



Israel

Ready for their Messiah?

Central Position in God's Plan

But the land, whither ye go to possess it, *is* a land of hills and valleys, *and* drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

A land which the LORD thy God careth for: **the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it**, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. ***Deut 11:11,12***



Central Position in God's Plan



Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day
And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light
by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar;
The LORD of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order
departs From before Me," declares the LORD, "**Then
the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a
nation before Me forever.**" Thus says the LORD, "If the
heavens above can be measured And the foundations
of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast
off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have
done," declares the LORD. ***Jer 31:35-37***

The restoration - greatest sign to us



But thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.

Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.

For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.

So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.

When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. ***Psalms 102:12-16***

The restoration of Israel – central to our faith

"There is then, a partial and primary restoration of the Jews before the manifestation, which is to serve as the nucleus, or basis, of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom. The pre-adventual colonization of Palestine will be on **purely political principles**; and the Jewish colonists will return in **unbelief of the Messiahship** of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate thither as agriculturists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth, but more immediately of getting rich in silver and gold..."

bro John Thomas (Elpis Israel, 1849)

The rebirth of a nation

Israel's rebirth fulfilled so many OT prophecies that we would have to be blind not to see the witness to us – we are living in the last days.

“Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, **I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.**” **Ezek 37:11,12**



The rebirth of a nation

The United Nations drew up a plan to partition the land. A majority of nations voted in favour of the plan, but it was never implemented because as soon as Israel was declared as a nation it was invaded and attacked by all the surrounding nations. **Their aim was to wipe Israel from the map.**

“They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.” **Psalm 83:1-8**



1948 War of Independence

The outcome of the war of independence was a much more **realistic and sustainable boundary line** for Israel but humiliation for Israel's enemies.



All of Jerusalem under Israeli control since 1967

“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.**”

Luke 21:24

“For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall **bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem...**” **Joel 3:1**



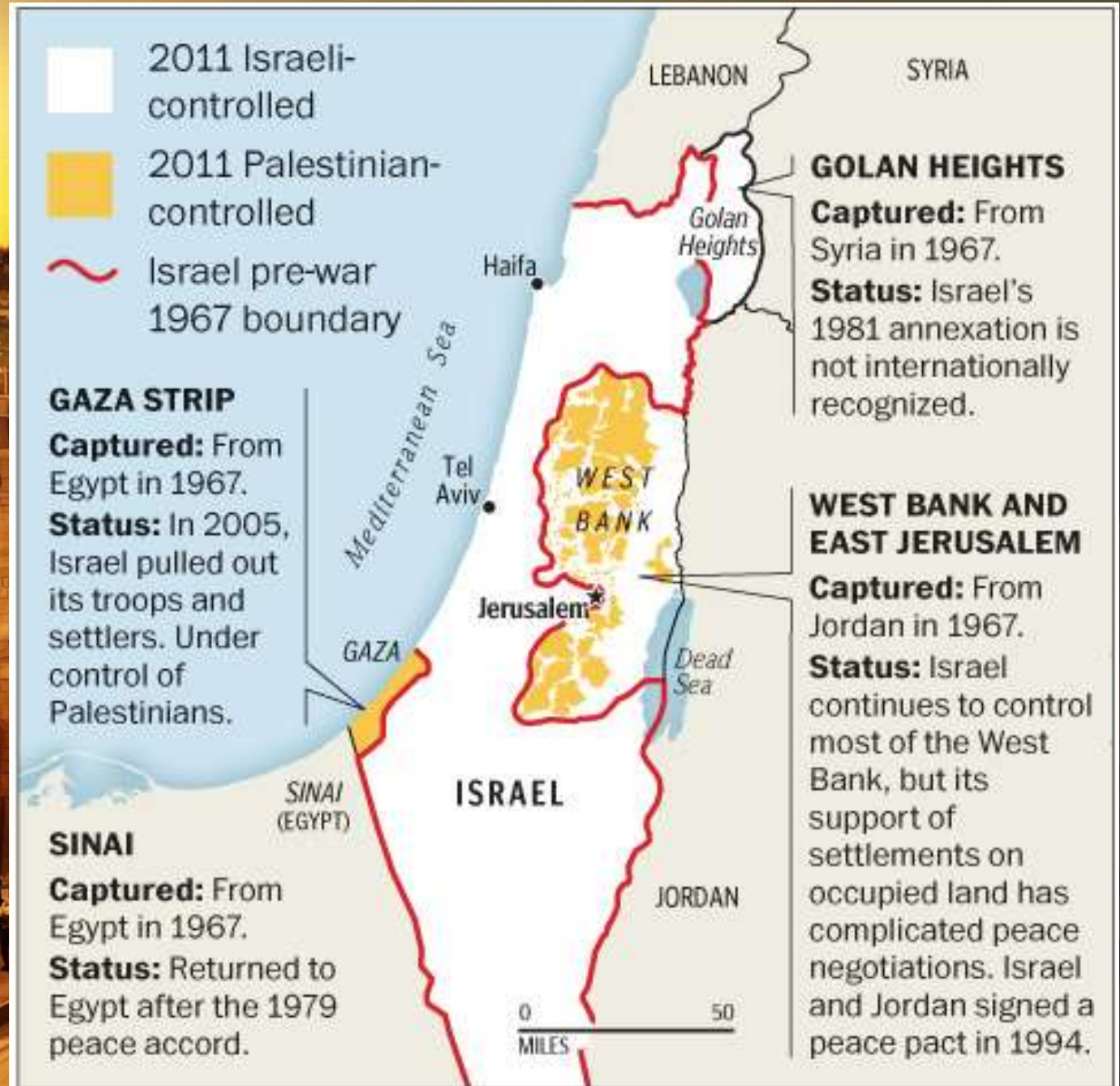
Two sides

“The truth is that if Israel were to put down its arms there would be **no more Israel**. If the Arabs were to put down their arms there would be no more war.”

Benjamin Netanyahu, 2006

“This barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has **no cure but to be annihilated**.”

Iran's Khamenei, 2014



Conflict, then peace moves

May 1948-January 1949 - Israel a nation. War for Independence fought with Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq.

October 29-November 6, 1956 Suez crisis

June 5-10, 1967 - The Six-Day War

October 6-22, 1973 - Yom Kippur War by with air strikes against Israeli targets in the Suez Canal and Golan Heights

November 19, 1977 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visits Jerusalem, recognizing Israel as an independent state

September 17, 1978 - The Camp David Accords are signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

March 26, 1979 - The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty is signed in Washington, D.C. by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The agreement returns the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt but the Gaza Strip remains under Israeli rule. Sinai returned to Egypt control in 1982.

Conflict, then peace moves

September 13, 1993 - PLO. chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shake hands after PLO's Abou Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres sign the Oslo Accords in Washington. The accords allow for self-rule under the Palestine National Authority and Israeli troop withdrawal from parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

December 27, 2008- January 16, 2009 - Operation Cast Lead: Israel strikes back at the Hamas with an air strike on December 27 and a ground attack on January 3.

July 7, 2014-August 26, 2014 - Israel carries out Operation Protective Edge against Hamas in Gaza.



Conflict, then peace moves

Bible prophecy depicts a strange mixture of hostility of other nations towards Israel - increasingly they will become isolated and friendless, and yet there will be **confidence, even security within Israel**, as they trust in their own power to save themselves.

And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are **at rest, that dwell safely**, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates...

Ezek 38:11

For when they shall say, **Peace and safety**; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

1Thess 5:3

Mountains of Israel – include the West Bank

“Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto **the mountains of Israel**, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD:
Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession”

Ezek 36:1,2



Mountains of Israel – includes the West Bank

Therefore say unto the house of Israel....
I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your **own land**.
Ezek 36:22-24



Mountains of Israel – include the West Bank

After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land *that is* brought back from the sword, *and is* gathered out of many people, against **the mountains of Israel**, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

Ezek 38:8



Mountains of Israel – include the West Bank

“ To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places *that are now* inhabited, and upon the people *that are* gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Ezek 38:12

Note : Midst (Heb – to pile up, that is by implication, a summit)



Israel – tiny but significant

- A tiny nation just over 400 km from north to south – about as far as Perth to Albany!
- World events centre around what God plans for this land.



Israel Today

- 8.37 million - 75% Jewish, 20% Arab, 5% Other
- A Gallup survey in 2015 determined that 65% of Israelis say they are either "not religious" or "convinced atheists", while 30% say they are "religious".
- 75% of the current Jewish population was born in Israel

And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, **two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.**

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God. **Zech 13:8,9**

Israel's Economy

Ezekiel 38:13 Gog is asked “Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?”

Cattle = “something bought”

Goods = acquisition, purchase, wealth from a word meaning “creation”

Israel's economy is strong not only in **producing and trading** (buying and selling materials) but also in **creating and selling** new ideas and developing new technologies.

Israel's Economy

- **Technologically advanced country** – some examples...

Motorola developed the cell phone in Israel.

Voicemail technology was developed in Israel.

The first antivirus software for computers was created in Israel in 1979.

Heart tissue regeneration is possible thanks to Israeli stem-cell technology.

A cooking oil developed in Israel is capable of breaking up cholesterol and other blood fats.

Israel is one of only nine countries in the world that can launch its own satellites into space.

Instant Messaging was designed by an Israeli software company.

Israel's Economy

- Israel's economy is boosted by **innovation and new technologies**. Israel has the OECD's highest gross expenditure on R&D (as % of GDP), largest amount of companies listed on NASDAQ outside of North America, highest level of venture capital as share of GDP
- Israel leads the world in the number of **scientists and technicians** in the workforce, with 145 per 10,000, as opposed to 85 in the US, over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany. With over 25% of its work force employed in technical professions. Israel places first in this category as well.
- Israel has the highest per capita ratio of **scientific publications** in the world by a large margin, as well as one of the highest per capita rates of **patents** filed.
- Israel is 2nd in the world for % of population with **university degrees** (45% - Canada is 50%)

Israel's Economy

- With discovery of enormous **gas reserves** in the eastern Mediterranean Israel has a historic chance of energy independence.
- Tamar and Leviathan gas fields being developed
- Prospect of a gas pipeline to Jordan – a **signed agreement** exists
- Plans for possible gas export to **Europe** in future



Increasing hatred and isolation

- The sons also of **them that afflicted thee** shall come bending unto thee; and **all they that despised thee** shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Whereas thou hast been **forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee**, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. **Isa 60:14,15**
- **Jeremiah 30:11-17**

Anti-Semitism

- 2014 **second worst year on record** for incidents related to anti-Semitism
- AntiSemitic incidents are **rapidly growing** in Western Europe and North America
- Highest increase in violent incidents in **France**
- Jews in these places feel they are living in an **intensifying anti-Jewish environment**.



Rise in Classic Anti Semitism



A rising threat - Delegitimisation

- On Tuesday of this week the United Church of Canada (UCC) voted in favour of **divestment** from Israel during its 42nd General Council meeting “to address the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories by the State of Israel.” With more than two million members, the UCC is Canada’s largest Protestant church.
- Many of the perpetrators of the current **delegitimization** trend are inspired by the example of South Africa under apartheid, which at the end of the day succumbed to the pressures of international delegitimization. Those pushing this strive to present Israel as a racist, rogue country that routinely breaches human and national rights and mercilessly oppresses the suffering Palestinians.

A UN Resolution Establishing A Palestinian State?

- At the upcoming 70th General Assembly of the United Nations in September, there is likely to be a vote on the formation of a Palestinian State, according to a motion apparently being prepared by France. The European Union has already threatened to impose economic and diplomatic sanctions against Israel if it does not resume peace talks with the Palestinians but if the vote goes ahead and the US does not veto it, Israel may find itself under **unprecedented international pressure.**

Immigration to Israel

As a result of increasing hostility to Jews throughout the world, immigration to Israel has surged.

Israel welcomed 27,993 new immigrants during 2014, with most immigrants arriving in Israel from the Ukraine (6,996), France (6,377), Russia (5,040), and the United States (3,208). Jewish migration to Israel is up 40% this year so far.

“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**. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them”.... **Jer 31:8,9**

Immigration to Israel

At the time of the terrorist attacks in Paris, the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, called on European Jews to emigrate to Israel en masse, saying he would “welcome them with open arms”. About half a million Jewish people live in France, making it the **second largest diaspora population** after the US.

“...The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and **I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers**. Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. For mine eyes *are* upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes. **Jer 16:15-17**

Israel is a troubled land



Jerusalem – A Burdensome Stone



1967

“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.**”

Luke 21:24

Jerusalem – A Burdensome Stone



US Supreme Court: No 'Israel' allowed on passports of Americans born in Jerusalem



Jerusalem – Who else wants it?

Pope Francis recently **formally recognised the existence of the State of Palestine** as part of the relentless push by the Catholic Church for influence and control in Jerusalem.



Continuing Palestinian Hostility



Isaiah 14:29-32 Israel smites the Palestinians with a rod but both suffer under the hand of Gog.

Joel 3:4 Tells us that Palestine has a grudge against Israel

Ezekiel 25:15-17 The Palestinians deal by revenge and seek to destroy Israel “for the old hatred”.



Israel's relationship with Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia

Common enemies – Threats from Iran and IS are producing some interesting changes in Middle East relationships.

Times of Israel, Jan 2015 “King Salman is likely to continue advancing the policy that has prevailed over the past two years — that is, the **recognition that Israel is an important part of the war against the radical Sunni axis and the Shiite camp**. From time to time, we hear of covert meetings between Israeli and Saudi officials and those from the Gulf. It's safe to assume that Salman will keep that channel open and perhaps even expand it.”

With Egypt coming under attack from IS-linked terrorists in the Sinai, **Egypt is looking to Israel for assistance**.

“**I find more respect for Israel** and more feeling of commonality between Egyptian and Israeli strategic concerns with common attitudes towards Hamas, especially toward the connections between Hamas and other extremist groups.”

Israel has this year **approved a gas pipeline** to Jordan which will deliver 9 million m³ of gas per annum.

Israel's relationship with Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia

Egypt will disappoint Israel yet again, as they have in the past.

And all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am the LORD, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. When they took hold of thee by thy hand, **thou didst break**, and rend all their shoulder: and when they leaned upon thee, thou brakest, and madest all their loins to be at a stand. Ezek 29:6,7

The Saudis will be part of the coalition **which will (weakly) challenge Gog's army** as **Ezek 38:13** tells us.

Jordan will be a place of refuge for Jews fleeing from Gog's invasion. **Isa 16:1-5**

Israel's relationship with Saudi Arabia

Saudi and Israeli diplomats jointly announced that they've held five meetings in secret since early last year in India, Italy, and the Czech Republic.

The reason? Iran. The Israelis and the Saudis have a common enemy in Tehran, and they're increasingly relying on each other now that the United States, contrary to the interests of both, might ease sanctions if a nuclear deal gets hammered out later this year. Retired Saudi general Anwar Majed Eshki and Israeli diplomat Dore Gold shook hands in front of the cameras during their announcement at the Council on Foreign Relations—a bigger deal than it seems.



Ready for their Messiah?

Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky, a leading authority in mainstream Ultra-Orthodox Judaism, has been giving clear messages recently that **the coming of the Messiah is imminent**. He is urging Jews to make Aliyah as soon as possible. Aliyah refers to immigrating to Israel, which is seen as a higher spiritual action that can help herald in the coming of the Messiah.



Not ready for their Messiah

And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, *that* I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land. **Zech 13:2**

Ye which rejoice in a thing of nought, which say, Have we not taken to us horns by our own strength? But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, saith the LORD the God of hosts; and they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hemath unto the river of the wilderness. **Amos 6:13,14**



Our Position



And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; **When they now shoot forth**, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. **Luke 21:28-31**

Our Position



For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

For if God spared not the natural branches, **take heed** lest he also spare not thee.

Rom 11:15,20,21