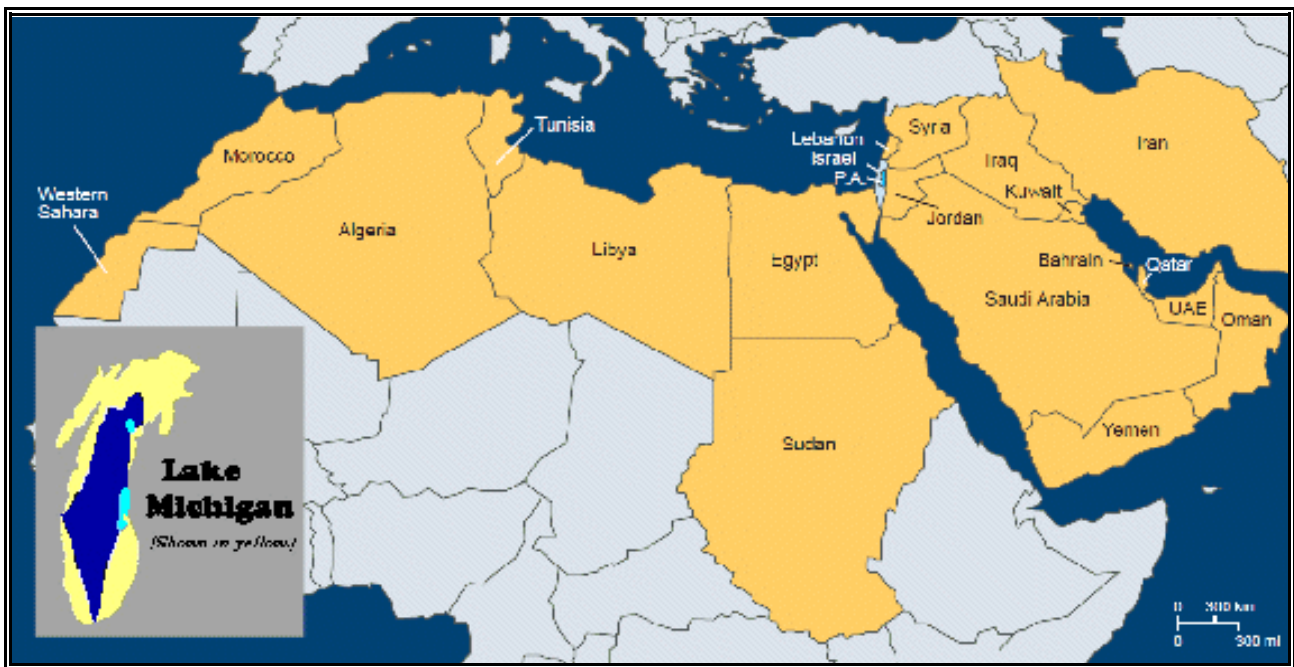


## ISRAEL'S PEACE EFFORTS

*The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto **all the people round about**, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for **all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces**, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.*

*Zechariah 12:1-3*

Tonight, I would like to talk about Israel again. I think it's important for pro-Israel Christians to understand the *wider scope* of Israel's search for peace over the last 60 years because today, many so-called "evangelical" ministers are turning against the Jews and they're being used by Satan to turn thousands and thousands of unsuspecting Christians against the State of Israel. This is a *serious* delusion because the Scripture says very clearly that God is going to destroy all the nations that seek to destroy Israel—and that includes deluded church leaders and Christians.



Anti-Israel political leaders turn people against Israel by continually focusing their attention on the *single* issue of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict because they know that when a person's focus is continually directed towards *that* conflict, the chances are very good that the situation Israel *actually* faces will be obscured and eventually turned on it's head. Israel's situation is akin to the story of David and Goliath in the Old Testament. Israel is a tiny nation that would fit *inside* Lake Michigan with room to spare! That tiny state is surrounded by a vast sea of insanely hostile Arab and non-Arab Muslims. The State of Israel constitutes one half of 1% of the land the Arabs have, yet the Arabs still want to destroy it. For over 60 years Israel has been trying to make peace with these nations and they have had some success. There have been a few peace treaties signed, but as we can now see, those treaties are only as good as the *individual* leaders of the nations that sign them.

The reality that Israel is David and the surrounding Arab nations are Goliath is lost when the focus is continually on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict because the situation seems reversed in this case (though on a much smaller scale). The Jews in Israel are more powerful and outnumber the Palestinians. The territory the world is pressuring Israel to give to the Palestinians for their new terrorist state would be *smaller* than the territory Israel would still possess. So when the focus is kept on the Palestinian “struggle” against Israel, it’s Israel who ends up looking like Goliath and the poor Palestinians look like David.



The fact that the Palestinians have *openly* declared, again and again, that they will settle for nothing less than *all* of Israel as their new terrorist state is *ignored* by world leaders and the Jew-hating world media. Whenever you see pictures, graphics, plaques, drawings or military patches of the proposed Palestinian State, the area of that state always includes the *entire* land of Israel. The Palestinians want *all* of Israel!

The fact that the world ignores these (and many other indications) that the Palestinians have no intention of living peacefully with Jews shows the moral bankruptcy of these leaders. The fact is, the entire world would be delighted to see a Palestinian State *replace* the current Jewish State of Israel, even though they know it would result in the massacre of all the Jews who live there, because the world hates Israel. The world hates Israel because it hates Israel’s God; and any Christian who hates Israel is under the same power that controls the world.

Christians who want to remain faithful to God’s Word are already subject to a non-stop barrage of Arab/Muslim propaganda that seeks to de-legitimize the very existence Israel. The last we need is to sit and listen to a bunch of apostate, anti-Semitic church leaders who are very adept at twisting the Scripture to fit their anti-Israel agenda.

The fact that Israel has always wanted to live in peace with the surrounding Arab nations is evident when you read the following statement from its Declaration of Independence, ratified in 1948:

*“We offer peace and unity to all the neighboring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the common good of all”.*

Since the earliest days of the Zionist enterprise, Israel has extended its hand in peace and made numerous efforts to coexist in harmony with its neighbors. It’s foreign policy has always been geared to advance of peace in the region. The exact opposite is true of both the surrounding Arab states and the Palestinians. For them, “peace” is not a *permanent* state of peaceful co-existence with Jews. Rather, it’s a *tactic of war*. They talk about making peace while they continue to plot the destruction of the Jewish State. Any peace treaty an Arab state signs with Israel is only as good as the *individual* leader who rules that country at any point in time.

You can see this reality when you look at today’s Egypt. The peace treaty Israel signed with Egypt back in 1979 was signed with the *leader* of Egypt, Anwar Sadat. The people of Egypt didn’t want the treaty because they saw it as a humiliation to their nation and their demon-god, Allah. President Sadat was assassinated for making that

treaty. The only reason the treaty stood was because his successor, Hosni Mubarak continued Sadat's foreign policy. This is the *only* reason the peace treaty with Israel has continued for the last 35 years. Well, Mubarak is gone now, and his successor is being chosen through a "democratic process". For the first time in centuries the *people* of Egypt have been given the opportunity to *choose* their own leaders and guess who they have chosen? They have chosen the Muslim Brotherhood to represent them—an organization that openly calls for the destruction of Israel. They chose Muslim Brotherhood delegates who promised to break the treaty with Israel as soon as they take office.

There may be individuals in the Middle East who truly want peace with Israel, but as a whole, the vast majority of the people in that area do *not* want peace. They want to see Israel destroyed and whenever they are given the opportunity to "vote" for the party or the leader they want to represent them, they vote for people and political parties who *reject* the idea of peaceful co-existence with Israel. Despite these realities, Israel has never stopped trying to establish peace with the surrounding nations. The following is a short summary of Israeli attempts, successes and failures to search for peace.

## **EGYPT**

Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty on March 26, 1979. This was the first treaty between Israel and an Arab country. Israel paid a heavy price for this treaty. They withdrew from the entire Sinai Peninsula, which had oil reserves. That withdrawal was completed on April 25, 1982.

## **JORDAN**

Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty on October 26, 1994 at the Akaba-Eilat border crossing. But again, Israel had to pay a price for that treaty. They turned over more than 100 square miles of land to Jordan. With the ratification of the peace treaty, full diplomatic relations were established and since then, the relationship between Israel and Jordan has been moving forward steadily—until the recent so-called "Arab Spring". Today, Jordan is cooling its relationship with Israel and there are fears that it will break its treaty with Israel because of the rising power and pressure coming from the Muslim Brotherhood in that country.

## **LEBANON**

From the beginning of the peace process, negotiations with Lebanon have been overshadowed by *Syrian control* over Lebanon's policies and decision-making process. During Operation Peace for Galilee, Israeli and Lebanese negotiators tried to negotiate a peace treaty between the two countries. The Lebanese were represented by Antoine Fattal and the Israelis were represented by David Kimche. The negotiating teams held over 35 meetings from December 28, 1982 to May 17, 1983.

The main features of the agreement included ending the state of war between Israel and Lebanon; a mechanism for treaty supervision; provisions for Israeli withdrawal and security coordination; and the establishment of an Israeli mission in Beirut. The agreement was conditional on Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. Unfortunately, the treaty was never ratified by the Lebanese government due to pressure from Syria.

Syria maintained control of Lebanon until April 2005. Under severe pressure by the U.S. government, it withdrew its soldiers and intelligence agents, ending a 29-year military presence. But the chances of peace between Lebanon and Israel are no better today than it was in 1983 because Syria's didn't really leave Lebanon. They just replaced their state-run military presence with a proxy military presence called Hezbollah. Hezbollah is a Syrian-run, Syrian/Iranian-financed terrorist group which now controls Lebanon.

## **SYRIA**

Due to Syria's direct or indirect (through Hezbollah) influence on Lebanon, negotiations with Lebanon are really an inseparable part of the negotiations with Syria. In 1974, Israel withdrew its forces from the entire area beyond the Golan Heights that had captured in 1967 in order to lay the groundwork for peace with Syria. In March of 2000, Israel (through President Clinton) offered Syria a *full withdrawal* from the Golan Heights itself in return for a peace treaty and security arrangements. But Syrian President Hafez Assad rejected the offer.

Two months later, Israel *unilaterally* withdrew from southern Lebanon in another attempt to secure peace with that nation, but to no avail. As soon as the Israelis left, Hezbollah moved in and established terrorist camps and underground bunkers throughout southern Lebanon. Hezbollah now controls over 50% of the government of Lebanon and Lebanon is becoming a serious threat to Israel.

## **MOROCCO**

The relations between Morocco and Israel were formalized when Israel opened a liaison office on November 1994 in the Moroccan capital, Rabat. Four months later, Morocco opened its office in Israel, thus formally establishing bilateral diplomatic relations. Unfortunately, after the outbreak of Palestinian violence on September 2000, Morocco broke off diplomatic ties with Israel.

## **MAURITANIA**

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Israel concluded an agreement at Barcelona in November 1995. In October 1999, Mauritania became the third Arab country (after Egypt and Jordan) to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel. But in January of 2009, it suspended economic and political ties with Israel in protest against the war in Gaza. Following the public announcement, Bashar al-Assad (Syria) Khaled Meshaal (exiled leader of Hamas) called for *all* Arab nations to cut ties with Israel.

## **TUNISIA**

In January 1996, Israel opened an interest office in Tunisia and Tunisia reciprocated six weeks later. But after the outbreak of Palestinian violence (September 2000), Tunisia broke off diplomatic ties with Israel.

## **OMAN & QATAR**

In May 1996, Israel opened trade representation offices in Oman and Qatar to develop economic, scientific and commercial relations, with emphasis on water resources utilization, tourism, agriculture, chemicals and advanced technologies. At the outbreak of Palestinian violence in 2000, relations with the Gulf States have cooled and Israel's trade representation office in Oman has been closed.

This is just a quick overview or sampling to show that Israel *does* desire peace with the Arab nations and they have been *actively* pursuing peace with them since 1948. What you'll find when you look at an unbiased history of Israel's peace efforts is that for the first 40 years of their existence they were making headway in the peace effort. But over the past 20 years, one by one, either through external or internal forces, nations who were (or at least who seemed to be) willing to make peace with Israel have been abandoning the peace effort.

With the election of President Obama, this trend greatly accelerated because he set the stage for the take-over of "moderate" Arab governments by fanatical Islamic governments that will be just like Iran. Egypt will soon break its treaty with Israel and Jordan will follow suit. All the effort the Israelis have invested in peace negotiations for the last 60 years is crumbling. Soon it will be encircled by hostile *leaders* who are itching to attack them.

Israel is presented to the world by the media as the obstacle to peace when in fact, the reverse is true. Israel has been seeking peace ever since 1948. For a while it seemed that they were making some headway, but you see, God has an eternal plan that He is bringing to pass and that plan does NOT include peace between the Arab and the Jew—at least not in this present age. God’s plan is to bring all nations against Israel in order to DESTROY them and that includes our own nation.

*'And it shall come about on that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from off their neck, and will tear off their bonds; and strangers shall no longer make them their slaves. 'But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. 'And fear not, O Jacob My servant,' declares the LORD, 'And do not be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, **I will save you from afar, and your offspring from the land of their captivity.** And Jacob shall return, and shall be quiet and at ease, and no one shall make him afraid. 'For I am with you,' declares the LORD, 'to save you; for **I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you**, only I will not destroy you completely. But I will chasten you justly, and will by no means leave you unpunished.'*

*Jeremiah 30:8-11 NAS*

Though God must chasten and purify Israel in the coming days, He promises not to destroy them completely. This is not the case when it comes to the nations where the Jews have been scattered. God is going to “*destroy completely all the nations*” where they have been scattered—and that includes America. It also includes Jew-hating Christians. Why is God going to destroy the nations where the Jews have been scattered? Because sooner or later, every one of those nations have become anti-Semitic.

*Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, **cruel** both with **wrath** and **fierce anger**, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.*

*Isaiah 13:9-10*

*The sword of the LORD is **filled with blood**, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a **great slaughter** in the land of Idumea. And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and **their land shall be soaked with blood**, and their dust made fat with fatness. For it is the day of **the LORD's vengeance**, and **the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion**. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; **the smoke thereof shall go up for ever**: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.*

*Isaiah 34:6-10*

For this is the day of the Lord God of hosts, **a day of vengeance**, that **he may avenge him of his adversaries**: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk **with their blood**: for the Lord God of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

Jeremiah 46:10

God is jealous, and **the Lord revengeth**; the Lord revengeth, **and is furious**; the LORD will **take vengeance** on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Nahum 1:2

*The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. **hat day is a day of wrath**, a day of trouble and distress, day of wasteness and desolation a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and **their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung***

Zepheniah 1:14-17

We have lived all our lives in an *age* of grace. Therefore, the only God we have ever known is the God of forgiveness. Even when we come under His chastening hand, we know that as soon as we repent of that sin and seek His forgiveness, He will instantly forgive and show us mercy. To us, He is “*the God of another chance*”. But we are about to meet a completely *different* God and I’m not sure we’re ready to meet Him. We are about to meet the God who, in the Old Testament said things like:

*Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: **I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh**; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. **Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me**:*

Proverbs 1:24-28

*He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, **shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy**.*

Proverbs 29:1

*And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim. Therefore **pray not thou for this people**, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.*

Jeremiah 7:15-16

We have never known a God who says that when you seek me, I will *not* be found of you.

We have never known a God who says when you cry out to me because of calamity, not only will I refuse to hear your prayers, I will *laugh* at what's happening to you!

We have never known a God who gives those who were *once His people*, over to a destruction that has *no remedy*.

We have never known a God who tells us not to even pray for people (whether they be brethren, family members, or the unsaved), because He will no longer hear our prayers regarding them, for there is *no mercy left* for them!

But we are about to meet *that* God.

The Lord is coming back to execute vengeance. He's coming back to put an end to the "controversy of Zion". Everyone who is trying to destroy Israel will be slaughtered by this God who is cruel (merciless) and full of fury! Be sure you are on the right side when it begins.