

Israel's OM Messenger

Spring 2017

Publishing Salvation to Zion - Isaiah 52:7

A Ministry of Jewish Awareness Ministries



Israel's 2017 Anniversaries

100th - Balfour Declaration

70th - U.N. Resolution 181

50th - Re-unification of Jerusalem

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Cover pictures – Lord Balfour, Balfour Declaration letter, actual tally sheet used in U.N. Resolution 181 vote, Palestine Post cover announcing the birth of Israel, and the iconic picture of IDF soldiers gazing at the western wall – graphically illustrate the events of 2017 being celebrated this year in Israel.



From the Director's Desk

SPRING 2017

Shalom in the name of Messiah!

2017 is a major milestone in the history of Israel. This year celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration; the 70th anniversary of the U.N. vote to allow the Jewish people to establish the nation of Israel; and the 50th anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem as a result of the six-day war. The importance of these dates is looked at in three articles in this issue.

I have written about the Balfour Declaration. If you are not familiar with the Balfour Declaration, please read my article. It will introduce you to the events that led to this historical event. Only a hardened sceptic won't see the providential hand of God in bringing this to pass. Jeremiah 31:7-8 says: "For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither." The Balfour Declaration can be looked at as God's "shout among the chief of the nations" that His end time program of bringing the Jewish people back to their land, and being a nation again, is now begun. In the 100 years since this epoch historical event, the nations have become more against God's plan than ever. This is why we see the growing anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism (Israel) in the world. The nations presently belong to Satan (Luke 4:5-7), and the only way Satan can defeat God is by destroying the Jewish people and Israel.

Dan Bergman's article looks at the U.N. resolution 181, which was passed in November, 1947. Thirty years after

the Balfour Declaration was passed in November, 1917, the U.N. voted to allow the Jewish people to re-establish a nation in *eretz Yisrael*, the land of Israel. This is as much a seminal point in the modern history of Israel as was the Balfour Declaration. And, its biblical importance in fulfillment of prophecy can't be overstated. Read Dan's article and understand how important U.N. Resolution 181 in 1947 is in God's end time program.

The 50th anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem is done through the pen of Moshe Gold. As with these two other historical events in the life of modern Israel, the 1967 six-day war was an amazing victory for the young nation of Israel. The amazing events that happened during this war speak, again, to the God of Israel, providentially, even miraculously, working behind the scenes to further His plans for Israel and the world. Jerusalem is the focal point of world redemption – first and second coming. The events of June, 1967 has drawn the attention of the nations to that holy city. Please read Moshe's article.

Moshe and Shoshanna Gold, in their *Apples of Gold* column, share about an opportunity Moshe had with a Muslim nurse who was crying late one night in his room. She came to Moshe's room because there was always a "spirit of peace" in the room. Read their account of this incident.

The *Shadows of the Tribulation* column is penned by Ken Overby. He examines U.N. Resolution 2334, orchestrated by former President Obama, and passed in the U.N. in late December, 2016, as well as the interest that two major world leaders, Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin, have in Jerusalem and the Temple. These events are setting the stage for the Tribulation.

This issue has a new column that will be appearing periodically in future issues of *Israel's Messenger*. The column will focus on evangelism, specifically of Jewish people. We have titled it "Messianic Witness to Israel." *Messianic* emphasizes believers and the need for them to share Jesus with



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Jewish people in a Jewish context they can relate to. *Witness* is the command incumbent on every believer. *To Israel* speaks of the people group that is being reached – Jewish people. In this column we will be sharing how to use Jewish holidays, Messianic prophecy, Jewish objections to Jesus, and other related areas to help you learn how to share your Savior with Jewish people. My hope is it will be helpful for you in witnessing to Jew AND Gentile people.

We are getting a good response for our October 17th-28th, 12 day "Journey to Jerusalem" tour. We have added one extra day this year to enable us to see some places that we have not previously seen. We regularly have excellent feedback from people who have been on our "Journey to Jerusalem" tours. Here are a few from our recent trip last year.

"They [devotions] were all excellent, and I learned a great deal from them – some new thoughts to share with others. They were so meaningful and appropriate for each spot."

"Loved it, loved the way it was presented before, during and after."

"It was a trip we will long remember. We will recommend your tour to our friends."

Contact us to reserve your spot for this year. Space is limited as we hold it to only one bus. "Journey to Jerusalem" is a trip of a lifetime. This year you can journey to Jerusalem with us!

As 2017 unfolds, may God use us to impact our community for Him and the gospel. 🕊

In Messiah,
Mark Robinson

100 Years: The Balfour Declaration

1917 to 2017

by Rev. Mark Robinson



One hundred years ago, a brief 67-word statement, within a short letter, laid the foundation for the birth of the nation of Israel. Since the sending of that letter, this statement has reverberated down through the corridors of history. There has been no more important brief document in modern Middle East history than the letter written by Lord Balfour, British Foreign Secretary, on behalf of the British government.

Foreign Office November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

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

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

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

Yours,

Arthur James Balfour

It has been 100 years since Lord Balfour sent his brief missive to Lord Walter Rothschild II. Rothschild was a British banker, active in the political scene in Britain, a zoologist, and an ardent Zionist. He never enjoyed the financial world and in 1908 left the

world of banking to work with animals, his first love. He was instrumental in working with Balfour on the wording of the letter Balfour sent. This letter has become known as The Balfour Declaration.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The event that triggered WW I was the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the archduke of Austria-Hungary by Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist, on June 28, 1914. One month later the war that would ultimately claim 17 million lives broke out.

The warring sides of this conflict were the Allied powers, led by the United States, France, Russia, Great Britain, Japan, and Italy against the Central powers which included Germany, Bulgaria, the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, and the Ottoman Empire.

The decision of the Ottoman Empire, pressured by Germany, to join the Central powers paved the way for the *Balfour Declaration*. The Ottoman Empire's rule in the Middle East began when the Ottoman sultan, Selim I, captured Cairo in 1517 and ended Mameluke rule in the Middle East. The Ottoman Empire's rule over the Middle East and Palestine effectively ended in 1916, though formally in 1922, when, in the aftermath of WW I, the Sykes-Picot Agreement was established.

WW I would not formally end until Nov, 1918, but by 1916 the Allied victory was inevitable. In May, 1916, the Sykes-Picot Agreement, authored by Sir Mark Sykes and Francois Georges Picot, between Great Britain and France, declared how the lands in the Middle East of the Ottoman Empire would be divided upon the conclusion of WW 1. Both of these countries were given mandates to establish new nation-

states in the land mass of the Ottoman Empire. Britain was given the mandate over the area of Palestine, which led to Britain's declaration in 1917 that a Jewish state/nation be established in Palestine. Four hundred years after the Ottoman Turks started their reign in Palestine, this land was now promised to the Jewish people for a national homeland.

CHAIM WEIZMAN

It has often been stated that *history is His Story!* To one committed to an all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present (omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent) God who created this world and is working out His plan to bring things to a consummation for His glory, it is easy to see God's hand in the events of history; especially in the events surrounding Israel, as she is the nation and the people (Jewish people) God has brought into existence to bring His plan to fruition, Romans 9-11.

The life of Chaim Weizman is one such providentially placed individual who helped chart the course of "*His Story*." Weizman would give "legs" to the Zionist dream of Theodore Herzl. At the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, held from August 29-31, 1897, the declared purpose was: "The aim of Zionism is to create for the Jewish people a home in *Eretz Israel* secured by law." On September 3rd Herzl made the statement, "Were I to sum up the Basle Congress in a word – which I shall GUARD AGAINST PRONOUNCING PUBLICLY – it would be this: At Basle I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. Perhaps in five years, and certainly in fifty, everyone will know it." It was 50 years later – Nov. 29, 1947 – that the U.N. officially called for the

establishment of a Jewish state, Israel, in Resolution 181, in the land of Israel! Coincidental? Only to those who deny the Bible, reject the God of the Bible, and refuse to accept His plan for the world focused around Israel and the Jewish people. Herzl's statement was prophetic!

Weizman would give life to the dream of Herzl. Weizman was born in Russia, 1874-1952, but was trained in chemistry in Switzerland and Germany. In 1905 he moved to England when he was offered a position in the Chemistry Department of the University of Manchester. In England he was elected to the General Zionist Council. The two great loves of his life - Zionism and chemistry - would be wed together, at this opportune time of history, through the providential hand of God. Weizman would invent an acetone that would be instrumental in Britain's war efforts.

"Weizmann invented a new method for producing synthetic acetone from corn, a discovery that constituted a significant contribution to the war effort in Britain. His discovery had commercial and strategic value since acetone was essential to ammunition production, in order to produce cordite explosive propellants. Without acetone, a cloud of smoke is created whenever a cannon is fired, thereby exposing the cannon's location. The original raw material used for acetone production was located in areas that had been conquered by Germany. Weizmann's discovery saved the British ammunition industry from distress. He thereby gained the faith and admiration of the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Balfour, and the Munitions Minister, Lloyd George. Under his supervision, an industry for the production of synthetic acetone was established in Britain."¹

Weizman's invention was a major turning point in the war. Britain wanted to reward Chaim Weizman for his discovery which was a major part of the Allied victory. Weizman wanted

no personal reward. He had only one desire – that Britain would do all it could to bring about the Zionist ideal of a homeland for the Jewish people in Israel (at that time referred to as Palestine) – the desire of his heart.

The confluence of events and personalities brought together should be evident even to the most hardened sceptic. Minister David Lloyd George was elected one year earlier, December 1916, as the Prime Minister of Britain. The decision to publicly support Zionism was made under his leadership.

GEN. EDMUND ALLENBY

In little over a month after the release of the Balfour Declaration letter, Jerusalem would be liberated by the British forces. Prime Minister David Lloyd George requested of Allenby that he capture Jerusalem by Christmas of 1917. Allenby more than fulfilled his request.

On December 9, the first night of Chanukah that year, Jerusalem would fall to the British army led by Gen. Allenby. Two days earlier British planes flew over Jerusalem dropping leaflets calling for the surrender of the city. The leaflets were signed "Allenby." The Arabic reading citizenry mistook "Allenby" for "Al-Nebi," "the Prophet." To these followers of Islam, "the Prophet" is Mohammed! When Allenby approached Jerusalem 2 days later, he captured the city without a shot being fired.

Allenby entered Jerusalem on Dec. 11. He purposefully dismounted his horse at the Jaffe gate and walked into the city with his men. It has been reported that Allenby, as a devout Christian, stated: "I will not as a Christian, enter the City of my Messiah mounted, when He walked."

The liberation of Jerusalem coinciding with the first night of Chanukah and the mistaken reading of Al-Nebi for Allenby point to these providential events being used by God to further His plan for Jerusalem and the world.

IMPLICATIONS TODAY

What was birthed in the heart and mind of Theodore Herzl in the late 19th century and was crystallized in the events of WW I, became a reality in 1947 with U.N. Resolution 181 followed by the historic declaration on May 14, 1948 by David Ben Gurion: "Accordingly we, members of the people's council, representatives of the Jewish community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the state of Israel."

The declaration concluded with, "Placing our trust in the 'Rock of Israel', we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the provisional council of state, on the soil of the homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948)."² It was signed by David Ben Gurion along with 36 other men and women.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking Balfour Declaration. The Palestinian Authority is using this anniversary year to attack this foundational declaration. The purpose of the PA campaign is to "make the international community, and especially Britain, confront their historical responsibilities and call on them to atone for this major crime committed, and raise the issue of the historical injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people."³

The enemies of Israel and the Jewish people, like the Palestinian Authority, who deny and change history, and desire to destroy Israel and the Jewish people, are incontrovertibly, enemies of God. God orchestrated the events of the late 19th and early 20th century to pave the way for the creation of the state of Israel. Neither the Palestinians,

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The Four Surrenders of Jerusalem

by Rev. Mark Robinson



Edmond Allenby, Field Marshall General of the British forces that captured Jerusalem in 1917, was thrust into history through the events surrounding the surrender of Jerusalem – four times. The story is told by Major Vivian Gilbert of the British Army, eyewitness to most of the events, in his book “The Romance of the Last Crusade: With Allenby to Jerusalem.” Much of what follows is extracted from the chapter *The Surrender of Jerusalem.*¹

“It was at this moment that the Lifta cock crew and the great idea came to the major, second in command of one of the regiments stationed in Jerusalem. Lifta had fallen into British hands the night before and the inhabitants, who were quite friendly, had not been dispossessed. A cordon of troops was thrown around the village, however, as a precautionary measure. If there was a cockerel in Lifta, there were probably hens, too. If hens—why not eggs?”

His mouth watered in anticipation and then another thought came! Hundreds of officers and thousands of men were in the immediate vicinity of the captured village. Just suppose only a small percentage of these should have heard the cock crow and a still smaller have had the same idea as himself? Why, in less than an hour’s time there would not be a solitary egg, or for the matter of that, a hen left in the place. ‘Wake the officers’ cook, tell him to get his rifle and report to me immediately,’ commanded the major. Shortly afterwards Private Murch stood before the major.

He hardly gave the impression of a smart British soldier; his tunic was so covered with grease and filth it looked black instead of khaki colour. The toe-cap of one boot was missing, exposing to view a very red big toe, framed in a

ragged grey woollen sock. Private Murch had not shaved recently and a heavy stubble covered his chin. Slung over his right shoulder was a rifle, protruding from the muzzle of which peeped a screwed-up piece of oily rag.

‘Take that rag out of your rifle and listen to me. You know the village we captured last night? I want you to go there right away and buy some eggs, as many as possible; get them from the villagers. Here are sixty piastres, be as quick as possible, but don’t come back without the eggs!’

Private Murch grumbled gently to himself as he set off in the direction of Lifta.

‘Ello! What was that?’

The end of the road, previously deserted, was now covered by a large crowd advancing from the shelter of the houses. It was still some distance away, but a carriage drawn by a pair of horses could be seen leading the procession. Murch got up and strolled towards them. He was quite mystified as to the meaning of this strange performance. He could see that many of the people, there were women and children amongst them, carried white flags and handkerchiefs, and these they continually waved before them; perhaps it was a native funeral, thought the army cook. At length they espied him, and, with loud cries and clapping of hands, crowded round, all talking at once. They were in a wild state of excitement, and for a moment, Private Murch thought of flight. Then he decided he would hold his ground; after all, he was a British soldier, whereas these villagers were only a lot of ‘blawsted natives’; there was nothing to fear.

At the height of all this excitement, a gentleman in a white night shirt, Hussein Salim al-Husseini, the mayor

of Jerusalem, shouted loudly, ‘Allah Akbar,’ and seizing the cook in both arms endeavoured to kiss him. ‘You are British soldier, are not you?’ he asked in a high falsetto voice. ‘I should say so,’ replied Private Murch.

‘Where is General Allah Nebi?’ now enquired the man in the red fez.

‘Anged if I know, mister,’ answered the private.

‘I want to surrender the city please. Ere are ze keys; it is yours!’ went on the stranger, producing a large bunch of keys and waving them before the bewildered Britisher, who now began to think he had fallen amongst lunatics.

‘I don’t want yer city. I want some heggs for my hofficers!’ yelled the disgusted cook.

I [Major Gilbert] happened to be at battalion headquarters when Private Murch, hot and out of breath, arrived. ‘Where have you been for the last four hours?’ demanded the colonel in a freezing tone. The perspiring private proceeded to relate his amazing adventures in a rich cockney dialect.

When the man came to the end of his story, the colonel turned to us and said quietly, ‘Gentlemen, Jerusalem has fallen!’ Then he seized a field telephone, rang up the brigadier, and acquainted him with the startling news. Brigadier-General Watson was wildly excited — he was the nearest general to the Holy City and to him would fall the honour of accepting the surrender: his name would be flashed to every corner of the globe. ‘Where’s my horse?’ he shouted. In a few minutes he was galloping madly up the Jaffa-Jerusalem road followed by an orderly on a mule.

He met the mayor of Jerusalem at the Jaffe Gate and together they rode through the streets of Jerusalem until they came to the El Kala citadel. On the

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70 Years — Israel As A Nation

1947 - 2017

by Rev. Dan Bergman

1 811 years had passed. It was the longest recorded expulsion of a people from their homeland. In 70 A.D. the Roman general Titus breached the walls of Jerusalem, and destroyed the Temple (just as Jesus prophesied). Over one million Jews were killed. Many were taken into slavery. Years later, from 132 - 135 A.D., the Bar Kokhba Revolt resulted in many more deaths, and Jews were officially barred from entering Jerusalem. Countless generations would pass in those years known as the diaspora, never experiencing a world in which Israel would exist as a nation on the world's stage. But, things were about to change. Jews, and the world, would soon witness a miracle.

It was November 29th, 1947. Millions of Jews all over the world collectively held their breath for the longest three minutes of their lives. Then came the moment! Those three minutes, broadcast from Flushing Meadows, New York, would change the world.

The words heard from the U.N. reverberated throughout the Jewish world. "The resolution of the Ad Hoc Committee for Palestine, was adopted by 33 votes, 13 against and 10 abstained." This was all the Jewish people needed to hear. Tears of joy, hugs of relief, dancing in the streets, and shouts of victory took place in Jerusalem and among Jews worldwide.

RECOGNITION

Resolution 181 – "The Partition Plan," would place the land, biblically known as Israel, which was presently controlled by the British, once again in the hands of the people to which she was given – the Jews. The implementation of this resolution

required acceptance by both parties (Arabs and Jews) in order to pass. The votes were read aloud, "Afghanistan – no. Argentina – abstention. Australia – yes..."

Those who scoffed at the validity of Scripture based upon Israel's non-existence as a world nation, would be silenced as the unthinkable – the impossible took place. The final count determined that Israel would once again exist as the Jewish homeland! The time spoken of throughout the Scriptures as "the last days" would soon commence as a result of this resolution, as the modern nation of Israel would be born in less than six months from the passing of the Partition Plan!

This resolution (which also gave an Arab right to portions of the same land) was not met without aggression. The following statements are quoted from the transcript of the General Assembly plenary meeting on November 29, 1947:

Mr. JAMALI (Iraq): ... We believe that the decision which we have now taken ... undermines peace, justice and democracy. In the name of my Government, I wish to state that it feels that this decision is antidemocratic, illegal, impractical and contrary to the Charter ... Therefore, in the name of my Government, I wish to put on record that Iraq does not recognize the validity of this decision, will reserve freedom of action towards its implementation, and holds those who were influential in passing it against the free conscience of mankind responsible for the consequences.

Amir. ARSLAN [Syria]: ... Gentlemen, the Charter is dead. But it did not die a natural death; it was murdered, and you all know who is guilty. My country

will never recognize such a decision [Partition]. It will never agree to be responsible for it. Let the consequences be on the heads of others, not on ours.

H. R. H. Prince Seif El ISLAM ABDULLAH (Yemen): The Yemen delegation has stated previously that the partition plan is contrary to justice and to the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, the Government of Yemen does not consider itself bound by such a decision ... and will reserve its freedom of action towards the implementation of this decision.

The new nation would face a multi-front attempt to obliterate it just as she was taking her first breath, but God miraculously delivered her again, and again. As we look back to this monumental date in the history of our planet, what should it mean to us, especially as we come upon the 70th anniversary of this resolution?

REMEMBRANCE

Have you ever wondered what it might have felt like to be a Jew in Egypt around 1446 B.C., when Pharaoh finally released the Jews from slavery? Or in 536 B.C., when Cyrus King of Persia proclaimed that the Hebrews who had been captive in Babylon, should return to Jerusalem? We read these amazing, almost unbelievable events in Scripture and think to ourselves "That was back in Bible times, God doesn't work those kinds of miracles anymore!"

The five to seven million Jews that the Holocaust left alive wouldn't have agreed with that statement on November 29th, 1947! In fact, I would argue that those listening to that nail-biting three-minute broadcast probably felt very much like the Jews in Moses' day, or those of the Babylonian captivity, who in 536 B.C.

heard of Cyrus' proclamation! We have Moses' God! We have Daniel's God! He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

We should *remember* what the Lord has brought the Jewish people through. The Scripture is filled with records of mourning and grief on the part of God's people, upon their expulsion from their homeland:

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

We hanged our harps Upon the willows in the midst thereof.

For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, Saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?

If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

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

Psalm 137:1-6

The Jewish people – who had been without a homeland for over 1,800 years would once again be a nation; they would once again have a home!

Attempt to place yourself in the sandals of one of those captives, of those who were expelled from Israel in the 2nd century A.D. Can you imagine what it would feel like to be forcibly removed from the United States as its nationhood was utterly disposed of by outside forces? What if you, and your descendants, would subsequently remain in exile from your homeland for the following 1,800 years? This was a miracle of "Biblical proportions" for sure!

REJOICING

Try to remember and meditate upon the inseparable connection that the Jew has with the land promised to him by none other than God Himself! Dwell upon the promise that God made regarding this land, and her immutable tie she has to Abraham's

promised children, the Jews! What an amazing miracle occurred when this land was decreed to return to their hands!

God keeps His promises! The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that one day, Israel would be gathered again from all nations from which she had been driven!

*"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again **the second time** to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea."* Isaiah 11:10,11 (emphasis added)

This return, at the very least, can be dated with the creation of the State of Israel, which corresponds to the passing of UN Resolution 181, 70 years ago this year! The above passage was obviously not speaking of the Babylonian captivity, as multiple nations are referenced, as well as the statement that God will be bringing His people back to the land the second time. Currently, more than half of the Jewish people in the world reside in Israel! What a fantastic, seemingly impossible fulfillment that took on life with this resolution, and will culminate with the second coming of Jesus!

REVIVAL

We can trust Him! Remembering what God has done in relation to the nation of Israel should strengthen our faith! Seeing the circumstances surrounding the events detailed in every article of this issue should bolster our resolve to trust the Lord more. In the face of great and malicious opposition, God laughs, and continues to prove Himself faithful. Isaiah gives us a great picture of how God views circumstances on the stage of world events:

"Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance... All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity." Isaiah 40:15,17

If God can do, and still does, amazing works as He intervenes in the lives of men, to bring flesh and muscle back onto the dry bones of the nation of Israel for example; He can certainly give us grace sufficient for today! He is all-powerful. We can't help but remember this when we view the wonders He has performed in bringing Israel back onto the world stage after almost two thousand years.

READINESS

The Bible says, in 2 Peter 3:9, that *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

The proverbial domino fell 70 years ago which certainly set things in motion for the worldwide return of the Jewish people to the land of their fathers, Israel. The stage is being set **right now** for the 7-year Tribulation period, and the second coming of Christ. The rapture of the church precedes the Tribulation period. I am not attempting to "set a date" for these things to occur as many erroneously have done, but I believe that through the events that have taken place in the last century regarding God's chosen people, we can tell the season. God's timetable is certainly winding down.

Have you lived for Him, and followed His Word? Do you have loved ones who have yet to trust Him? Do you have ought between you and another? Has God called you to do something that you've been avoiding? You may not have long to course correct, and make things right.

The very same God who created the universe, parted the Red Sea, and walked on water, allowed those 33 nations

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50 Years — Jerusalem United

1967 - 2017

by Moshe Gold

Since its inception as a modern state in 1948, Israel has desired to make peace with its Muslim neighbors. In 1960 the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Golda Meir, made a formal invitation in the UN General Assembly, inviting the Arab countries to a meeting to discuss peace. They all refused the invitation, choosing rather to increase their terrorist activities against Israel.

Then in 1964, the Arabs voted to form the Palestine Liberation Organization. Its purpose was to give legitimacy to the goal of destroying Israel and returning that landmass to Islamic control. This included the manufacturing of a history of the so-called Palestinian people that showed their rights to the land as the indigenous people of that territory.

In reality, the vast majority of so-called Palestinians trace their heritage to what is today Southwest Russia, the Balkans, and the Ukraine. The overall strategy of this inception was to have a means that would legitimize the goal of rebuilding the *Umma*, which is contiguous land dominated by Islam; the ultimate goal of which was to provoke the final battle between the Islamic world and the Infidels. This would bring about the lasting victory of Islam over the Infidels and usher in a period of world peace and prosperity.

NATIONAL EVENTS LEADING TO THE SIX-DAY WAR

Meanwhile on a national level, Syria and Egypt continued their bellicose rhetoric against Israel while Jordan helped sponsor incursions against her with the short term goal of destabilizing the Israeli government by over pressuring it to respond to too many crisis' at the same time. This was compounded by Egypt closing the

Straits of Tiran, which provided Israel's only sea route of navigation connecting it to Asia, via Israel's southern Port of Eilat. This also eliminated Israel's means of receiving weapons shipments directly to the south of its country. In itself this was an act of war according to international law.

During that time the Syrians were helping fund the PLO's activities and took exception to Israel building their National Water Carrier system to bring water from the Jordan River and supply the country with fresh drinking water. As a result the Syrians continually rained artillery shells from their positions atop the Golan Heights down on the Kibbutzim within range. As a result, a generation of children spent some of their formative years living below ground in bomb shelters rather than in homes. Although complaints were made by Israel to the UN, nothing of consequence was done.

In 1965 the Egyptian leader Nasser stated that his army would not enter Jerusalem with sand on their boots, but rather with the blood of Jews. This was a clear reference to his desire to see the destruction of Israel. This intensified the situation of Israel having to defend herself against a combined foe made up of Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

THE SIX-DAY WAR

This state of hostility continued until May 15th, 1967 when Egypt began massing troops and tanks in the Sinai along the Israeli border. On the 18th, Israeli warplanes challenged the Syrian air force over the Golan Heights shooting down six of their Russian supplied MIG fighters. As a result, in June of 1967 the Syrians and Egyptians began marshaling their armies along their border with Israel.

The Egyptians called for the removal of the UN peacekeepers who occupied a no-mans land along that border. Egypt continued its buildup of troops and tanks in the Sinai. This put all four countries on a war footing. The final straw in this dance of escalation was a Russian message to the Syrians claiming that Israel was mobilizing its military for an attack. In response, Syria sought the aid of the Egyptians to launch a combined attack on Israel.

For its part Egypt sent a message to Jordan encouraging them to join in the war effort or miss out on reaping "the spoils of war." At the same time Israel communicated to the Jordanians to stay out of the coming war and that if they remained neutral, then Israel would not attack them.

In response to the combined troop movement massed on her borders by both Syria and Egypt and sensing that an attack was imminent (Egypt had already called for and received assurance that the UN Peacekeeping force, in place on the Israeli Egyptian border since 1956, would be removed), Israel then surprised the world by launching a preemptive aerial attack first against Egypt, then Syria and finally Jordan.

The Jordanians had noticed a large air flotilla on radar and sent a warning to the Egyptians. This went unheeded because the previous day Egypt had changed its passwords to access its military communications and not informed her ally Jordan of this change. The ensuing Israeli air force attack resulted in the practical elimination of the air forces in each of those countries, giving Israel air superiority throughout the remainder of the war. In short order, Israel beat her adversaries back on every front.

THE AFTERMATH OF THE SIX-DAY WAR

Israel's victory was the result of brilliant strategic military command. And, to those with spiritual vision, the "oversight" of the war effort by God brought about the Israeli victory. The victory added all of the Sinai, the Golan and the area known as the West Bank, which is more properly referred to as Judea and Samaria to Israel.

On the 7th of June, due in large part to the silence of Jordanian weapons, the command was given to enter the Old City of Jerusalem, which quickly fell to the Israelis along with the rest of the adjacent area called East Jerusalem. This, also, was an act of God. The Jordanians had fled the Old City and adjacent areas expecting a direct and overwhelming assault by the Israelis.

MOSHE DAYAN'S MAGNANIMOUS GESTURE

Now in control of more territory than they expected, including the Temple Mount, which is on the crest of Mount Moriah, Moshe Dayan, the leader of the Israeli military, gave the order to allow day-to-day supervision of the Temple Mount to the *Wakf*, the Muslim religious body that is in charge of Islamic holy sites. In this way he hoped to show the Islamic world that Israel was interested in peace not war.

As God "oversaw" the winning of the war by Israel, so He "allowed" Moshe Dayan to make a decision that has caused much grief in subsequent decades for Israel. Hindsight shows the unwise decision Dayan made, but God is using this to bring together His plans for Jerusalem and the world in the months and years ahead.

Although the Muslims were given and still have day-to-day oversight of the Temple Mount, Israel maintains sovereign control over it, the rest of Jerusalem and the so-called West Bank including East Jerusalem.

Luke 21:24, speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., says: *"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive*

into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." The "times of the Gentiles" started with the Babylonian capture of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and won't end until Jesus returns and establishes His kingdom over the earth, from Jerusalem, at the end of the Tribulation. During these years *"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles."* Perhaps the reason God allowed Moshe Dayan to give control of the Temple Mount to the Muslims is because *"the times of the Gentiles"* being finished was still future.

BIBLICAL IMPLICATIONS

The reunification of Jerusalem is important to future events in Scripture being realized. The question arises is this the time for the return of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom? When one considers the events of 1947/48 and the rebirth of the nation of Israel, and the events of 1967, I believe the stage is being set for future biblical prophesied events to take place.

We know from Scripture that there will be another Temple, the third one, built on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, which will be desecrated by the future world leader, called the Anti-Christ, when he demands that sacrifice and worship be directed to him (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14).

Simply put, there can be no Temple built and in use, without the Temple Mount being under the sovereign control of Israel. We also have it on the solid testimony of Scripture that this leader will orchestrate a peace treaty with Israel and her enemies for seven years. In the middle of that time he declares himself to be the embodiment of God (2 Thessalonians 2:4), demanding that he be the object of worship. He will also receive a life threatening head wound (Revelation 13:3), but is miraculously healed.

JERUSALEM'S FUTURE DESTINY

The Scriptures repeatedly state that Jerusalem is the future place from

where the glory of God embodied in the person of Messiah Jesus will rule over planet earth. His presence will be so radiant that He will outshine the sun by day and the moon and stars by night (Zechariah 14:7; Isaiah 60:19-22). All nations will come up to worship Him on a yearly basis and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Nations that do not come to celebrate this feast will suffer from a plague. If, however, that nation is in a dry climate they will suffer from drought (Zechariah 14:12-19). Furthermore, the city's topography will change. It will become a flat area instead of being on the top of a mountain. The millennial Jerusalem will also be much bigger than the present city - fifty miles square.

During the time of that Kingdom living waters will flow from the Temple in Jerusalem to both the Mediterranean and Dead Seas. While on the banks of that river fruit trees will grow and yield a new crop regularly. The leaves of those trees will be used for medicinal purposes (Ezekiel 47:12).

Bolstering this is the biblical reality that God has chosen Jerusalem as the place where His glory will reside forever (Revelation 21:1-22:5). It is, at the end of the Millennium, to be replaced by a "New Jerusalem" that will come down from heaven when the new heaven and earth are created. There will be no sacrifices offered in the eternal Temple of that city because the Lord God will inhabit that city.

In addition, His glory will be the source of all light. Until the Lord calls us to Him, we do, however, have a task; to declare to both Jewish and non-Jewish people that now is the time and today is the day of salvation through the Messiah of God, Jesus of Nazareth.

JERUSALEM

The importance of Jerusalem is seen in 2 Chronicles 6:6: *"But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there."* It is the eternal city of God.

When Jerusalem was united in 1967, it set in motion events that will

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the U.N., or the nations of the world can stop "His Story."

God made it clear in His word that He would bring back the Jewish people from world-wide captivity into their own land, Israel, in the last days.

"Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it forever." Exodus 32:13

"For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return

to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it." Jeremiah 30:3

"And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land." Ezekiel 37:21

"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God." Amos 9:14-15

Scripture has at least 170 references to the land (of Israel) being God's eternal, covenantal gift to the Jewish people. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 was the human declaration that God used to set in motion the fulfilment of His promises. "His Story" is nearing completion. The "Rock of Israel" will bring it to pass.

Look up, for our redemption draws near! Hallelujah! 

End Notes

1. Chaim Weizman Biography, <http://www.chaimweizmann.org.il/en/biography>
2. "Declaration of Establishment of State of Israel" <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Peace/Guide/Pages/Declaration%20of%20Establishment%20of%20State%20of%20Israel.aspx>
3. "The Meaning of the Palestinians War on the Balfour Declaration", <https://www.algemeiner.com/2016/10/28/the-meaning-of-the-palestinians-war-on-the-balfour-declaration/>

Continued from page 7

steps at the base of the Tower of David the mayor surrendered the Holy City and handed over the keys.

In the meantime, however...the brigade major rang up the divisional commander and informed him of what was taking place. Major-General Shea got on the field telephone and said, 'Stop the brigadier, I will myself take the surrender of Jerusalem!' It was, of course, too late to stop the brigadier then: he was already in Jerusalem. So when he got back, flushed with success, the brigade major told him what the divisional general had said. Brigadier-General Watson decided the only thing to do was to ride back to the city and hand the keys back to the mayor, who was informed that Major-General Shea was now on his way to see him.

With the arrival of the divisional commander, the mayor came out, made another little speech, surrendered Jerusalem again, and handed over the keys once again. Major-General Shea made a tactful speech that was loudly cheered by the crowds in the streets; and then, amidst the clapping of hands and welcoming cries of the populace motored back to his headquarters on the Mount of Grapes.

His first duty on returning was to send a telegram to the commander-in-chief, worded as follows, 'I have the honor to report that I have this day accepted the surrender of Jerusalem.' By return came

the message: 'General Allenby will himself accept the surrender of Jerusalem on the 11th inst.; make all arrangements.'


On December 11th General Allenby made his formal entry into Jerusalem. The mayor came out on to the steps of the Tower of David, surrendered the city and handed over to the commander-in-chief the keys which had been returned to him by the divisional general the previous afternoon."

Major Gilbert adds to this story in his next chapter "*When Prophecies Come True.*" "There is a very interesting prophecy with regard to the capture of Jerusalem. It is an Arab saying and is over two hundred years old. It reads, 'When the Nile flows into Palestine, then shall the prophet from the west drive the Turk from Jerusalem.' When this prophecy was made it must have seemed an utter impossibility that the waters of the River Nile should ever flow over two hundred miles of arid desert into Palestine.

But the pipe line we laid across the peninsula of Sinai brought the Nile water from Kantara; and just before the capture of Jerusalem, this water from Egypt was being pumped into Palestine, north of Gaza, at the rate of thousands of gallons a day. Fanatis were filled with it, placed on the backs of camels and taken up to the troops in the line fighting for Jerusalem. Then, 'the prophet,' in Arabic is Al Nebi, and General Allenby was known as Al Nebi by practically the entire native

population. So that this ancient prophecy was fulfilled to the letter; the waters of the Nile flowed into Palestine, and the prophet, Al Nebi, came from the west and drove the Turk from Jerusalem. Chapter XII of the Book of Daniel says: '*Blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.*' The year 1335 of the Hegira is the year 1917 of the Christian era, the year in which Jerusalem was freed."

Jeremiah 31:7-8 says: "*For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.*"

The events around the Balfour Declaration and the capture of Jerusalem, perhaps, was God's "shout among the nations" that His final plans for the re-gathering of the Jews into a re-established Israel was now begun. The officers of the British army recognized the importance of the capture of Jerusalem at this time. We should as well. 

End Notes

1. <https://archive.org/stream/romanceoflastcru00vivi#page/154/mode/2up>, pages 155-170



by Moshe and Shoshona Gold

While beginning my recovery from my stroke in the facility called Beit Balev in the Nesher suburb of Haifa, I had the opportunity to witness the gospel to all who came to my room. This included the staff among whom were Jewish Israelis, Russian Israelis and Israelis who were followers of Islam. I quickly recognized how to tell the difference between them. It was simply by their countenance. The Islamic staff for the most part were disinterested in listening to me and some even refused to come into my room to care for me, choosing instead to send or request others to do so. However, there were a few who were genuinely interested in the Scriptures and in what the Lord says about righteousness. I have already detailed some of those in recent past issues of this column. In addition, there were brothers and sisters in the faith that I had the pleasure to meet.

Osama lives in a town close to us called Turan, which was made famous during the Crusader period. It is an Arabic speaking community where Osama attends a Baptist church. He always treated me with respect and great care. Janna is a nurse who took special interest in my conversation about God and His Messiah Jesus. She usually worked in the evenings. One night she boldly proclaimed to me that she also believed as I do. She later testified of her faith to the other staff caring for me. Furthermore, she instructed the staff to take special care of me because I was a special man of God. She was really concerned for me. The fellowship we shared was sweet and refreshing.

Fa-ya-root is a new nurse; a Muslim woman. One night I was

awakened from my sleep by the sound of quiet sobbing off to my left. A very pretty young woman was sitting there in a recliner against the wall, dressed in a nurse's uniform and obviously distressed. I asked her why she was in my room and if she wanted to discuss what it was that was bothering her?

After composing herself she explained that she often sat in my room at night because there was always a "spirit" of peace there. I told her that she was sensing the Spirit of God. She then confessed to me that earlier that evening a patient had accused her of stealing personal items. To further complicate the issue, the patient made derogatory remarks about *Fa-ya-root* being an "Arab." I explained to her that no matter how much that patient's words hurt her emotionally, it was the patient's problem and that she should not take it to heart. *Fa-ya-root* returned to my room for several more nights. We talked about the nature of God, His love for everyone and His plan of salvation to rescue people from the prison of sin in which they were trapped. She eagerly listened to what I had to say until it came to the Messiah Jesus being God in the form of man and the final sacrifice for removing sin. She balked and after some thoughtful moments she told me that if she believed in Jesus then her father would beat and disown her. Thus ended our conversations as well as her night visits. We remained cordial and to this day she is often in my prayers. My specific prayer for her is that she will respect and reverence God more than she reverences and respects her earthly father. Please pray with Shoshana and me to this end so *Fa-ya-root* would accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior. ☞

Continued from page 9 - "70 Years: Israel as a Nation"

to give a "yes" vote, and change the world. He is sovereign and has a plan. He keeps His word, and fulfills His promises. The return of Christ, and the end of the world is every bit as certain as the existence of the nation of Israel. He is coming. Are you ready?

Why hasn't Jesus returned yet? Longsuffering. The Father is waiting. He doesn't desire that any face His holy wrath against sin. That is why He sent His Son. Jesus took all of God's wrath on the cross. His blood was spilt for all. It is sufficient for all – but only effectual for those who turn from their sin, and receive Him as Savior. God doesn't want you to be separated from Him eternally. How badly does He want you to be with Him? He sacrificed His only begotten Son to keep you out of hell. If we correctly view the nation of Israel as God's timepiece, we don't have long left. Won't you trust Him today? ☞

Continued from page 11 - "50 Years: Jerusalem United"

ultimately lead to the King of kings coming back to earth, establishing His kingdom, and sitting on the throne of David in Jerusalem.

This year is the 50th anniversary of that monumental event. Fifty years is the length of a Jubilee year, Leviticus 25:8-13. At the Jubilee year, the land was to return to its rightful owner.

Is it coincidental that Israel re-united Jerusalem 50 years after the Balfour Declaration? Not to those who have spiritual sight and see the hand of God working in world events to consummate His plans as laid out in the Scriptures.

Perhaps this Jubilee year (1967 to 2017), Jubilee only in the length of time, will be the time that Israel, somehow, regains day-by-day control of the Temple Mount and the Temple is rebuilt. Someday this will happen.

Perhaps in 2017! ☞



MESSIANIC WITNESS to ISRAEL

By Rev. Mark Robinson

There are many evangelism programs that will more than adequately equip believers to share their faith with the Gentile world. *Evangelism Explosion*, *The Way of the Master*, and *Goodseed* are just a few of the myriad number of programs available. Very few of these programs adequately prepare a believer to interact with Jewish people. Certainly, things can be gleaned from each of these to help, but to effectively share your faith with a Jewish person, training beyond what these programs offer is needed.

There are two things that make an effective witness for our Lord. First is knowledge. Knowledge of the Scripture is essential. Romans 10:17 tells us, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* The word of God is indispensable in the sharing of the gospel. The better you know the word of God, than the more effective witness you will be. It is also helpful to understand who we are speaking with. Catholics, Muslims, and Jewish people, for example, all need the Lord. Each group has beliefs and issues that oftentimes need to be addressed differently, using different scripture verses for each group. Some basic knowledge of each of these groups will help us as we share the gospel with them.

Second is boldness. Without boldness, knowledge is a dead end street when it comes to sharing your faith. For many people, it is easier to learn than to practice. This is certainly true in evangelism. How many of us have taken classes on sharing our faith, but rarely put in practice what we have learned? Most likely, most of us.

Whatever program a believer employs to help their witness, there are three areas that are a **MUST**. These are the areas that the Holy Spirit uses in bringing conviction upon an unbeliever. Without Holy Spirit conviction nobody can *“call upon the Lord”* and be saved.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” John 16:7-8

The three areas basic to evangelism are sin, righteousness, and judgment. John 16:9, 10, and 11 give specific definition as to what is meant in these three areas.

1. *“Of sin, because they believe not on me.”* Certainly, the ultimate sin is not believing in Jesus. It is necessary that individuals understand their sin problem before a holy God in order that they might see their need for Jesus and believe

on Him. There are many ways to show an unbelieving Jewish person their sin problem. But, there are ways that might be used with Jewish people that wouldn't communicate as well with another people group.

2. *“Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more.”* When Jesus rose from the grave and ascended to heaven, God's "stamp of approval" was put on His sacrifice. All people are in need of the righteousness of God found only in Jesus. *“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth,”* Romans 10:4. In the context of this verse Jewish people are being addressed, although it is applicable to all people. The area of righteousness an unbeliever needs to understand is the person of Jesus. In our witnessing we need to focus on who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Areas such as Messianic prophecy and Jesus in the feasts of Israel are a couple of the ways we can introduce Jewish people to Jesus the Messiah.

3. *“Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”* One of the clearest teachings of scripture is that sinful people will be judged by a perfectly holy God. When Jesus rose from the dead, Satan's destiny was sealed. If the "god of this world" has been judged, his followers (all who are not believers in Jesus) will also be judged. In sharing the gospel with all people, we must share the penalty that awaits sinners who don't accept God's provision for their sin problem. There are a number of ways this can be done with Jewish people in a context they can relate to.

The best witness for the Lord is someone who consistently shares scripture about: a person's sin problem; Jesus, who He is and what He has done; and the coming judgment of God.

The better we know the word of God, the larger the reservoir of truth available for the Holy Spirit to bring to our minds a specific verse or passage from the Bible we can share with our unsaved friend. Understanding our unsaved friend's religious and cultural background will also make us better servants in the Lord's hand.

When Jesus interacted with the Pharisees and Sadducees, He addressed them differently with pertinent questions from the scripture. Understanding the different beliefs of these groups, Jesus focused His use of scripture in areas that each group related to. We can learn from Jesus!

Sharpen your knowledge of scripture! Broaden your understanding of the world that we live in! And, then, do it! Share the gospel, with Jew and Gentile! ☞

Shadows of the Tribulation

By Ken Overby

Only the legendary Arthur of medieval lore could do the impossible and remove the sword from the stone verifying his authority to become the victorious king with his noble knights of the “round table.” Over the past 25 years many less than noble knights have sat around the round table of peace negotiations, wringing their hands over the impossible problem of the existence of a Jewish state on what is claimed to be national Palestine. In the Palestinian Authority’s founding documents, maps and even school books, only “Palestine” exists from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea. Removing the Jews from the land deeded to them by God 3500 years ago is the PA’s proverbial sword in the stone.

Alas, with “Camelot” legacies dancing in their heads, all of the American presidents and all their good men couldn’t together pull the two apart and win. However, they did begin to chip away at the stone around the sword of Zion. In 1978 President Carter forced Israel to give back the Sinai. Then at the Camp David peace negotiations of 2000 Ehud Barak made a sacrificial offering of Biblical Judea and Samaria only to be rejected by Arafat. Soon hundreds of Israelis died in suicide bombings. In 2005 Israel’s “hawkish” Ariel Sharon deported over 8000 Israelis from their homes and gave the “Palestinians” a chunk of seafront real estate called Gaza. Over 15,000 thank you rockets were sent to neighboring Israeli civilians.

But nothing that the preceding American administrations did could come close to the potential damage to Israel’s security that outgoing President Barrack Obama wielded in his final days. He not only orchestrated the UN Security Council Resolution 2334, but in the final vote abstained, refusing to use veto power to this treacherous declaration. This Resolution references “that Israel’s establishment of settlements in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, had no legal validity, constituting a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to achieving a two-state solution.” This indicates U.S. acceptance that the territories and east Jerusalem belong to the Palestinians.”¹

This potentially criminalizes upwards of 500,000 Jews as illegal settlers for living in biblical Judea and Samaria. This makes Israel indefensible putting all of Israel’s population, it’s airport and major transportation arteries, within rocket range. It potentially cordons off the only access Jews have to their historic Temple Mount. Major Christian holy sites could also come under Palestinian control.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Knesset were in an uproar. Even American, liberal, Jewish, Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz decried this as an outright betrayal of Israel. Other leading Jewish organizations amplify in unison. The issue of settlements is not the root of the conflict. The Palestinians’ refusal to recognize the Jewish State and its right to any part of the land

west of the Jordan River is the problem.

Interestingly, Rabbi Hillel Weiss, spokesman for the *Sanhedrin* contacted Breaking News Israel to announce that the US elections have made the eternal Jewish dream of a rebuilt Temple a very real possibility. “We are poised to rebuild the Temple. The political conditions today, in which the two most important national leaders in the world (Putin and Trump) support the Jewish right to Jerusalem as their spiritual inheritance, is historically unprecedented. The Sanhedrin’s letter notes that Trump’s upset victory was due to his support of Jerusalem, and reminds Trump of his campaign promise to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, effectively recognizing the city as the capital of Israel.”

The letter also recalled, “During his third official trip to Jerusalem in 2012, Putin paid a late night visit to the Kotel (Western Wall). When he arrived at the holy site, the Russian leader...read Psalms from a Russian-Hebrew prayer book. An Israeli bystander called out in Russian, ‘Welcome President Putin.’ Putin approached the man, who explained the importance of the Temple Mount and the Jewish Temple. *Chadrei Charedim*, an Orthodox Hebrew news site, reported that Putin responded, ‘That’s exactly the reason I came here - to pray for the Temple to be built again.’”²

Along with President Trump’s plan to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, this will no doubt send a tremor of biblical proportions to *the cup of Jerusalem*.

When the Temple is rebuilt, the *Abomination of Desolation & campaign of Armageddon* won’t be far behind. Zechariah foretold this shaking. “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it,” Zechariah 12:2-3.

To divide Jerusalem or bargain away His land is foolhardy. Only the Messiah Jesus has the authority to remove the gentile sword from the rock of Israel and establish peace in the Middle East through His millennial kingdom.

To receive Him is life eternal and to stand firm in His Word is the only unshakeable rock for these shaky times. Let’s not let the U.N., Putin, or Trump divert our focus from the imminent Trumpet sound, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, and His imperial authority over Israel and the nations. ☞

End Notes

1. U.N. Resolution 2334, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12657.doc.htm>
2. *Sanhedrin asks Putin and Trump to build third temple in Jerusalem*, posted By Gary Horne in Breaking Israel News, Nov. 10, 2016, <https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/78372/bin-exclusive-sanhedrin-asks-putin-trump-build-third-temple-jerusalem/#xIoYV4Ibp5iyHzE.97>

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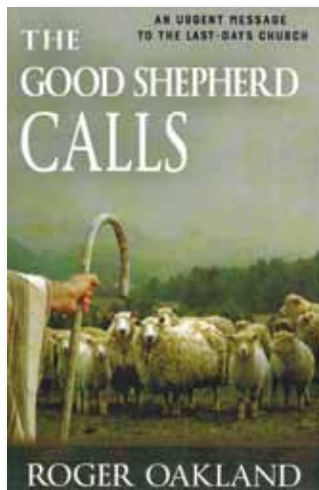
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The Good Shepherd Calls: An Urgent Message to the Last-Days Church

By Roger Oakland



Since the turn of the millennium, in particular since September 11, 2001 when America was attacked by terrorists triggering a global-wide spiritual paradigm shift, Christianity as we have known it has experienced a major meltdown. While many are saying Christianity is on the brink of a great revival and even a "new reformation," in reality, we are witnessing the greatest apostasy in modern-day history.

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