⁶³ Daniel 12:3, NLT.

³⁶⁴ Phillips, Billy (2019), Unredacting Jesus DocuCourse. https://billyphillips.com/

³⁶⁵ Matthews, A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3), 1:303.

³⁶⁶ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Daniel 12:4, 10.

³⁶⁷ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

(Zechariah 10:9-10).³⁶⁸ The final Aliyah has not yet finished, though the call has already gone out around the world on 2 May 2020:

It is time! On 25th of Cheshvan 5781 (12 November 2020), the day of the Torah portion of Sarah and immortality, the gates of Heaven will open for the final Exodus and the final ingathering to begin... You may pass laws in Israel, but you have forgotten the final ingathering. These exiles must be given *Aliyah* immediately, for as Above, As Below — I have given them citizenship, and so must you! Did I not tell you beforehand that one day I would call you home?

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart declares YHVH, and, "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land" (Jeremiah 29:13-14).

It is time for the exiles to return home to Israel. I call you home from all the distant lands across the earth. Did I not tell you that I would have Mercy on you and gather you back from all nations?

"The LORD your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you and gather you back from all the nations where he has scattered you" (Deuteronomy 30:3).

It is time for the storehouses of Israel to be filled with grain, with oil, with honey. Come home, my beloved, come home, my beautiful one, I love you! It is time! I will protect Israel, my chosen people. Those who do not heed the warning will be tossed as weeds and burnt up like chaff.³⁶⁹

Jeremiah wrote of bringing them all home: "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Write down for the record everything I have said to you, Jeremiah. For the time is coming when I will restore the fortunes of my people of Israel and Judah. I will bring them home to this land that I gave to their ancestors, and they will possess it again. I, YHVH, have spoken!" (Jeremiah 30:2-3).³⁷⁰ After an Islamist terror attack in France, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 10 January 2015, "To all the Jews of France, all the Jews of Europe, I would like to say that Israel is not just the place in whose direction you pray, the state of Israel is your home" confirming this word even before it was given.³⁷¹ Little did I know, the debate of Aliyah occurred in Parliament in January 2023, almost three years after the prophetic word was shared. Israel Today reported, "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told cabinet ministers that Israel will experience a massive increase in Aliyah (immigration) from Western countries, including the US."³⁷²

Do not misrepresent the last part of this prophecy! The last part refers to those from 12 November 2020 onwards who "refuse" and harden their hearts towards HaShem. On the threshing floor, sheaves of grain and straw are thrown over the ground for the cattle to tread on them, pushing the crop towards the middle, while the chaff is driven to the outskirts to be swept up and burnt. Yes, the Jewish people have repeatedly rebelled against God throughout history. This prophecy is a call to follow HaShem, for even *"The strongest among you will disappear like straw; their evil deeds will be the spark that sets it on fire"* (Isaiah 1:31),³⁷³ referring to a revival or reformation like the 16th century — a flood of Aliyah like Mr Netanyahu forecasted. Isaiah was talking about the Jews in Jerusalem, not Gentiles, particularly their idol worship. Jesus himself an Israelite compliment and warned, *"I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel! And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. But many Israelites—*

³⁶⁸ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Zechariah 10:9-10.

³⁶⁹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, Jeremiah 29:13-14, Deuteronomy 30:3, Psalm 85, Ezekiel 2:7-10, Ruth 1:17, Malachi 4:1, Matthew 3:12.

³⁷⁰ Bible: New Living Translation, Jeremiah 30:2-3.

³⁷¹ Justin Jalil and Raphael Ahren, 'Netanyahu to French Jews: "Israel Is Your Home", *The Times of Israel*, 10 January 2015, https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-to-french-jews-israel-is-your-home/.

³⁷² 'Netanyahu Predicts Massive Increase in Western Aliyah', Israel Today, 17 January 2023,

https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/netanyahu-predicts-massive-increase-in-western-aliyah/.

³⁷³ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Isaiah 1:31.

those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:10-12), so please do not be complacent!³⁷⁴ The Apostle Paul tells us, "Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. And so all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:25-26).³⁷⁵ I hope and pray all of Israel are saved!

The Shahih Muslim 4594 by 9th century Persian (Iranian) Iman Muslim, calls for Jihad and the expulsion of Jews from entire Arabian Peninsula: *"It has been narrated by 'Umar b. al-Khattib that he heard the Messenger of Allah* (صلى الله عليه وسلم) *say: I will expel the Jews and Christians from the Arabian Peninsula and will not leave any but Muslim"*.³⁷⁶ The State of Israel is here to stay, whether Iran or any other country like it or not! If the Messengers of Allah cannot come to terms with that, then they should move to countries who practice Islam, and consider not following the path of Jihad, or they will come face-to-face with an angry Creator. The Creator said to the prophet Isaiah: *"I will preserve a remnant of the people of Israel and of Judah to possess my land. Those I choose will inherit it, and my servants will live there"* (Isaiah 65:9-10), before bringing all of the tribes home.³⁷⁷ The Lord said to King Solomon upon the consecration of the Temple: *"For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that <u>My name may be there forever</u>; and <u>My eves and My heart will be there perpetually</u>" (2 Chronicles 7:16).³⁷⁸ May the Third Temple be built in my lifetime... Talks have already begun and the fundraising has started. His eyes and heart are with Israel Perpetually:*

"When I bring Israel home again from captivity

and restore their fortunes,

Jerusalem will be rebuilt on its ruins,

and the palace reconstructed as before.

There will be joy and songs of thanksgiving,

and I will multiply my people, not diminish them;

I will honour them, not despise them.

Their children will prosper as they did long ago.

I will establish them as a nation before me,

and I will punish anyone who hurts them (Jeremiah 30:18:20).379

"Salvation belongs to YHVH;

your blessing be on your people! כָּלָה (Selah, 'exalt' or 'praise')" (Psalm 3:8).³⁸⁰

Who owns the Temple Mount?

Now allow me to put the icing on the cake, because when King David conquered the Jebusite city of Jerusalem in 2 Samuel 5:6-16, he moved his entire household to the fortress known as *Jebus*

³⁷⁴ Bible: New Living Translation, Matthew 8:10-12.

³⁷⁵ Bible: New Living Translation, Romans 11:25-26.

³⁷⁶ Some Fruitcake, 'Islam: Hamari Web', 2023, Sahih Muslim 4594,

https://hamariweb.com/islam/hadith/sahih-muslim-4594.

³⁷⁷ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Isaiah 65:9-10.

³⁷⁸ *Bible: New King James Version*, Biblehub (Thomas Nelson, 1982), 2 Chronicles 7:16, https://biblehub.com/.

³⁷⁹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Jeremiah 30:18:20.

³⁸⁰ Bible: New Living Translation, Psalm 3:8.

(later called Jerusalem). King David wanted to build an altar to the Lord in Jerusalem after a plague lost 70,000 men due to his own sin:³⁸¹

נְיָבּאֹ־ אָד אָל־ דָּדָד בַּיָּוֹם הָהָוּא ויָיאמָר לוֹ עֲלָה הָקָם לֵיהוָה מוְבֶּסִי וַאָרָנָה) מִיְבָסִי: וַיָּעָל דָּוָד בַּיָּוֹם הַהָוּא ויָאמָר אָרָיָה פּאָשֶׁר צְּוָה יְהוֶה: וַיַּשְׁמַף אָרַוְנָה וַיִּרָא אֶת־ הַמָּלֶךּ וְאֶת־ עֲבָדָיו עִּבְרָים עָלֵיו וַיִּצַא אָרְוָנָה וַיִּשְׁמַחוּ לְמֶלֶה אָפֶיו אָרְצָה: וּוּאמָר צְּוָה מִדְּוּע בָּא אֲדֹנִי־ הַמֶּלֶה אָל־ עַבְדָו וּיּאמֶר דָּוֹד לְקְנִוּת מַעִמְדָ אָרָיָם עָלֵיו ויַצַא אָרְוָנָה וַיִּשְׁמַחוּ למֶלֶה אָפִיו אָרְצָה: וּזִיאמֶר אַרְוּנָה מדְּוּע בָּא אֲדֹנִי־ הַמֶּלֶה אָל־ עַבְדָו וּיּאמֶר דָּוֹד לְקְנָוֹת מַעִמְדָ אֶת־ הֹגְרו מעל הַעֲם: וַיָּאמֶר אַרְוָנָה מַדְוּע הַאָל דָּוֹד יַקָּח וְיָעַל אֲדֹנִי הַמֶּלֶה מַיּוֹנָ בַעָינין) רְאָה הַבָּקָר מעל הַעֲב: וַיָּאמֶר אַרְוָנָה הַמָּלֶה לַמֶלָה סוּיָעה אָרָי הַהָּיָב הַמָּלָה הַיָּרָיָי הַמָּלָה אָרי לְעַצִים: הַיֹּאמֶר הַבְּוּע בָּרָוּ הַמָּלָה לַמָּלָה מָר דָּוֹד יַיָּמון וּבָעל אָדֹנִי הַמָּלָה אָרי לְעַצִים: הַפֹּל הָעָבי וּהָנָה הַמָּלָה לַמֶּלָה סוּיָלָה מָיָרָה בַיָּרָי הַמָּרָה אָר זָדָר הַיָּוֹם הַמָּים וּיָימָר אַרוּנָה הַבָּקָר לַעַצִים: הַפּלָן אָרָיןה הַמָּלָה בָּקָרָה הַעָּרָה הַיָּרָים וּרָין הַי אָרָין בַיָּרָים וּאָר אָרָים הַמָּלָה מָיּים וּבָי אָרָי בַעָּלִי הַאָרָים וּקְלָה אָרָין הַיָּרָין הַיָּבָין בָיָיוּ הַיָּא אָרָין הַיָּהָישָׁתוּ בּיַמָן בּין אָין הַיָּה הַיָּרָים הַמָּלָה מָיוּים בָּאַרָי אָר בַעָּלָה אָרָין הַבָּין הַיָּר בָיּלָה מָיָנָה מָין בָין בָין אָרָין בָין בַעָּין הַיָּה הַיָּרָי הָאָרָה בָיָן אָירוּה בַיָּיוּים הַיָּר אָיין בָי מָירָה אָיין בָיָין בּין מָלָיי מָין אָדָין הַיָּין בּייָרָי בּעָרָי מָעַנָּד בּיָין הַיוּיוּיאָעָי בּיָיאָר אָירוּין הָים בָיוּרָה מָיָין בָייין גָים הַיָין בָיין בָיאָרָיָה מָיוּין בּיוּרָי בּאָריין הַיָּרָין הַיעָרָין בּיּנָה בּיּיהָה בּייָרָין אָירוּין בּירָין בָירָר הַיןין בּין בָין בּירָין אָין בּיןי בּייָרן בּיעָרָין הָיין הָין בּיין מָירים בָיָרָין בָין בָייָין בּיין בּיישָר בּיעָר אָרָין בּין בָעָרי הַיָּין בָּין בּירָין בָיין בּין בָין בַיּין בּיין בָּין בָין בּין בּייָר בָין בָיין בָין בָין בּיין בּיין גָיי בּייָיק הָיין בָין בָין ב

That day Gad came to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to YHVH on the threshing floor of <u>Araunah</u> the Jebusite." So David went up to do what YHVH had commanded him. When Araunah saw the king and his men coming toward him, he came and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. "Why have you come, my lord the king?" Araunah asked. David replied, "I have come to buy your threshing floor and to build an altar to YHVH there, <u>so that he will stop the plague</u>." "Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish," Araunah said to David. "Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and you can use the threshing boards and ox yokes for wood to build a fire on the altar. I will give it all to you, Your Majesty, and may YHVH your God accept your sacrifice." But the king replied to Araunah, "<u>No, I insist on buying it</u>, for I will not present burnt offerings to YHVH my God that have cost me nothing." <u>So David paid him fifty pieces of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen</u> (2 Samuel 24:18-25).³⁸²

We find unequivocally that Mount Moriah (the Temple Mount) was purchased by King David for the future site of the First Temple for his offerings to God to "stop the plagues" in the world. King David insisted on purchasing only if he paid "full price" and not a shekel less, in the presence of witnesses, to remove the *klipot (the demonic shells, the curses or plagues over the land)*,³⁸³ just as his forefather Abraham did with the Hebron *Cave of Machpelah*. There is a secret code within the Hebrew text, which I have highlighted. Anything that is written twice should be investigated, although most scholars see this as a typo. If we simply translate this, we miss the wonders of YHVH: (ארניה) ארניה) referring to Araunah of the Jebusite tribe who previously owned Mount Moriah (the Temple Mount), which presents Araunah (אָרָוָנָה, 1+200+6+50+5=262) as 262 in Hebrew Gematria, referring to *condemnation, rebels, and an eye for an eye.*³⁸⁴ Whereas, his name is spelled differently two verses above in 2 Samuel 24:16 (האורנה] (הָאָרֵוְנָה) which is also written twice and represents 5+1+200+6+50+5=267, meaning *"a war chariot, an unpruned vine, and* adulteries" though his name means "a large tree, Yah is firm".385 1 Chronicles 21:20-21 shares how the angel of the Lord accompanied David, "Araunah, who was busy threshing wheat at the time, turned and saw the angel there [with drawn sword]. His four sons, who were with him, ran away and hid. When Araunah saw David approaching, he left his threshing floor and bowed before David with his face to the ground."386 Prior to King David, Jerusalem was called יבויס (Jebus) owned by the Jebusites, which in Hebrew Gematria is 76, representing a *hill of wickedness*, though if King David paid full price, it could become a place separated unto God with sweet incense, a strong fortress, with a powerful flowing stream - effectively removing the wickedness,

³⁸¹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2 Samuel 24:10-17.

³⁸² Bible: New Living Translation, 2 Samuel 24:18-25.

³⁸³ Berg, Rabbi Michael (2014), Chayei Sarah: Filling our Lives with Life.

https://kabbalah.com/en/online-courses/lessons/5217-chayei-sarah-filling-our-lives-with-life/ ³⁸⁴ Heidrick, 'Hebrew Gematria', 262.

³⁸⁵ Heidrick, 267; 'Araunah Meaning', *Abarim Publications* (blog), 2023, https://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Araunah.html.

³⁸⁶ Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, 1 Chronicles 21:20-21.

adulteries, and plagues of the world.³⁸⁷ The later name of יְרוּשֶׁלִים (Jerusalem) is 10+200+6+300+30+10+40=596 in Hebrew Gematria, meaning *"the seat or possession of peace"*.³⁸⁸ I have learned in business that we must pay "full price" to remove the *"klipot"* (the demonic shells, the curses or plagues over the land), so that we inherit the blessing God intended. It is about blessing the seller, and blessing yourself as the buyer at the same time. If we negotiate for the best price, we purchase the land with the *klipot* intact and we never access the true blessing intended. It is always concealed by the *klipot*, because we did not pay <u>the price of sacrifice</u>!³⁸⁹

King David purchased Mount Moriah circa 972BC for fifty pieces of silver and it belongs perpetually to the יְשָׁרָאָּל בְּנֵי (*bene Yis'rael*, meaning "the children of Israel"), or more appropriately the descendants of Israel, who live and prosper in Israel today. I am reminded of the prophetic word of Moses that is being fulfilled in our day:

In the future, when you experience all these blessings and curses I have listed for you, and when you are living among the nations to which YHVH your God has exiled you, take to heart all these instructions. If at that time you and your children return to YHVH your God, and if you obey with all your heart and all your soul all the commands I have given you today, then YHVH your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you and gather you back from all the nations where he has scattered you. Even though you are banished to the ends of the earth, YHVH your God will gather you from there and bring you back again. YHVH your God will return you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will possess that land again. Then he will make you even more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors! (Deuteronomy 30:1-5)³⁹⁰

This has already begun, for Mr Netanyahu said in 2023, "Israel's economy is getting stronger; we will outpace the United States, and we have already outpaced Europe".³⁹¹ This promise was not to the Ishmaelites, nor does Jerusalem not belong to the descendants or followers of Muhammad, who have attempted to claim ownership in recent centuries. I remind my readers of Ezekiel 8 with idolatry in dark rooms of the Temple, with people bowing to their gods towards the east, where it is written: "Then he brought me into the inner courtyard of YHVH's Temple. At the entrance to the sanctuary, between the entry room and the bronze altar, there were about twenty-five men with their backs to the sanctuary of YHVH. They were facing east, bowing low to the ground, worshiping the sun!" (Ezekiel 8:16).³⁹² Rather than turn their faces towards the heavens like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they set up graven images and worshipped them.³⁹³ Muslims are commanded to "turn your face towards the Sacred Mosque in Mecca—wherever you are" in the world,³⁹⁴ bowing to the ground, just like the days of old bowing before Allat, Al-Uzzah, and Manah, though the Qur'an also claims these idols were made up by their ancestors: "Now, have you considered the idols of Lât (Allat) and 'Uzza, and the third one, Manât (Manah), as well? These idols are mere names that you and your forefathers have made up... They follow nothing but inherited assumptions and whatever their souls desire, although true guidance has already come to them from their Lord" (An-Najm 53:19-20, 23).³⁹⁵ The background to this passage can be found in the 8th century AD Book of Idols by the Arab scholar, Hisham ibn al-Kalbi, who discovered the goddess

³⁸⁷ Heidrick, 'Hebrew Gematria', 267, 76.

³⁸⁸ Heidrick, 596.

³⁸⁹ Matthews, A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3).

³⁹⁰ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Deuteronomy 30:1-5.

³⁹¹ 'Netanyahu Predicts Massive Increase in Western Aliyah'.

³⁹² Bible: New Living Translation, 2004, Ezekiel 8:16.

³⁹³ Hisham ibn al-Kalbi, *Pre-Islamic Beliefs and Tribal Arabic Deities: The Book of Idols*, trans. Nabih Amin Faris, 1952, 4, https://archive.org/details/KitabAlAsnam.

³⁹⁴ *The Qur'an*, Al-Baqarah 2:144.

³⁹⁵ *The Qur'an*, An-Najm 53:19-20, 23.

Allat was one of twenty-five graven images worshipped by the Arab world, and Amr bin-Luhayy defeated the Kaban in Mecca and brought idols from Syria into Islam, ignoring the teaching of Abraham to Ishmael:

He then became very sick, and was told, "There is a hot spring in al-Balqa, in Syria (al-Sha'm); if you would go there, you would be cured." So he went to the hot spring, bathed therein, and was cured. During his stay there, he noticed that the inhabitants of the place worshipped idols. He, therefore, queried them saying, "What are these things?" To which they replied, "To them we pray for rain, and from them we seek victory over the enemy." Thereupon he asked them to give him [a few of those idols], and they did. He took them back with him to Mecca and erected them around the Ka'bah.³⁹⁶

They began with taking rocks from Mecca and it evolved from there. What many Jews and Christians don't know is the Qur'an twisted the story of the golden calf into Moses and Aaron's creation with the help of the angel Gabriel,³⁹⁷ which couldn't be further from the truth. Then they twist the destruction of the golden calf, claiming *"this is how we relate to you O Prophet some of the stories of the past"*.³⁹⁸ All idol worship must be abandoned right across Israel for the state to flourish, and the Third Temple must be built on the ancient site King David purchased for his people. We can only look forward to the millennial reign of the Messiah, for it is written: *"They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years"* (Revelation 20:4) known as the first resurrection, when all believers who have died are resurrected — for they have eternal life and will become priests and reign with him a thousand years!³⁹⁹

עִם יִשְׂרָאֵל חֵי עוֹד אָבִינוּ חַי Am Yisrael chai, od avinu chai! (the People of Israel live, our Father yet lives!)

³⁹⁶ ibn al-Kalbi, *Pre-Islamic Beliefs and Tribal Arabic Deities: The Book of Idols*, 4.

³⁹⁷ *The Qur'an*, Taha 20:85-98.

³⁹⁸ *The Qur'an*, Taha 20:99.

³⁹⁹ *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2004, Revelation 20:4-6.

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