



LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

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Israel's 60th Anniversary



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Observations by the Editor

1948

What a momentous year! The state of Israel was reborn. The World Council of Churches was established. And our nation experienced the most phenomenal presidential election in its history.

It was the year of green (chlorophyll) chewing gum and a new game called Scrabble. Cadillacs became known for

General Dwight Eisenhower published his memoirs of World War II — a book called *Crusade in Europe*. Alfred Kinsey's controversial study of sexual behavior in the human male was also published. *Life* was the country's most popular magazine.

On the international scene, Mahatma Ghandi was murdered in India. The Soviets seized control of Czechoslovakia. President Truman signed the Mar-



Dr. Reagan is shown above on the far left, together with a group of his students from Austin College, meeting with President Truman at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri. The meeting took place in the late 1960's.

their gigantic fins. Women's bathing suits became unimaginably daring with the introduction of the bikini.

In the realm of science and technology, the transistor was invented. Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in a rocket plane. The world's largest telescope was unveiled at Mount Palomar in California.

One out of every 8 families in America had a television set, and those who had them, witnessed the premier of the "Camel Newsreel" with John Cameron Swayze — the first nightly TV news program.

In sports, the Olympic Games were held in London — the first since the Berlin games in 1936. The Cleveland Indians defeated the Boston Braves in the World Series, and the greatest baseball player of all times, Babe Ruth, died.

Andrew Wyeth completed his great painting, "Christina's World." Arthur Miller published his milestone play, "Death of a Salesman." Cole Porter's musical, "Kiss Me Kate," was the toast of Broadway. Lawrence Olivier's "Hamlet" won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

shall Plan for the rebuilding of Europe. The Berlin Blockade began. The International War Crimes Tribunal sentenced seven Japanese military and government officials to death for their roles in World War II.

The re-establishment of the state of Israel fulfilled several prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures. One of those, contained in Joel 2:18-29 states that once the Jewish people have returned to their land, God will begin the great end time outpouring of His Spirit that is promised several places in the Bible.

In that regard, I think it is significant to note that one year after the re-establishment of Israel, God poured out His Spirit on a youth evangelist who was conducting a tent meeting in Los Angeles for Youth for Christ. His name was Billy Graham. Since that time, his ministry has proclaimed the Gospel to more people than all the evangelists combined throughout the history of Christianity.

Can there be any doubt that we are living in the end times? Jesus is at the very gates of Heaven, waiting for His Father's command to return for His Church. Are you ready? ✚

ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. David R. Reagan

During this year (2008) the 60th anniversary of the independence of Israel will be celebrated on May 8th (the 5th of Iyar on the Jewish calendar).

In 1948 the 5th of Iyar fell on May 14th, and that was the momentous day when David Ben Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence at a small museum in Tel Aviv before an audience of about 200 people. Only one photographer was present.

The first nation to recognize the new state was the United States. President Harry S. Truman issued the recognition statement only 11 minutes after the declaration went into effect. American recognition proved to be one of the crucial keys to the survival of Israel.

What prompted President Truman to act so quickly and so decisively? It's only in recent years that the full story has emerged.

Relevant Bible Prophecies

But first, some background. The Hebrew prophets were given many prophecies concerning the Jewish people. It was prophesied that their disobedience would lead to their worldwide dispersion from their homeland of Israel and that they would be persecuted wherever they went (Deuteronomy 28:58-67). But the Lord promised that a remnant would be preserved (Jeremiah 30:11) and that one day they would be regathered in unbelief to their homeland (Isaiah 11:10-12) where their state would be re-established (Isaiah 66:7-8).

In 70 AD when the Romans put down the First Jewish Revolt, the dispersion of the Jews began. After the Second Revolt (132 - 135 AD), the Romans accelerated their dispersion of the Jews. By that time they were so disgusted with the stubbornness of the Jews that they decided to further humiliate them by changing the name of their homeland from Israel to Palestine — a Latin term for Philistia. In other words, they renamed the land in honor of the age-old enemies of the Jews — the Philistines.

Everywhere the Jews roamed for the next 1,800 years, they were persecuted, just as had been prophesied. But, amazingly, they kept their identity, unlike any other nation that had become so scattered.



Theodore Herzl

God Begins to Move

In the late 19th Century God raised up a visionary by the name of Theodore Herzl. He was a Hungarian Jew who lived in Vienna. In 1896 he published a booklet in which he called for the Jewish people



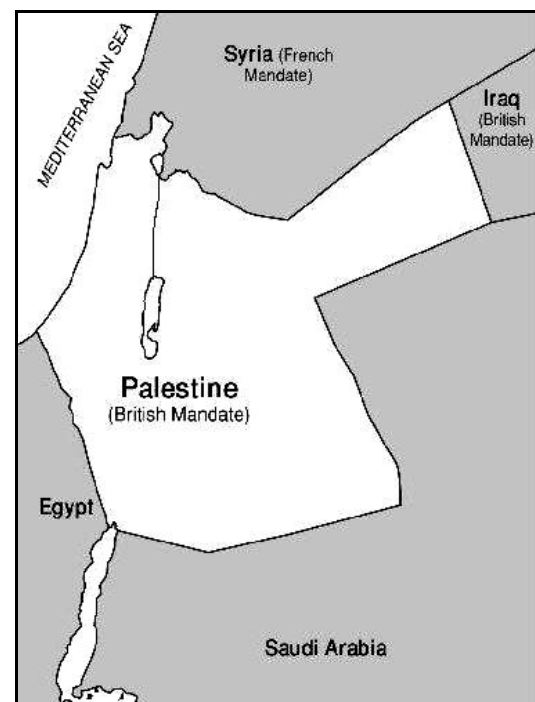
David Ben Gurion reads the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948 in Tel Aviv.

ple to return to their homeland. The booklet sparked the imagination of the Jewish people worldwide and led to the First Zionist Congress which was held in Basel, Switzerland in 1897. After this historic assembly had adjourned, Herzl wrote in his diary these prophetic words:¹

At Basel I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today, I would be greeted by universal laughter. In five years perhaps, and certainly in fifty years, everyone will perceive it.

The next great milestone came in 1917 as a result of World War I. During that war the Turks sided with the Germans. Their realm, called the Ottoman Empire, included most of the lands of the Middle East, including Palestine which they had ruled for 400 years. When the Germans lost the war, the Turks went down with them, and their empire was divided up among the Allied victors. In a secret pact signed in 1916 (called the Sykes-Picot Agreement), the British and French agreed to divide the Middle East between themselves when the war ended. Britain received Palestine while the French were given Syria, Lebanon, and a part of Iraq.

In November of 1917 the British issued the Balfour Declaration in which they announced their intention to create a homeland for the Jewish people within the territory of Palestine. At that time, Palestine consisted of all of modern day Israel and Jordan — an area of 45,000 square miles (see the map below).



Palestine in 1917

But hardly had the ink dried on the Balfour Declaration before the British decided in 1922 to give two-thirds of Palestine to the Arabs in order to secure their access to Arab oil. This led to the creation of a Palestinian state called Transjordan (see the map below).



Palestine in 1922

This British action to placate the Arabs left a small area of land for the promised Jewish state — a sliver of land only 10,000 square miles in size, smaller than Lake Michigan or the state of New Jersey.

The League of Nations Mandate

Immediately thereafter, the League of Nations entrusted what was left of Palestine to Britain as a Mandate, and the British began to rule the land with the ultimate goal of guiding it to self-government. But the British soon found themselves in the middle of a bloody Jewish-Arab struggle for the land.

As the struggle intensified and more and more British soldiers were killed, the British people began to pressure the government to look for a way to extricate themselves from the bloodbath. The pressure mounted in late 1946 when Winston Churchill, leader of the opposition to the Labor Government, began publicly urging an end to the Mandate. He declared, “If we cannot fulfill our promises to the Zionists, we should, without delay, place our Mandate for Palestine at the feet of the United Nations, and give them due notice of our impending evacuation from the country.”²

At about the same time, in October 1946, President Truman endorsed the establishment of a “viable Jewish state” in Palestine.³ Most people assumed that the timing of this announcement was probably prompted by the mid-term elections for Congress that were coming up in November.

Clement Attlee (British Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951) reluctantly gave ground to the mounting pressure. On February 18, 1947, Attlee’s spokesman announced: “His Majesty’s Government have of themselves no power under the terms of the Mandate to award the country to the Arabs or the Jews, or even

to partition it between them . . . We have, therefore, reached the conclusion that the only course open to us is to submit the problem to the judgment of the United Nations.”⁴



Clement Attlee

This action by the British government was most likely a ruse to satisfy public opinion, for no one in the government believed that there were enough votes in the United Nations to end the Mandate. The Russians and their allies were staunchly pro-Arab, and their bloc, together with the Arab states, represented enough votes to prevent a British withdrawal that might lead to a partition of the land which the Arabs wanted all to themselves.

The British announcement led to the calling of a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to deal with what was dubbed as “The Palestine Question.” The session was held at Flushing Meadows, New York, from April 28th to May 15th of 1947.

Two significant developments came out of this special session. First, the General Assembly decided to set up an eleven member investigating committee called The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP). Its purpose was to study the problem of Palestine and propose a solution.⁵



Andrei Gromyko

The second development was a diplomatic bombshell in the form of a surprise announcement by the Soviet Ambassador, Andrei Gromyko. He attacked what he called the “bankruptcy of the mandatory system of Palestine” and then went on to endorse “the aspirations of the Jews to establish their own state.”⁶

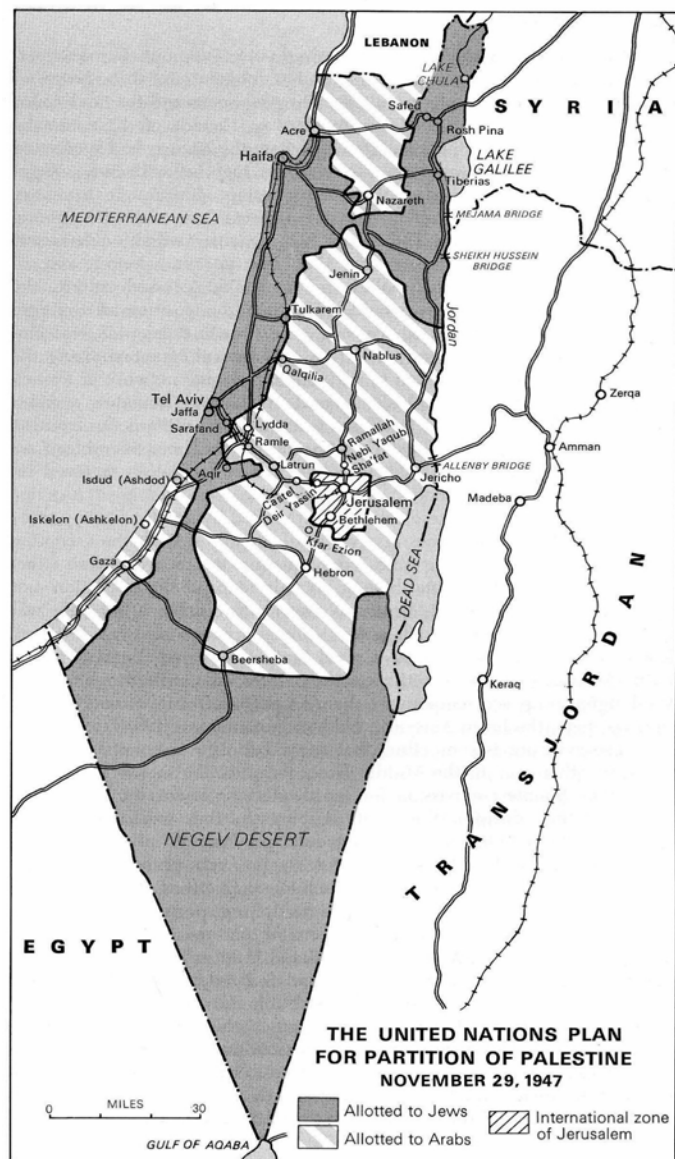
Why the Russians did this about-face is still a mystery to this day. Most likely, they were motivated by a desire to force the British to withdraw from the Middle East, believing that the much more numerous Arabs could fill the resulting political vacuum, ending up with a weak Arab state that would be dependent on the Soviets. Whatever the reason, the Russian move caught the British flat-footed. They were suddenly faced with the reality that the process had gone too far for them to put the brakes on it.

The United Nations Solution

In late August the UNSCOP report was released. The Committee agreed unanimously to recommend ending the mandate as soon as possible. The majority (7 to 3, with one abstention) recommended partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. The minority called for a federation with Arab and Jewish cantons.⁷ The Jews reluctantly accepted the report. The Arabs passionately rejected it and threatened war should the United Nations approve partition.

The UNSCOP proposal produced an Arab state composed of three areas: the Gaza Strip, the Central Highlands of Judea and

Samaria, and the Western Galilee (see the map below). These areas were intertwined serpent-like with the areas allotted to Israel: the Eastern Galilee, the Coastal Plain, and the Negev Desert. The Arab state would embrace 4,500 square miles, with 840,000 Arabs and 10,000 Jews. The Jewish state would encompass 5,500 square miles, with 538,000 Jews and 397,000 Arabs. Jerusalem and Bethlehem were to be internationalized. These cities contained a combined total of 100,000 Jews and the same number of Arabs.⁸



On November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to adopt the UNSCOP recommendations to partition Palestine and create both Jewish and Arab states. The vote in favor totaled 33 and included the United States and Russia. Thirteen voted against, including all eleven Muslim states. There were ten abstentions, including Britain. The resolution required a two-thirds vote of those voting, so it passed with votes to spare. The deciding bloc turned out to be the nations of Latin America. All of them, with the exception of Cuba, voted in favor of the resolution.⁹

Jews all over the world broke out in rejoicing, but the Jewish leaders knew that the fight was not over. As the Arabs rattled their sabers, the Jews launched a massive public relations campaign aimed at keeping the United States committed to partition.

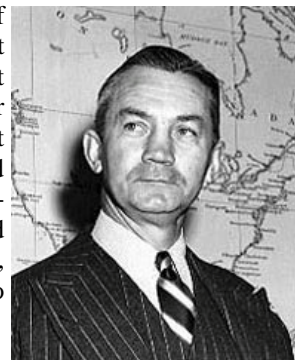
The Response to the United Nations Vote

In December of 1947 the White House received more than 100,000 letters and telegrams concerning Palestine.¹⁰ In the midst of the escalating and conflicting pressure, President Truman wrote to one of his assistants: "I surely wish God Almighty would give the Children of Israel an Isaiah, the Christians a St. Paul, and the Sons of Ishmael a peep at the Golden Rule."¹¹

On December 3rd the British announced they would terminate their League of Nations Mandate for Palestine on May 15, 1948. That same day the Arabs announced they would "defend their rights."¹²

The British announcement and the hostile Arab response to it prompted a reconsideration of the American position in support of partition. The speed at which the process was moving seemed to spook the State and Defense Departments.

James Forrestal, the Secretary of Defense, together with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reminded President Truman of the critical need for Saudi Arabian oil. The President responded by saying he would "handle the situation in light of justice, not oil."¹³ Forrestal also told the President that in his opinion, "the Arabs would push the Jews into the sea."¹⁴



James Forrestal

The pressure from the State Department was even more intense because its career bureaucrats were all pro-Arab. They began to develop an alternative to the partition plan. Their idea was to replace the League of Nations Mandate with a United Nations Trusteeship.¹⁵ As the new year of 1948 arrived, extreme tension mounted between the White House and what President Truman called "the striped pants boys" at the State Department.¹⁶

The President's contempt for the State Department did not apply to his Secretary of State, General George C. Marshall, even though Marshall was the strongest opponent to the establishment of the Jewish state. Truman greatly admired Marshall, and Marshall had the highest degree of public respect of anyone in the Truman Administration. The Secretary's "Marshall Plan" for the reconstruction of Europe had caught the public imagination and had been hailed as a life-saver throughout Europe. Marshall's outstanding leadership resulted in his being selected as *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year" for 1947. Regarding Palestine, Marshall favored a "unitary state under a United Nations Trusteeship."¹⁷



**January 5, 1948
George C. Marshall
"Man of the Year" for 1947**

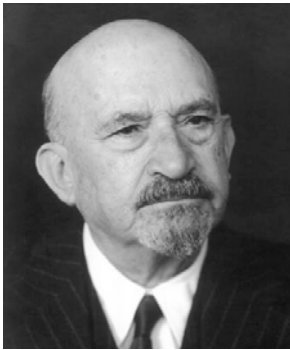
There were only two people in the Truman Administration who strongly supported the partition plan, and both of them were presidential advisers — David Niles and Clark Clifford. Clifford was Truman's White House Counsel and confidant. Niles, who was Jewish, was one of only two Roosevelt aides who were

retained by Truman when he became President. Niles was the President's counselor regarding minority issues and patronage.

As a Jew, Niles had a natural sympathy for the terrible plight of the Jewish people who had survived the Holocaust. Clifford, on the other hand, based his support of Israel on his reading of ancient history and the Bible. He firmly believed the Jewish people were entitled to their homeland.¹⁸ Niles kept the key Zionist leaders informed of what was going on in Washington and within the White House. Clifford served to encourage the President to hold firm to his commitment to a Jewish state.

When the Zionist leaders learned of the strong opposition within the Truman Administration to the establishment of a Jewish state, they decided to send their foremost statesman and spokesman to Washington, D.C., to confer with the President. He was Chaim Weizmann (1874 - 1952).¹⁹

Two Crucial Jewish Voices



Dr. Chaim Weizmann
World Zionist Organization (1920-1931 and 1935-1946).

Despite his immense prestige, when Weizmann arrived in Washington, D.C., in March 1948, President Truman refused to see him. This was because the President had become irritated over all the Jewish pressure that was being applied to the White House, particularly by some American rabbis who had been very tactless. Also, the President had already met with Dr. Weizmann the previous November, and during that meeting, the President had assured him of his support for a Jewish state.²⁰

It was at this critical point in time that President Truman's dear



President Truman with Clark Clifford in Key West, Florida in December 1949.

friend and former business partner, Eddie Jacobson, decided to intervene. The two had been partners in the clothing store business in Kansas City from 1919 to 1922. In his memoirs, Truman wrote that he never had a "truer friend."²¹

Jacobson was Jewish. He was not a Zionist, but he had a great compassion for the sufferings of the Jewish people. When he learned that Truman was refusing to see Weizmann, he traveled to Washington, D.C., to urge his old business partner to change his mind. Truman was impressed: "In all my years in Washington," he wrote, "he had never asked me for anything for himself."²²

In response to Jacobson's fervent personal plea, President Truman agreed to see Dr. Weizmann off-the-record on March 18th. They talked for almost an hour, and once again, the President assured Weizmann of his support for a Jewish state.²³

A Diplomatic Earthquake

The very next day the State Department blind-sided the President when Warren Austin, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, announced that the United States had decided to recommend abandoning the partition plan in favor of a UN Trusteeship!²⁴ Truman wrote with a fury in his diary:²⁵

This morning I find that the State Department has reversed my Palestine policy. The first I know about it is what I see in the papers. Isn't that hell? I'm now in the position of a liar and a double-crosser. I never felt so in my life.

Truman was particularly infuriated because he had specifically insisted that he be shown Austin's speech in advance. The State Department had ignored this command.²⁶ What made the situation even more painful was that the President could not publicly repudiate Austin. To do so would make it appear that he was not in control of his own foreign policy. Reflecting upon this event in his memoirs, Truman wrote:²⁷

The difficulty with many career officials in the government is that they regard themselves as the men who really make policy and run the government. They look upon elected officials as just temporary occupants. Every President in our history has been faced with this problem: how to prevent career men from circumventing



Eddie Jacobson with Harry Truman.

presidential policy.

Eddie Jacobson returned to the White House on April 11th to urge the President to reverse the State Department announcement. The President assured him “very strongly” that he supported partition and was determined to recognize the new Jewish state.²⁸

The Final Show-Down

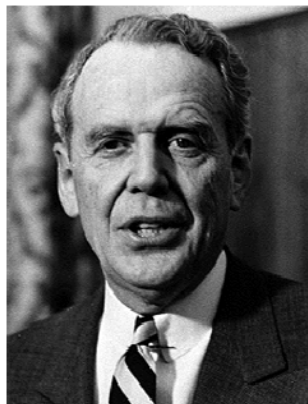
But the opponents of partition within the Administration were determined to change the President’s mind. Their all-out effort occurred on May 12th when Secretary of State Marshall and several of his aides went to the White House to meet with the President. To their surprise, President Truman had several of his aides present, including David Niles and Clark Clifford.

The meeting began with a presentation by one of Secretary Marshall’s aides, Robert Lovett. He presented the State Department’s case for a United Nations Trusteeship.

The President then called on Clark Clifford to read a paper he had prepared. In that paper Clifford argued that the recognition of the state of Israel would be “an act of humanity” in response to the Holocaust. He quoted the promise of the Balfour Declaration and he cited verses from Deuteronomy to verify the Jewish claim to the land.²⁹



Robert Lovett



Clark Clifford

Marshall became incensed. He considered Clifford to be nothing more than a political operative, and he believed his arguments were politically motivated, designed to guarantee the Jewish vote for the President in the upcoming election. Marshall finally became so agitated that he interrupted Clifford and said, “This is just straight politics. I don’t even understand why Clifford is here!” Truman answered softly, “General, he is here because I asked him to be here.”

Clifford continued. When he finished, Lovett spoke again in rebuttal. He argued that recognition of the Jewish state would be disastrous to American prestige at the United Nations because it would appear only as “a transparent bid” for Jewish votes in the upcoming presidential election in November.

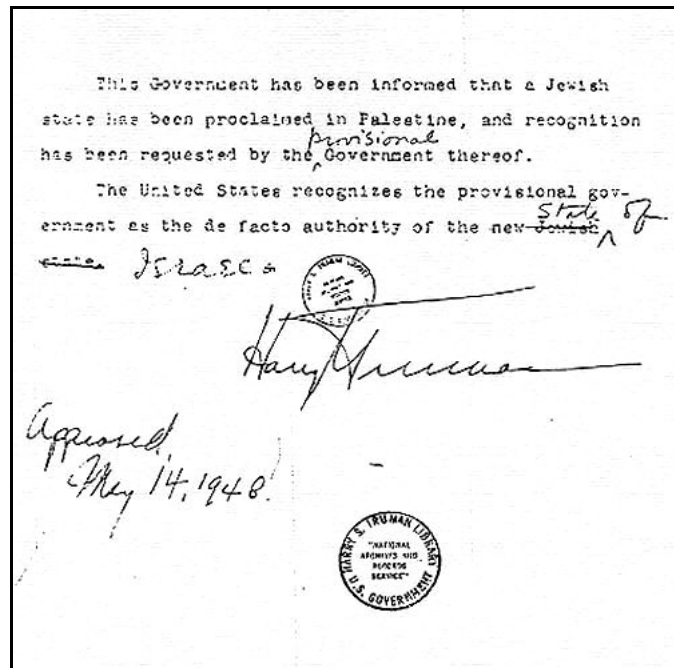
At this point, Marshall spoke again. Looking directly at Truman, he said that if the President were to follow Clifford’s advice, he would vote against the President in the election!

It was an incredible rebuke of the President in front of witnesses. The room fell silent. All sat in shock. Clifford later called it an “awful, total silence.” Truman showed no sign of emotion. Finally, he said he thought it would be best for everyone to “sleep on the matter.”³⁰

The Final Decision

Two days later, on Friday, May 14th, the day of the Declaration of Independence, Secretary of State Marshall called the President and told him that while he could not personally support recognition, he would not oppose it publicly.³¹

The Declaration was scheduled to take effect at 6:00 pm Washington time. Eleven minutes after the effective time, one of the President’s aides, Charlie Ross, announced that the United States was granting *de facto* recognition to the new state of Israel. The United States thus became the very first nation to recognize Israel.



The American delegation to the United Nations was flabbergasted. Marshall dispatched his head of UN affairs, Dean Acheson, by plane to New York to keep the whole delegation from resigning. Many in the State Department urged Marshall to resign, but he refused. He said the President had the constitutional right to make the decision. However, he refused ever again to speak to Clark Clifford.³²

The Aftermath

On May 15th the British High Commissioner in Palestine said his farewells and departed Jerusalem. On May 16th the Provisional Government of Israel met and elected Dr. Chaim Weizmann to serve as Israel’s first president.

Meanwhile the fledgling Jewish state had come under immediate attack from five Arab armies who were determined to destroy the nation at its birth. Attacking from three sides, the armies came from Egypt, Transjordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.

This invasion fulfilled a symbolic prophecy given by Isaiah in which he said that the future Jewish state would be born “in one day” and that the labor pains would come *after* the birth (Isaiah 66:7-8). And so they did, and those labor pains have continued to this day as Israel has experienced one war after another for its survival.

After Truman’s re-election in November 1948, the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Isaac Halvei Herzog, paid the President a visit.

He told Truman, "I believe God put you in your mother's womb so you would be the instrument to bring the rebirth of Israel after two thousand years."³³

In May 1951, David Ben Gurion, the Prime Minister of Israel, visited the President at the White House to thank him for his support. His last meeting with the President occurred in 1952 at a hotel in New York. In an interview which he gave years later, he said:³⁴

I told him [Truman] that as a foreigner I could not judge what would be his place in American history; but his helpfulness to us, his constant sympathy with our aims in Israel, his courageous decision to recognize our new state so quickly, and his steadfast support since then had given him an immortal place in Jewish history. As I said that, tears suddenly sprang to his eyes. And his eyes were still wet when he bade me goodbye . . . A little later . . . a correspondent came up to me and asked, "Why was President Truman in tears when he left you?"



President Truman with David Ben Gurion at the White House in May 1951. Looking on from behind is Abba Eban, the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations.

Concluding Thoughts

Was Secretary of State Marshall correct in his assessment of President Truman's motivations? Was the President's decision concerning Palestine motivated by politics?

On the surface, this would be easy to believe. After all, New York state had more Jews than the state of Israel, and the President was facing what seemed to be impossible odds. His popularity rating was low and his party was split three ways. Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina was pulling out to run as the candidate of the Dixiecrat Party, a move that threatened to take the Southern states away from the President. And FDR's former Secretary of Agriculture and Vice President, Henry Wallace, was determined to run on the Progressive Party ticket. This move threatened to attract the liberal wing of the Democrats.

But the historical record seems to indicate that Truman's decision was deeply rooted in his personal values and his Christian faith. All his life he was a voracious reader. He always

claimed that he had read the Bible twice before he even started to school! He knew the history of the Jews by heart, and he understood their biblical claim to the land.³⁵

His heart was revealed early on in April of 1943 when he was serving in the Congress as a Senator from Missouri. He flew to Chicago to speak at a huge rally that was held at Chicago Stadium to urge help for the doomed Jews of Europe. There was no political gain to be made from such an appearance, but Truman went anyway, and he spoke with great passion.

He referred to Hitler as a "mad man," and he boldly implied criticism of President Roosevelt for not doing enough to help the Jews. Referring to FDR's "Four Freedoms" speech, Truman observed:³⁶

Merely talking about the Four Freedoms is not enough. This is the time for action. No one can any longer doubt the horrible intentions of the Nazi beasts. We know they plan the systematic slaughter throughout all of Europe, not only of the Jews, but of vast numbers of other innocent peoples.

Proverbs 21:1 states that the hearts of rulers are like "channels of water in the hand of the Lord." The passage goes on to state that God can turn their hearts "wherever He wishes."

The story of Harry Truman's decision to support the establishment of a Jewish state and grant it immediate recognition is a story about how God prepares a man to make an historic decision that would fulfill Bible prophecy. First, he was grounded in the Scriptures and was well-acquainted with the history of the Jews. Then, a Jewish man he met in the military during World War I became his best friend and business partner. He was deeply impacted by the suffering of the Jewish people during the Holocaust. And when the time came for his momentous decision regarding Palestine, two of his closest advisors were staunch supporters of Israel. The Lord even touched the heart of Israel's greatest opponent within the Administration — Secretary of State George Marshall — and at the very last moment, he consented to the President's course of action.

How else can the pivotal role of Eddie Jacobson be explained, except supernaturally? He was a simple store clerk whom God positioned in the center of Truman's life, ready to take action at just the right moment.

The Bible says that God made a promise to Abraham that He would bless those who bless the Jews and curse those who curse them (Genesis 12:3). God has been faithful to that promise throughout history.

In May of 1948, President Harry S. Truman greatly blessed the Jewish people. In November, God returned the blessing to him as he won re-election in one of the most astounding victories in history. ☆

The Chicago Tribune was so confident of Truman's defeat in 1948 that they printed a headline to that effect before the ballots were counted!



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JERUSALEM
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1948

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STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a med-

iator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Haganah men and women in the Mfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the Truce Coms would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions have now been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and an official naming at birth, "Medinat Yisrael"—State of Israel, with the swearing in of the first Council of Government. The proclamation of the State was

JEWS TAKE OVER SECURITY ZONES

The battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The crackle of small-arms fire and explosions of mortar shells were still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle entered its third day.

Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission to bring about a "cease fire" were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to re-occupy the buildings requisitioned from Jews last year. This operation was almost bloodless, but beyond the

Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Kol Israel, the Tel Aviv broadcasting station, reported at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Tel Aviv had been bombed three times in the previous evening and morning, and that one plane had been shot down and its Egyptian pilot taken prisoner.

In the first raid, four planes attacked from a height of 300 feet. Two dropped bombs, while the others strafed the city. Little damage was caused. In the second attack two hours later, the airport to the north of the city was bombed, and an Air France plane parked there was damaged. The third raid was launched shortly before midday, but the planes were driven off without causing any damage.

Two settlements in the Negev had also been attacked from the air, the radio report-

U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

WASHINGTON, Saturday.—Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate on Friday, the White House released a formal statement by President Truman that the U.S. Government intended to recognize the Provisional Jewish Government as the *de facto* authority representing the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering lifting the arms embargo but it is not known whether to Palestine only or the entire Middle East, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Jewish Provisional Government.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, told correspondents today that reaction so far to the recognition had been

Proclamation by Head Of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael", the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.



The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by its head, was to abolish all legislation of the 1948 White Paper of the late Mandatory Power, particularly the Ordinances and Orders relating to immigration and land transfer.

In the declaration of independence, Mr. Ben Gurion called on the Arabs of Palestine to restore peace, assuring them full civic rights and full representation in all governmental organs of the State.

Mr. Ben Gurion prefaced the declaration with a review of the historic connection of the Jewish people with the Land of Israel and of their efforts to secure Jewish self-

The front page of *The Palestine Post* on Sunday, May 16, 1948. Independence was declared on Friday afternoon, May 14th. The next day was the Sabbath, so no newspaper could be published. Thus the headlines about independence did not appear until the Sunday edition.

Notes:

- 1) Marvin Lowenthal, editor and translator, *The Diaries of Theodor Herzl* (London: Smith Peter, 1958) p. 220.
- 2) Connor Cruise O'Brien, *The Siege: The Saga of Israel and Zionism* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986), p. 272.
- 3) John Snetsinger, *Truman, the Jewish Vote and Israel* (Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press, 1974), p. 164.
- 4) O'Brien, p. 272.
- 5) Howard M. Sachar, *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1976), p. 284.
- 6) O'Brien, p. 274.
- 7) Sachar, pp. 284-285. See also O'Brien, p. 277.
- 8) Sachar, p. 292.
- 9) Ibid., p. 294.
- 10) David McCullough, *Truman* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992), p. 598.
- 11) Harry S. Truman, *Memoirs by Harry S. Truman: Years of Trial and Hope*, Volume 2 (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1956), p. 157.
- 12) Truman, p. 159.
- 13) McCullough, p. 597.
- 14) Ibid., p. 602.
- 15) Ibid., p. 601.
- 16) Ibid., p. 611.
- 17) Sachar, p. 290.
- 18) Bernard Weisberger, interview with Clark Clifford, *American Heritage* magazine, December 28, 1976.
- 19) The Jewish Visual Library, "Chaim Weizmann," www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsources/biography/weizmann.html, accessed January 3, 2008.
- 20) Truman, pp. 157-158.
- 21) Ibid., p. 160.
- 22) Ibid.
- 23) McCullough, p. 608.
- 24) Ibid., p. 609.
- 25) Robert H. Ferrell, ed., *Off the Record: The Private Papers of Harry S. Truman* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1997), p. 127.
- 26) McCullough, p. 611.
- 27) Truman, p. 165.
- 28) Edward Jacobson, "Two Presidents and a Haberdasher—1948," *American Jewish Archives*, 1968.
- 29) McCullough, pp. 614-615.
- 30) Ibid., p. 616.
- 31) Ibid., pp. 617-618.
- 32) Ibid., p. 620.
- 33) Alfred Steinberg, *The Man from Missouri: The Life and Times of Harry S. Truman* (New York: Putnam, 1962) p. 308. See also, Merle Miller, *Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman* (New York: Putnam, 1974), pp. 235-236.
- 34) Sachar, p. 312.
- 35) Miller, pp. 52, 230-231.
- 36) McCullough, p. 286.

Question

Do the Jews have a legitimate claim to the land of Israel?

Al Gist

Much could be said about the Jews' claim to the land of Israel. However, without a doubt, the most important reason that their claim is a legitimate one is because God Himself declared it to be so in His infallible Word.

Biblical Reasons

God gave the land to the Jews.

God called Abram unto "a land that I will show thee," which was the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:1,5). There, God appeared unto Abram and gave that land to Abram's "seed" (Genesis 12:7) in an unconditional and everlasting covenant. God, in His own sovereign authority, being the Great Creator and owner of the whole earth, gave this promised land to Abram's descendants.

Later, God designated this covenant land to be "from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Genesis 15:18), a territory about 22 times larger than the modern state of Israel, even if you include the West Bank and Gaza.

Then, God made it perfectly clear to WHICH descendants of Abram the land would belong. Late in life, Abraham and Sarah had the son that was promised to them by God, whom they named Isaac. And it was to Isaac that God's covenant land grant would be passed down and NOT Ishmael, Abraham's other son by Hagar, the Egyptian (Genesis 17:19-21). God confirmed His covenant to Isaac directly in Genesis 26:3-4.

Isaac had twin sons, Jacob and Esau, and again God specified which of the two sons would receive the benefit of the covenant that He had originally made with Abraham. When Jacob was at Beth-el, God extended the Abrahamic Covenant to him and his descendants (Genesis 28:10-15, 35:9-12). God changed Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 32:28) and blessed him with twelve sons who became the heads of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel (Genesis 35:22-26).

So, it is easy to see that God's everlasting and unconditional covenant (Genesis 17:7-8) granting the land of Israel to the descendants of Abraham was passed down exclusively to the Jewish people.

The Jewish people conquered the land.

After a 400 year sojourn in Egypt where God shaped the children of Israel into a nation, He anointed Moses to bring them back to their homeland of Canaan. God instructed Joshua, after the death of Moses, to lead the Israelites into the land, to utterly destroy the wicked Canaanite people, and to take the land for their own possession (Joshua 1:1-6, 10-11 and 6:21).

Extra-biblical Reasons

The Jews bought the land.

In the late 1800's, thousands of acres of land in Palestine were purchased by philanthropists like Baron Benjamin de Rothschild for Jewish settlement. In the early 1900's, Jewish Zionist organizations like the Jewish National Fund were established to raise money for the purchase of more land. And throughout the British Mandate period (1922-1948), Jews continued to buy land from



Al Gist standing on the Mount of Olives with the Old City of Jerusalem in the background.

the Arabs, sometimes at exorbitant prices, until the Declaration of Independence of the state of Israel. By that time, some 277 rural villages with 111,000 inhabitants had been established.

The Jews captured the land in three defensive wars.

The War of Independence — 1948

The Six Day War — 1967

The Yom Kippur War — 1973

Even though Israel has often been forced by the United States and other nations to relinquish the territories she gained in the defensive wars fought with her neighbors (like giving the entire Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt after the Six Day War), some land has been retained as the property of the state. Land taken in defensive wars may be retained according to principles of International Law.

The International community recognizes the political sovereignty of Israel over their land.

Numerous historical documents give evidence of the international community's belief in Israel's right to exist in the land of Palestine. Such documents as the Balfour Declaration of 1917, the League of Nations Mandate of 1919, and the Partition Resolution of the United Nations in 1947 all prove that the nations of the world accept Israel's right to exist in her land, even though the boundaries of that land are still debated.

The Jewish people settled on and developed the land that no one really wanted.

For many centuries during the Ottoman period (1517-1917) the entire land of Palestine was sparsely populated, poorly cultivated, and very neglected. Its poor condition spoke of the attitude of the few nomads who roamed its deserts, craggy mountainsides, and malaria-ridden marshes. Only upon the return of the Jew to his promised land has it seen the revitalization to agricultural, industrial, and aesthetic excellence. ☆

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Why was the rebirth of Israel so important from a prophetic viewpoint?

Don Perkins

The rebirth of the nation of Israel is one of the most important latter-day fulfillments of Bible prophecy. It is an amazing testimony to the fact that Bible prophecy is inspired by God.

Israel's re-establishment in 1948 marked a major turning point in how many people view Bible prophecy today. Before 1948, there were many scholars and students of Bible prophecy who simply accepted it by faith and trusted in the Word of God, believing that one day Israel would return to the world stage, as prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures. The re-establishment of Israel in 1948 converted faith into reality.

Today, many Bible scholars who have witnessed this fulfillment have coined a term for this latter-day miracle by calling Israel, "God's Prophetic Time Clock." In other words, the re-establishment of Israel has become the benchmark of end time Bible prophecy.

There are many prophecies in the Scriptures that hinge on the fact that in order for them to be fulfilled, the nation of Israel must have a geographic footprint on earth today. For example, in Zechariah 12 we are told that in the end times all the nations of the world will come against Israel over the control of Jerusalem.

I am moved to amazement when I read prophecies written centuries ago and see them come to pass before my very eyes. Consider the fact that when God scattered the nation of Israel in 70 AD because of their sins, He promised that He would preserve them and that one day, in the end times, He would deliver them from their captivity and bring them back to their own land (Isaiah 11:11-12). What an amazing fulfillment of these prophecies is unfolding before our eyes today as we witness the Jewish people being regathered from the four corners of the earth. There are now more Jews who have returned to the land of Israel than are living in the United States.

The rebirth of Israel is a part of God's overall plan to redeem national Israel in the Last Days. Even more important, their return points to the soon physical return of our Lord (The Second Coming) to the land of Israel (Zechariah 14:1-9; Revelation 19:11-21). I believe we are witnessing the preparations for the next dispensation that is to come, "The Great Tribulation Period."

I have preached many times that I believe the Lord is in Heaven moving major chess pieces on His "Prophetic Chess Board." He is aligning the nations of the world into position for the end-times. Today, the nation of Israel is dominating the world news. You can't watch TV without seeing something about this little country.

Why is this little nation that is about the size of New Jersey at the center of the world's attention? Many people believe that God is finished with Israel, and even some believe that the Church has replaced Israel. The fact that God has brought Israel back on the world stage is a repudiation of this replacement theology. The Apostle Paul made it clear in Romans 11:1, 2, & 5



Don Perkins speaking at a Bible prophecy conference.

that God has a divine plan and purpose for Israel and her people:

- 1) I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
- 2) God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew . . .
- 5) there has also come to be a remnant at the present time according to God's gracious choice.

God has not rejected Israel. He still has a purpose for them. That's why the nation exists once again today. We're the only generation, since Israel's destruction in 70 AD, that can point to an existing nation in the Middle East called Israel.

In closing, let's look at one final prophetic Scripture about Israel in the book of Jeremiah, chapter 31:

- 35) 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,
- 36) "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the Lord, "then the offspring of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me forever."

Wow! What a prophecy! God has put a sign in the Heavens that declares that Israel will be on this earth in the end times. Saints, this morning, the sun rose with me, and it declared that Israel is here by the divine providence of God, and that Israel is here to stay. Praise the Lord! ✨

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How could the regathering of the Jews to Israel be an act of God when they are secular and unrepentant?

Don McGee

God, in the Mosaic covenant, placed conditions on the Jews being allowed to live in and enjoy the land He gave them. However, He placed no such conditions on their return to their ancient homeland in these last days. He quite plainly said He would make it happen, and that makes the modern return an act of God. This special prophecy is recorded in any number of passages with the entire 37th chapter of Ezekiel probably being the most recognizable one.

Ezekiel 36:22ff tells us the return of the Jews in unbelief to their land is associated with the glory of God's name and His faithfulness to His promises. He is declaring before the world that the integrity of His covenant promise does not stand or fall upon Israel's conduct, but upon His Word. He set forth a precedent for this in Exodus 32:13 when Moses reminded Him of His promise to the Patriarchs.

Those who believe the Church has replaced Israel in the prophetic economy of God say that Israel's unfaithfulness was reason enough for God to void all covenants He made with them and to transfer those promises to the Church. Not so. Paul presupposed this question by the Gentile Christians in Rome and answered it in such a way that all questions should be removed: "What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? May it never be!" (Romans 3:3,4).

There is no doubt the modern regathering is occurring while Israel is in a state of unbelief. In fact, they will continue to go back to their ancient homeland in unbelief until their eyes are opened nationally during the closing days of the Tribulation. Many Jews are leaving affluent lifestyles in the West and are going to Israel in spite of the political challenges and dangers presented by an implacable Islamic foe. When asked why, many respond by saying their decision is not about logic, but about an inexplicable love and longing for the land of their ancestors.

Can their modern return be explained by something other than mere secular reasons? Yes. In Isaiah 11 God describes an end-time worldwide regathering in unbelief that goes far beyond their return from their exiles to Assyria and Babylon. He specifically says the Jews of both Israel and Judah will be brought back to their ancient homeland, "... from the four corners of the earth." (Isaiah 11:11-12). To fulfill this prophecy He is presently placing within the hearts of Jews from all over the world what might be called a perplexing and incomprehensible desire to go "home."

Curiously, in much the same manner that God will draw Russia and her allies to the land of Israel in the future in their attempt to kill Jews (Ezekiel 38:3,4; and 39:1,2), He is presently drawing Jews from all over the world to the land of Israel in order for that very attempt, and others, to be played out.

God's end-time purpose and overall strategy are given in Zechariah chapters 12-14. Only when the Jews are brought to the precipice of annihilation during the Tribulation will their national

Don McGee is shown standing on the summit of Mount Carmel, overlooking the Valley of Armageddon in Israel.



heart be made soft and their national head be made to bow before their Messiah. The Antichrist and his world confederation of Jew-haters will be just the tool to bring them to that point. The fact of the matter is when 66% of their people have been killed and they have no where else to go they will look up to see the One they rejected and crucified coming in blazing glory to rescue the remnant:

In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem . . . And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem . . . they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born (Zechariah 12:8-10).

Every honest student of the Word would agree that the prophecies God made to Abraham in Genesis 15:13-16 were literally fulfilled as were many others. In like manner the end time prophecies of Isaiah 11, Ezekiel 36 and 37, and many others, will also be literally fulfilled.

There are no historical and credible laws of scripture interpretation that allow for differences in the way God has in the past, and will in the future, fulfill His promises to the Jewish people. If there are then we, as the modern church, must not place our confidence in those promises He has made to us regarding the resurrection, glorified bodies, and Heaven, because we might never know when He will suddenly and whimsically go from literal fulfillment to so-called allegorical fulfillment. Perish the thought!

I think we should forget the old slogan: "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it." The truth of the matter is "God said it, and that settles it, whether I believe it or not." ✪

Don McGee is the founder and director of Crown & Sickel Ministries, located in Amite, Louisiana. You can contact him through the ministry's website at www.crownandsickle.com.

Is the nation of Israel doomed to annihilation?

Dennis Pollock

The tiny nation of Israel lies in the Middle East surrounded by twenty-two hostile Arab/Islamic dictatorships that are 640 times her size and 60 times her population. She is but a sliver of land in a sea of Arab territory, at one point only ten miles across. Threatened with attack and annihilation, and facing constant and intense pressure by even her “friends” to compromise and surrender land that she won defending herself forty years ago in the Six Day War, there seems plenty of reason to wonder whether Israel can survive at all.

If all we had to go by were the facts of the matter, with no reference to God or the Scriptures, it would seem a distinct possibility that Israel may not be around very long. The Bible, however, presents a different scenario. Our understanding (or lack thereof) of the prophecies of the Scriptures hinges entirely upon our view of the validity of the Bible. Just how accurate is it? Is it the Word of God, or does it merely contain some words of God? Can we expect God to say what He means and mean what He says, or do we write off huge chunks of Scripture to the realm of “poetic license?”

In the Church today there is a sharp divide between the evangelical churches (who hold firmly to the inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures) and the nominal churches (who do not). We evangelicals believe that the Scriptures are “God-breathed” and can be trusted entirely. We find no need to try to spiritualize them and make them mean something other than their plain sense. In this we follow the example of our Lord who declared, “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished” (Matthew 5:18). From this and other examples we could give, we could say that Jesus was an evangelical! He believed in the inspiration of Scripture.

If we do believe in the verbal inspiration of Scripture, the question of Israel’s survival is a no-brainer. In both the Old and New Testaments we have ample evidence that Israel and the Jewish people will be around when the King of kings makes His appearance upon our earth. Long before Israel became restored as a modern nation, Bible scholars were predicting her appearance. A German poet by the name of Stilling wrote around 1800 that the land of Palestine would come into Christian hands and eventually be returned to the Jews. He wrote, “They can laugh at me if they will; time will prove me right.” He and other students of the Scriptures took them at face value concerning Israel and time indeed did “prove them right.”

The same Scriptures that predicted the reappearing of Israel likewise assure us that neither Israel nor the Jewish people will ever disappear from the earth. Jeremiah writes:

Thus says the Lord,
Who gives the sun for a light by day,
And the fixed order of the moon and the stars
for a light by night,
Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar;
The Lord of hosts is His name:



Dennis Pollock is shown above standing on a precipice outside the city of Nazareth, overlooking the Valley of Armageddon. This is the precipice where the people of Nazareth took Jesus when they tried to kill him.

“If this fixed order departs
From before Me,” declares the Lord,
“Then the offspring of Israel also shall cease
From being a nation before Me forever.”

According to Jeremiah there *is* a way that Israel and the Jews may cease to exist. If we go to the ocean and find there are no more tides, if we look up into the sky during the day and find the sun has disappeared, and if the moon and the stars have been sucked into some black hole and no longer exist, then (and not until then) can we surmise that Yahweh, the covenant-keeping God of Israel has allowed His covenant people and their tiny but ever so prophetically-significant nation to be annihilated.

Jerusalem, which is the spiritual heart of Israel, has probably been attacked and overrun more times than any other city on our planet. She has been burned and her buildings demolished over and over again. Yet continually she rises from the ashes almost as a living entity that refuses to die. Today she stands larger than ever in her history, both in size and population. In spite of all the tears and blood that have been poured out on her streets, she stands today more beautiful than ever before.

And while the Scriptures do predict a further time of suffering during those fateful tribulation days, she will never be annihilated. She who is “the city of the great King” (Psalm 48:2), will serve as capital city of the King of kings, the Lord Jesus, and will stand as a testimony to God’s covenant-keeping faithfulness until that day in which she will yield to her heavenly counterpart, the New Jerusalem, which will come down from Heaven (Revelation 21:2). ✨

Dennis Pollock was an evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries for 12 years before he formed his own ministry called Spirit of Grace. It is an evangelistic and discipling ministry that focuses primarily on Africa. You can contact Dennis through his website at www.sogmin.org.

Question

Why should any Christian be concerned about what is happening in Israel today?

Kenneth Humphries

Never has there been such an outcry from world leaders, including many Christians, demanding that Israel give up the land covenanted to them by God, supposedly for the purpose of peace.

Please remember, God has not left it to chance, to humankind, to Christian or world rulers, as to where nations should dwell. This particularly applies to the nation of Israel. In the Abrahamic Covenant God said: “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an *everlasting covenant*, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give unto you and to your descendants after you, *the land* of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an *everlasting possession*; and I will be their God” (Genesis 17:7-8, emphasis added).

Moses made the point that God has set boundaries for all the nations, not just Israel: “When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the people according to the number of the sons of Israel” (Deuteronomy 32:8).

Even Paul reminds us that it is God who determines where, when, and how nations will be established: “He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation” (Acts 17:26).

When God said the Jewish homeland would be their “everlasting possession, He meant it. Even when they were dispossessed of the land for nearly 2,000 years, they never lost their title to it (Psalm 105:8-11). Consider this promise of the Lord: “‘For, behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.’ The Lord says, ‘I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers, and they shall possess it’” (Jeremiah 30:3).

In that same Abrahamic Covenant in which God gave the land of Israel to the Jewish descendants of Abraham, He also made an amazing series of promises: “I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:2-3).

God has been faithful to the Abrahamic Covenant. As He promised, God did make Abraham’s name great. His name is better known around the world than any other person of antiquity. God also promised that He would make Abraham and his offspring a blessing to the world, and He did that by sending the Messiah through them.

His promise that He would bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel has proved true time and again in history. God cursed Spain for persecuting the Jews with the Inquisition and then forcefully expelling them, and Spain has



Ken Humphries is shown above teaching a Bible lesson during a cruise on the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel.

never risen to her former glory. God cursed Germany for slaughtering the Jews during World War II. Germany was defeated and remains a second-rate nation even today. On the other hand, God blessed England for protecting the Jews and helping them (sometimes haltingly) to establish a homeland in Israel. As a direct result of his support for the Jews, God blessed Winston Churchill and helped his nation overcome Hitler’s great military might. Nothing, in my judgment, can account for England’s victory over the Nazi menace but God’s promise that He will bless them that bless Israel.

In ancient times, the Egyptians enslaved the Jewish people and tried to destroy them. You can read about it in the Book of Exodus. But God cursed the Egyptians and their great empire fell. It has never risen again. The Romans persecuted the Jews horribly and drove them out of their homeland in 70 AD, and God retaliated by cursing Rome. They lost their empire and their power when God took His hand off of them. The Tsars of Russia persecuted the Jews throughout their history. God punished Russia by putting it under the yoke of Communism for 70 years.

Many people do not know or understand the promise of God concerning treatment of Israel and the Jews. If they did, they would know that the best thing our leaders could do to inherit the blessing of God upon our nations is to bless Israel in every way imaginable. This would result in the blessing of God upon our nations — “the blessing of the Lord, which makes rich and will not allow sorrow to continue” (Proverbs 10:22).

Christians should be concerned about what is happening in Israel today and how their respective nations are treating Israel because God blesses those who bless Israel and curses those who curse Israel. Oh! What we have lost by not blessing Israel! May God forgive us. ✨

Kenneth Humphries is the founder and director of Treasured Truth Today Ministries in Northern Ireland. You can contact him through his website at www.treasuredtruthtoday.org.

Why should a Christian desire to visit Israel?

Gary Fisher

My first visit to Israel was in October of 1994. The wonders I encountered on that trip changed my life! I have since been there eight times. It has been my great privilege leading others to discover those same wonders of Israel and to have life-changing experiences as well.

If seeking a spiritual blessing, there is nothing like visiting the Land of Israel for a Christian! While visiting one of the many tour sites, it is a place where one can read a Bible story, then remind those listening that the story just read occurred right there.

- Think of standing in the same valley where David killed Goliath.
- Think of standing on the Mount of Olives from where Jesus ascended to Heaven and to where He will return.
- Visit the place where Jesus headquartered His ministry, Capernaum, knowing that He was right there!
- Visit the site where Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Admire the beauty of the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus delivered the "Sermon on the Mount," or the beauty of the Sea of Galilee while riding across on a large boat and pondering that Jesus walked on the water somewhere close by.
- Encounter the awesome view of the Valley of Armageddon and think about the great battle that will take place there in the future.
- Experience the Garden Tomb, the traditional place set aside to observe the burial and resurrection of Jesus. It will change your life!

Touring these places makes Israel the most unique place on earth to visit for any Christian because they have a galvanizing effect on one's faith. **Knowing these places exist is one thing, but having seen them on a trip to Israel is quite something else!**

A visit to Israel also provides the opportunity to be a blessing to the descendants of Abraham. God promised Abraham that He would bless those who bless him (Genesis 12:3). Traveling through Israel and sowing goodwill among tour guides, bus drivers, hotel workers, and shop keepers is an opportunity to show kindness to the children of Abraham, both in the words you say and in the money you spend.

Another blessing in visiting Israel is that it gives one the opportunity to see that God is fulfilling His Scriptural promises concerning the calling of the Jewish people back to their land and that He is blessing the land. Amos 9:14-15 is a classic Scripture among these. It says:

"I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. I will also



Gary Fisher at Independence Hall in Tel Aviv.

plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them," says the LORD your God.

As one travels through the land today, it becomes evident that this restoration is in progress.

There are close to six million Jews gathered back to the land, and thousands of acres of beautiful crops are growing — every imaginable kind. Israel today is exporting food to over ninety countries. This has special meaning knowing that the land lay desolate for almost nineteen hundred years while the Jewish people were dispersed all over the world. Knowing that all this has come together so quickly, just since the turn of the 20th Century, leaves one with the sense that God is present and about to do something very awesome there! (Ezekiel 36:22)

Seeing Israel in place today with the Jewish people being gathered back to it is a sign that the Messiah, Jesus, is about to return. According to Zechariah, Israel must be in place for Jesus to return and establish His Kingdom in Jerusalem. (See Zechariah 12 through 14). This fact should be a great encouragement to any person who has faith in the Lord Jesus. Micah declares that one day, all the nations of the world will desire to go up to the "Mountain of the Lord" where Jesus, Himself, will teach the world about His ways (Micah 4:2). It is awesome to know you've already been there and gotten a preview!

The Church has been on a two thousand-year journey. Israel being in place tells us that journey is almost over. The blessing of sensing this first-hand is almost indescribable! Over the years I have found myself wishing that at least every pastor and church leader could go and bring home to their congregations the hope and encouragement a trip to Israel brings. If you get a chance to go to Israel, **GO!** A life-changing experience awaits you. ✨

Gary Fisher is the founder and director of Lion of Judah Ministries in Franklin, Tennessee. He leads tours to Israel and holds meetings and conferences regarding Bible prophecy. You can contact him through his website at www.lionofjudahministry.org.



Against All Odds

Stan Goodenough

(Editor's note: Stan Goodenough is a South African journalist who resides in Jerusalem and who produces an Internet news service called "Jerusalem Watch." You can access his news service on the Internet at www.stangoodenough.com).

In 2008, Israel will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of its miraculous rebirth. That it has survived to reach this year must really stick in the craw of the devil and of all those who have sought to be useful to him in trying to bring about the destruction of the Jewish state.

Some people think Israel is spelled I-S-R-A-E-L and Jew is spelled J-E-W. They'd be wrong on both counts. Both "Israel" and "Jew" are spelled: M-I-R-A-C-L-E. There is no getting away from it. That the Jews still exist as a nation; that Israel still exists as a state flies in the face of all probability. They survive against all the odds.

Take the Jews: Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, the Crusades, the blood libels, the expulsions, the pogroms, the Inquisition, the Holocaust — the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob survived them all. And it's not only that millions of Jews survived, but that they survived as a nation, intact for centuries, scattered across the face of the earth, without the physical borders of their ancient homeland to secure them and keep them together.

Two thousand years ago they were driven out of their land and chased by the sword, the plague, hatred and prejudice into a long, dark tunnel of relentless tribulation without any apparent light at the end to give them hope.

Sixty years ago they emerged, only a remnant, but a remnant clinging fiercely and resolutely to the Jewishness which gentile nation after gentile nation, preacher after preacher and pope after pope had sought to sever them from. The Jews had survived. They had their faith, their language and their homeland back again.

And take Israel: With the resurrection of their national homeland the world's Jews finally had a haven state to which they could return, in which they could gather, regroup, consolidate their nationhood and defend themselves.

Satan had frantically tried to foil Israel's rebirth, using the massive might of the British Empire to prevent the Jews from returning home, while setting up Hitler to exterminate them in the gas chambers of the Third Reich.

He failed, but he did not give up.

His efforts to wipe out the Jews, now conveniently gathered together in one land, have continued around the clock from within minutes of David Ben Gurion reading out Israel's Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv on May 14, 1948 to the present day.

Since being born out of the ashes of Auschwitz and in the crucible of its self-defense War of Independence in which it was massively outnumbered and overwhelmingly outgunned, Israel went on to experience miracle after miracle that ensured it could see its 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th and 50th birthdays.

Israel survived the Sinai Campaign of 1956, the Six Day War of 1967, the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the Peace for Galilee (First Lebanon) War of 1982; the First Gulf War of 1991 and the Second Lebanon War of 2006. And between all these wars it endured unrelenting Arab terrorism from the PLO fedayeen out of Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon, the Iranian-created Hizbullah in Lebanon, the homegrown and imported "Palestinians" in the first and second intifadas, Fatah, Hamas, the PFLP, Palestine Islamic Jihad — the list of enemies goes on and on. Israel has survived them all . . .

In a powerful, moving and effective way, the survival of Israel proclaims loudly to the people of Israel: "Behold your God" (Isaiah 40:9).

It is He who has brought them back home, and it is He who has promised to keep them in their land even if the whole world musters itself together to get them out (Amos 9:15). ☆

New Networks!

In January the ministry signed contracts to start broadcasting on two new additional television networks.



The first was the new network sponsored by the National Religious Broadcasters. Its headquarters is located in Nashville, Tennessee. The purpose of this network is to present a balanced Evangelical worldview. Our program will be broadcast at 4:00pm Central Time on Sunday. The broadcast can be picked up on DirecTV on channel 378. More information about this network can be found at its website: www.nrbnetwork.tv.



The other network is one based in West Texas. It is called God's Learning Channel. This unique network focuses on providing programming that is related to the Hebraic roots of Christianity, Messianic Judaism, and Bible prophecy. It is available on cable throughout the five state area of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. Nationwide it is available through Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS). The network's programming is also available throughout the world via five satellites. They have a particularly large viewer audience in the Philippines. For more information about this network, you can access their website at www.godslearningchannel.com. Our broadcast time on this network will be Wednesday at 6:00pm (Central time).

On both of these new networks the ministry will receive a free re-broadcast of its program either late at night or early in the morning.

Special Program on Mormonism

In late December we taped a special program about Mitt Romney and his Mormon faith. Our guest expert was James Walker, director of Watchman Fellowship in Arlington, Texas. This is one of Christendom's major cult watching agencies (www.watchman.org). Mr. Walker was a fourth generation Mormon before he discovered the real Jesus of true Christianity.



James Walker

In this program Mr. Walker talked about the unbiblical, non-Christian beliefs of the Mormons. In particular he focused on their concept of Jesus, showing that he is not the Jesus of the Bible and that faith in him can save no one. A copy of the program can be purchased for \$10 (call 1-800-705-8316).

"Christ in Prophecy" Broadcast Schedule

DayStar Network				
DirecTV Channel 369		DISH Channel 263		
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

Inspiration Network				
Available on cable networks				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Tues. 5:30pm	Tues. 6:30pm	Tues. 7:30pm	Tues. 8:30pm
	Wed. 8:00am	Wed. 9:00am	Wed. 10:00am	Wed. 11:00am

FaithTV Network				
SkyAngel Channel 9708				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Sun. 10:00am	Sun. 11:00am	Sun. 12:00pm	Sun. 1:00pm



"Christ in Prophecy" is also broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network**: Sunday at 6:30pm; Monday at 8:30am; and Wednesday at 7:00pm. FamilyVision TV can be seen on 11 cable systems throughout South Louisiana, reaching approximately 200,000 homes via cable and its three low-power television stations in Lafayette (KAJN Channel 40), Lake Charles (KFAM Channel 58), and Crowley (KAGN Channel 65). See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.

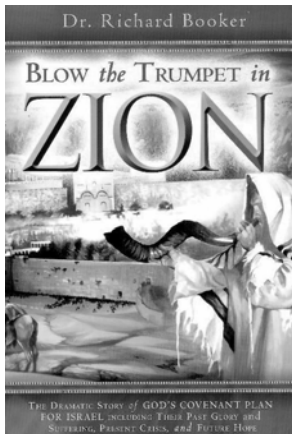
Shooting in Israel

Dr. Reagan will be taking a video crew to Israel in mid-March to shoot a series of television programs. Some of the programs will relate to the theme of "Profiles in Righteousness," focusing on people like David, Elijah, Mary, and Cornelius. Other programs will feature information about the 60th anniversary of Israel and the Temple Mount.

The Fundamentals of Bible Prophecy

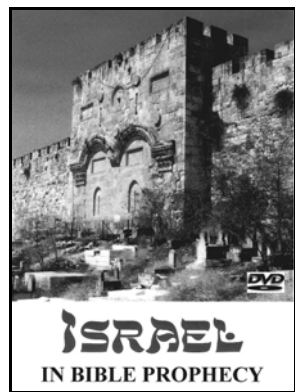
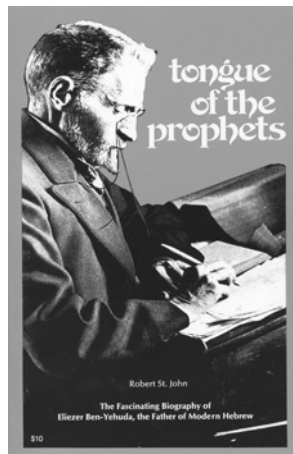
In April and May we are scheduled to broadcast a series of six programs on the fundamentals of Bible prophecy. These programs were shot before a live audience. We hope to combine these programs into a video album which we will probably call "Bible Prophecy 101." It will contain a teacher's guide and student study guides. ✚

RESOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF THE JEWS AND ISRAEL IN BIBLE PROPHECY



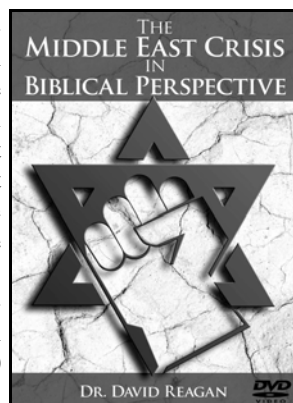
Blow the Trumpet in Zion — This is the best book in print today that provides an overview of the Jews in Bible prophecy. It surveys in detail the prophecies concerning the Jews that have already been fulfilled, that are in the process of being fulfilled, and which are yet to be fulfilled. The author, Dr. Richard Booker, writes in an easy-to-understand way that makes the book highly readable. This is the third edition of this book. 206 pages. \$15.

Tongue of the Prophets — The fascinating biography of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the man who revived the Hebrew language from the dead. It is the story of the fulfillment of the prophecy in Zephaniah 3:9 which states that God will restore a “pure speech” to the Jews in the end times. The book also chronicles the history of the Zionist Movement. Ben Yehuda’s life will enthrall you and inspire you. 377 pages. \$20.



Israel in Bible Prophecy — This video, filmed entirely in Israel, focuses on seven prophecies being fulfilled in Israel today that point to the soon return of Jesus. These include amazing miracles like the regathering of the Jewish people from the four corners of the earth and the revival of their language. In addition to contemporary scenes of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the Wilderness of Judea, it also contains clips of historic footage. DVD, 65 minutes, \$15.

The Middle East Crisis — A powerful presentation by Dr. Reagan before a live audience about the spiritual roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He surveys the conflict from biblical times to the present and shows why there will never be peace in the Middle East until the Prince of Peace returns. It contains material that is essential to an understanding of what is going on in the Middle East today. DVD, 50 minutes, \$12.



Israel in the Last Days — Contains a devastating analysis of Replacement Theology, showing why it is unbiblical and how it has served as the basis of Christian anti-Semitism. Proceeds to make the case that God still loves the Jews and has a definite purpose for them. Concludes with a survey of the four key prophecies about Israel in the end times. Delivered before a live audience. DVD, 50 minutes, \$12.



Israel in Bible Prophecy — This is an MP3 audio album that contains seven of Dr. Reagan’s most requested presentations about Israel:



- 1) The Jews in Prophecy
- 2) Israel in World Politics
- 3) God’s Chosen People
- 4) The Regathering of Israel
- 5) The Most Important Prophetic Development of the 20th Century
- 6) Jerusalem in Prophecy
- 7) The Middle East Crisis in Biblical Perspective

That’s seven hours of audio material on one CD! \$10.

Website Articles — You can find a great variety of in-depth articles on our website about Israel. Go to www.lamblion.com and click on “Articles.” You will find articles about the Jewish people in prophecy, Jewish life, and Middle East politics. Also, check out our links page and you will find links to many organizations that supply information about the Jews, Israel, and Bible prophecy. And while you are at the website, sign up to receive our free electronic newsletter.



The Internet — There are a number of excellent sources on the Internet for news and information about Israel. **The Jerusalem Newswire** provides free daily updates about events in Israel and links them to biblical passages (www.jnewswire.com). The best source of Israel news from an Orthodox Jewish viewpoint is Arutz Sheva (www.israelnationalnews.com). You can sign up there to receive a free daily summary of news. The website of the **Israel Foreign Ministry** provides a gateway to a wealth of information about Israeli history and statistics (www.mfa.gov.il/MFA). For photos of Israel, the best source by far is called **Bible Places** (www.bibleplaces.com/index.htm). ✪

Ministry News

Speaking Schedule —

Dr. Reagan ended the month of **February** and started the month of **March** speaking at the annual God's News Behind the News Prophecy Conference at Gateway Christian Center in St. Petersburg, Florida (February 28 - March 1). In **April** Dr. Reagan will be one of the speakers at the annual Thy Kingdom Come Prophecy Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma (2-5). In **May** Dr. Reagan will conduct a meeting at Highland Community Church in Louisville, Kentucky (18-20). Dr. Reagan is limited to accepting one out-of-town speaking engagement per month, and his calendar is full for this year. He is, however, open to invitations in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Nathan Jones, the ministry's Web Minister is available for speaking engagements.

Israel Pilgrimages —

Dr. Reagan is scheduled to take a pilgrimage group to Israel in early June. That group is full. Another group is scheduled for early July. It will be led by one of the ministry's senior staff members, George Collich. There are places available in that group. Dr. Reagan plans to take another group to Israel in November for a "Focus on Jerusalem" tour. This will consist of ten days in Jerusalem seeing things that groups do not normally see on a regular pilgrimage. The group will be limited to 50 people, and one of the requirements for participation is that you must have already taken a basic tour of Israel sometime in the past. For information about these tours, call 972-736-3567.

Prophecy Partners —



Dr. Reagan is shown above with Mike and Pat Vansickel, Prophecy Partners from Brea, California. The ministry's Prophecy Partners supply the support base of the ministry, both in prayer and finances. We need to increase the number of our Prophecy Partners in order to continue our television expansion. To become a Partner, a person or couple must make a commitment to pray for the ministry and provide a minimum donation of \$20 per month. In return, Dr. Reagan sends each Partner an update report each month, together with a gift that is usually a DVD containing a teaching about Bible prophecy. To become a Prophecy Partner, just give us a call at 1-800-705-8316, or just send your first donation and ask to be added to the Partner program.✚



News and Communications

Communications

Conferences, DVDs, and the Magazine — "We would like you to know we were encouraged by your teaching at the Steeling the Mind Conference . . . The set of DVDs that we purchased have been very informative, and we enjoy your enthusiasm for the Lord's work! One last thing — Thank you for your magazine. It contains a lot of helpful information, is written so the lay person can understand, and is well-organized. We love the way you illustrate the articles. Your labor is not in vain!" Joe & Betty Austin in Brea, California.

Magazine — "I just finished reading the latest edition of your magazine. Awesome! It is a very well written publication. It says that it is free of charge to anyone who requests it. Well, I would like to receive it. Please give my thanks to those whose donations make it possible for you to send the magazine free of charge to those of us in prison. It is a wonderful, Christ-centered magazine." — Damon Weems in Draper, Utah.

Website — "I just want to express my thanks for the 'Jesus is Coming Soon' article on your website. I found it through a search on the Internet concerning the Second Coming. I am a firm believer that Jesus is returning soon. I get discouraged by the apathetic attitude I see around me and within my church. Your article has inspired me to read the Bible more and to share with others the news that Jesus is returning soon." — Albert Elder (location unknown).

DVDs & Television — "I just want you to know that I really enjoy your ministry. It's a real treat for me to catch you on TV. I also watch your DVDs all the time. I have really learned a lot through your teachings." — Steve Waffle in Affton, Missouri.

Magazine — "I love the Lamplighter magazine. It is honest and forthright. You certainly are not a coward. Please keep it coming." — Phillip Winters in Bedford, Texas.

Sleep Aide — "I go to Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and that is where I first heard Dr. Reagan preach. My mother and aunt and I almost didn't come because Revelation has always scared us to death. But after hearing Dr. Reagan, we have not been able to get enough of Revelation. It's now a book of hope instead of a book of dread. I can put Dr. Reagan's tapes on at night, and he puts me right to sleep! It's definitely not because he is boring. Rather, it's because I get so wrapped up in what he is saying that I stop thinking about all the things I worry about that keep me awake. Thanks for your wonderful ministry!" — Janet Mathews in New Albany, Indiana.

Magazine — "We want to thank you again for your wonderful ministry. We have been blessed thru your ministry over the years and always look forward to receiving your magazine which gets passed on to friends after we are done reading it. We have just made our annual donation and feel blessed and thank the Lord for the ability to help your ministry. For us, donating the first thing in the new year is kind of like a 'first fruits' gift to the Lord. What a great way to start off the new year!" — Kemper & Barbara Freeman in Livonia, Michigan. ✚

New Israel Video

Has the Church replaced Israel, leaving the Jews with no future role in God's plan for the ages?

Could it be said that Replacement Theology (replacing Israel with the Church) is the root cause of Anti-Semitism?

Does Israel have a role in the end times, or has God washed His hands of them?

If there really is a role for Israel in the end times, what is it?

Dr. David Reagan addresses these and other questions related to Israel in the end times in this fast moving, comprehensive survey of the negative impact of Replacement Theology on both the Church and the Jews.

The presentation is lavishly illustrated from beginning to end, and it is delivered by Dr. Reagan with great passion.

It contains shocking revelations about the vehement anti-Semitism of Martin Luther and other Christian leaders through the ages, including modern leaders who try to hide their anti-Semitism by claiming to be merely anti-Zionist.

Dr. Reagan shows how the preservation of the Jews throughout history, despite terrible persecutions, is an incredible illustration of God's grace. And he points out that the Bible clearly states that Jesus will not return until a great remnant of the Jews have accepted Him as their Messiah.

This presentation was videotaped live at a Steeling the Mind Conference held at San Juan Capistrano, California. The running time is approximately 50 minutes. DVD format. \$12.



Receiving this magazine via the Internet

If you would prefer to receive this magazine electronically via email, please go to the home page on our website at www.lamblion.com and click on the button in the upper right corner that says "E-newsletter and Magazine."

We feature a special question about Bible prophecy each month on the home page of our website. If you have a question, send it to our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, at njones@lamblion.com. If your question is selected, we will send you a gift. ✚



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