

WHOSE PALESTINE ANYWAY? – PART I

With attacks against Jews and Israel becoming all the rage again, I think its time to revisit a subject we tackled before. The world lives a delusion. There is a thought, sometimes spoken, sometimes silent, that lurks behind the scenes whenever the subject is discussed. ‘Why is there an Israel at all?’ It is somehow suggested that the Jews are mere interlopers, hunkered on their ancestral homeland, no longer theirs. President Ahmadinejad of Iran tells the world that Israel was created out of European guilt for centuries of anti-Semitism culminating in the Holocaust. He suggests the Holocaust never really happened; - that Europe should carve a Jewish homeland from its own environs. Other more sophisticated voices opine that the world would be better off without Israel: That this infestation of Jews which began returning in force in the 1880’s only robbed the land from its rightful owners; The Palestinian People. ‘If it wasn’t for Israel’, they reason, ‘there would be no Middle East problem’. Whether or not they believe it themselves: These people are telling you a lie. There are not now, nor has there ever been a distinct group or a nation called the Palestinian People!

The Big Lie

“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” (Jesus addressing the Jewish authorities in John 8:44)

Amid much controversy and ridicule and charges of racism, former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir once declared: “There is no such thing as a Palestinian people”.¹ As politically incorrect as that statement was, it was one other thing: The absolute historical truth. The big myth that has been perpetrated tells us that Israel wrested the Land from the Palestinians occupying their homeland after wars of conquest. The fact is: Israel moved into the territories only after Arab countries initiated wars of annihilation against the Jewish presence. Those Arab countries included Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Yemen. Did you notice? No Palestine! It didn’t exist. In the entire period from Israel’s modern founding in 1948 until the end of the 6-Day War, in 1967, (while Egypt controlled Gaza and Jordan held the West Bank), - no mention was ever made of the Palestinian People.² Curiously and conveniently, they only found their voice after that disastrous war. But let’s look at the History of the Land.

Back To The Beginning

In the beginning: There was no Palestine. The Israeli conquest took about 200 years beginning in 1200 BC. Before that Amalekites, Jebusites, Hittites, Amorites, and Canaanites among others, occupied the Land: - There were no Palestinians.³ Over time, as Israel struggled in their commitment to God, they struggled to maintain control of the land. Babylonians, Persians, Hasmoneans and Romans took their turns at ruling The Holy Land. Back around 63 BC, Rome turned the formerly independent Israel into an administrative district they renamed Palestine. (Since that time, all the peoples who would occupy the Land became known as Palestinians; - whether Greeks, Arabs or Jews.) In time the Caesars grew tired of an Israel always in revolt against Rome. In AD 70 and again in 135, Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem and dispersed hundreds of thousands of Jews into all the nations of the world. Yet through history, a remnant always remained. In the centuries that followed came Byzantine Greeks, the conquering armies of Islam, the Crusaders, Mamluks, Ottoman Turks, and after WWI, - the British. Then in 1948, Israel regained a part of the Land.⁴

It is interesting to review the establishment of the modern state of Israel from the perspective of the international community. The land called 'Palestine' was an arid, largely unproductive territory sparsely populated by Jews and itinerant Arabs. It had not served as a national homeland for any nation since the expulsion of the Jews centuries before. Population and productivity began to increase with the onset of the Zionist movement in the 1880's. The arriving Jews were reclaiming the land. This brought more economic opportunity and drew in an Arab population looking for employment. In 1917, in the middle of WWI, while the Turks controlled 'Palestine'; - The British government issued the Balfour Declaration which "looked favorably" on the notion of turning all of Palestine into a National Homeland for the Jews. After the war, Great Britain was awarded the administration of Palestine by the League of Nations.

By 1923, the British began to have a change of heart. At that time they divided Palestine into two districts; - 75% for Arabs and about ¼ for Jews. This was the creation of Jordan (or Trans-Jordan), a state designated for the Arabs of Palestine, located to the east of the Jordan River. The Arab population was not satisfied. They launched a campaign of attacks against Jewish Palestinians including the Hebron massacres of 1929 and the Arab Revolt of 1936-39. After WWII, Britain announced it was turning this troubling province back to the UN. In 1947, the UN divided the one-quarter of Palestine that was still allotted to the Jews even further. The Jews accepted this new arrangement while the Arab population rejected it, demanding all of the Land.⁵ As the British Mandate over Palestine approached its end, the Arab states threatened to completely destroy the emerging Jewish Nation. Their armies were armed with modern tanks, planes, and heavy artillery from Britain and France. They were well supplied with weapons and ammunition. The Israeli forces opposing them had no planes or artillery with which to oppose them and only about 10,000 rifles.⁶ Despite the odds and knowing the consequences of their actions, the Israelis went ahead with their declaration. The next day, five Arab nations invaded the new country. The troops of Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Trans Jordan and Lebanon invaded from all points of the compass. God's Word had spoken to this, thousands of years before. **"Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children."** (Isaiah 66:7-8) Israel had indeed been born in one day and the labor of war followed the birth of the nation.

Now before the Arab nations invaded, they broadcast word to the Arabs living in the Jewish-controlled territories to leave in order to facilitate the slaughter of the Jewish population there. This commitment to the destruction of the Jews was a natural outgrowth of the Arab / Nazi alliance. This ideological cooperation began when Hitler took office and involved Syria, the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt and the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem who personally supervised the execution of Jews in Bosnia during the World War II.⁷ In the event, about 300,000 to 400,000 Arabs left the land before or early in the war, creating the refugee problem that has persisted ever since.

After 8 months of fighting against overwhelming odds, Israel won its independence, taking about 50% more territory than was allotted by the second partition of the land. The second Arab / Palestinian state that was to be set up by that partition, (besides Jordan), never came into being. Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip and Jordan took the Biblical lands of Judea & Samaria, or what became known as the West Bank. The Palestinian Arab population living there was given Jordanian citizenship, - as originally envisioned by the League of Nations

plan. Although the British Balfour declaration had originally envisioned a Palestine that was 100% Jewish: Arabs occupied almost 85% of that territory. And those Arabs were not satisfied, demanding a full 100%. Interestingly, during this period from 1949-1967, - while Gaza was held by Egypt and the West Bank by Jordan, - no attempt was made to set up a Palestinian State. No mention was ever made of the 'rights of the Palestinian People'. The PLO, (Palestinian Liberation Organization) was not founded until 1964 and did not discover their "ancient" identity as a people until Israel took those territories after the Arab-caused '67 War.⁸

That war began when Egypt, Jordan and Syria massed along the Israeli borders, intent on annihilating the Jewish State. Israel instead launched a preemptive attack that led to total victory. Israel took over the much more defensible borders of Gaza, the West Bank, the Sinai and from Syria; the Golan Heights.⁹ (Much later when peace was made with Egypt, Israel gave back the oil rich Sinai.) Israel also re-conquered their ancient capital of Jerusalem. God's promise was in sight. And the Palestinian People were about to be born.

WHOSE PALESTINE ANYWAY? – PART II

In the first part of this short series we looked at the history of the land that is now referred to as Palestine. Scripture and the historical record both conclude that there never was a nation called Palestine or a people called Palestinians. The record shows that the Arabs, with out even a nod to this people that didn't exist, used every means possible to destroy the young nation of Israel. In fact, the Palestinians were instead an invention of the rabidly anti- Semitic groups grasping for an intellectual justification for their hate for Israel. As we find in today's installment, even the Arabs know, - and have admitted this to be true.

The Truth Comes Out

“To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates”.

(Genesis 15:18)

As we left off last time, we saw how Israel had defeated a second major coalition of the Arab nations that were gathering to effect her destruction. The IDF had secured the Golan, Sinai, the West Bank, and most importantly, Jerusalem. Israel was expanding closer to the borders that God had promised so many years before. It was these territorial losses that ironically inspired the Arabs to invent the national aspirations of the so-called Palestinian People. In reality, the Palestinians were just the ancestors of Arabs who had migrated to the Land beginning in the late 19th century. They are ethnically, historically, religiously and culturally the same as those living in Jordan; - the state created for them out of the old British Mandate. This was strangely acknowledged by Zahir Mushein, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee. (Remember: The PLO was ostensibly founded to pursue the rights and national aspirations of the Palestinian People. Here's what he told the Dutch newspaper Trouw back in 1977: “The Palestinian people does not exist...[A] Palestinian state is only a means for continuing our struggle against the state of Israel”. Mushein went on to cite “tactical reasons” for the creation of a ‘Palestinian People’. He finished his thought with this revealing statement: “...the moment we reclaim our right to all of Palestine, we will not wait even a minute to unite Palestine and Jordan”.¹⁰

If you've noticed: The underlying theme of Arab / Islamic ideology is the complete destruction of Israel. They care not for the divisions of the land envisioned by past agreements. The founding documents of the terror group Hamas, now fighting in Gaza, of Fatah, the Palestinian Authority, Hezbollah and other nationalist-terror groups all call for the eradication Israel as a nation. The PLO's original charter admits in Article 1 that the: “Palestinian people are part of the Arab nation”.¹¹ Even Yasser Arafat, the founder of the Palestinian cause was by nationality Egyptian.

So here is the case in summary:

- Palestine was never a nation
- There never was an Ancient people called “Palestinians”
- Israel won the so-called Palestinian territories from Egypt and Jordan in a defensive war; - not from a never-existent ‘State of Palestine’
- The Arab states never thought to create a ‘Palestine’
- The Palestinians are ethnically Jordanian
- Jerusalem was never the capital of any nation but Israel

- There has been a continuous Jewish presence in Palestine until today; - even after the Romans forced most Jews out of the Land in AD 135

The fact is, as Dennis Prager points out: The Arabs want nothing less than the whole enchilada. At Camp David, Arafat rejected a settlement that would have given them their own state on 97% of the West Bank. It wasn't enough. They "don't want a second state. They want Israel destroyed."¹² Shortly after the 1967 War with Israel, the united Arab countries offered Israel: "No peace, No recognition, No negotiations." They have not wavered since. The peace process is a sham. Even Arafat's Jerusalem representative called the Oslo agreements a "Trojan Horse". "We are setting an ambush for the Israelis and cheating them."¹³ They mean to have it all.

Though her neighbors may say: **"Come...let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more"** (Psalm 83:4), God has other plans! Passage after passage tells us that God sees Palestine as His land.¹⁴ All of it! And He has given it to Israel. Forever! **"Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession"**. Simple like that!

¹ Joseph Farah, Palestinian people do not exist, World Net Daily, July 11, 2002

² Jerry, Golden, It's all one big lie, The Golden Report, August 14, 2005

³ Numbers Chapter 13, The Bible

⁴ Jerry, Golden, It's all one big lie, The Golden Report, August 14, 2005

⁵ History of Israel, Masada 2000

⁶ Anna Lim, The Birth of Modern Israel, Nations in Prophecy, www.patriarchywebsite.com/prophetic/birth-israel.htm

⁷ Paul Longgear, Raymond McNemar, The Arab / Muslim Nazi Connection, Middle East Digest, April / May 2000

⁸ History of Israel, Masada 2000

⁹ Six-Day War, MSN Encarta Encyclopedia

¹⁰ Interview with Zahir Mushein, as recorded by Trouw (Netherlands), March 31, 1977, as quoted in Farah, Palestinian people do not exist, World Net Daily, July 11, 2002

¹¹ Daniel Pipes, The Movement's Essential Principals, Daniel Pipes.org

¹² The Middle East conflict..., Dennis Prager, Town Hall, July 18, 2006

¹³ Interview with Faysal Al-Husseini, as reported in MEMRI #236, July 2, 2001

¹⁴ See 2 Chronicles 7:20, Isaiah 14:25, Jeremiah 2:7, Ezekiel 36:5 & 38:16 etc.