

PALESTINE AND THE PROMISE

By

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“I am a non-believer, yet no one will be able to uproot from my heart and mind the conviction that without the Jewish religion we would have been like all nations, who once existed and disappeared.” This statement was made by Golda Meir when she was Prime Minister of Israel. This is an admission that support for Israel is largely dependent upon religious belief, a belief rooted in the interpretation that God’s promise to give Palestine to Abraham’s people is yet to be fulfilled. This view is used to rally millions of people to the support of a very dangerous political cause and should be examined carefully.

This is the promise: “In the same day the lord made a covenant with Abram saying. Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Gen. 15:18).

Fulfillment began when Moses said to the people of Israel, “Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites and unto all the places nigh thereunto, and all the plains, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in the south and by the seaside, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates. Behold I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swear unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, given to them and to their seed after them” (Deut. 1:7–8).

When Moses died Joshua received the same promise. “Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast” (Joshua 1:3–4).

Just before Joshua died he said, “...*And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which He swear unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein...there failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord has spoken unto the house of Israel; **all came to pass***” (Joshua 21:43, 45).

The prophet Nehemiah confirmed the fulfillment of the promise. “Thou are the Lord the God, who did choose Abram, and brought him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees and gave him the name of Abraham; and found his heart faithful before thee...and made a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebbusites, and the Girgashites, to give it I say, to his seed and has performed thy word; for Thou are righteous” (Neh. 9:7–8). In verse 24, he states, “So the children went in **and possessed the land.**”

The same is confirmed by the prophet Jeremiah in chapter 32, verse 21: “And has brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched our arm, and with great terror. And has given them this land which Thou did swear to give to their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey; and they came in, **and possessed it.**”

When David was king his “border” was “at the river Euphrates” (II Sam. 8:3). King Solomon “reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt...for he had dominion over all the region on this side of the river” (I Kings 4:21, 24).

Before they killed Stephen, he reminded the Jews that this promise had been fulfilled, saying that “**they entered in the possession of the nations**” (Acts 7:45).

God’s word as well as secular history testifies to the fact that He fulfilled His promise to Abraham concerning the land. Therefore, how can it be said that modern day Jews have a right to forcefully drive the Arabs out of their homes and take over their land on the basis of a promise already fulfilled? This erroneous interpretation is actually encouraging and deceiving Jewish people with a false hope and may very well plunge them and their friends, as well as their enemies, into a terrible worldwide war.

Further related to this mistaken interpretation is also a mistaken identity. Until recent years one of the least known facts of history was that the great majority of Jews of the world are descendents of the inhabitants of the Khazar kingdom which was located in the territory now known as Russia. Although his information has been published for years, it has been ignored until recently when a well-known Jewish writer, Arthur Koestler, produced a book called the **Thirteenth Tribe** in which he sets forth in detail and with documentation the history of the Khazars.

Koestler quotes a number of sources to show the strength and prominence of the Khazar kingdom, which flourished from the 7th to 10th centuries and was the third power between the Byzantine and Moslem empires. They found themselves pressed by the former to embrace Christianity and by the latter to embrace Islam. They took the alternative of embracing Judaism, which became their official religion in AD 740.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica (1947 Edition) the Khazars were recognized as early as 198 AD, and began to assume political importance in the struggle between the Roman and Persian empires. The Khazars rose in power in the 4th century until Khazaria fell under the rule of Attila the Hun. In the 6th century the nation became independent and became a great center of commerce in the 7th and 8th centuries.

When the kingdom broke up the Khazars migrated to Eastern Europe, especially to Poland and Russia and were known as Jews, their language being Yiddish (No relation to the Hebrew language).

Today one of the big problems in Israel is the question of determining who is a Jew. The majority of Jews are not descendants of Jacob, but are of Khazar extraction or of some other race. The establishment of the present State of Israel is not fulfillment of promise nor prophecy made to Abraham and ancient Israel.

In 1917 the British government issued a statement favoring the establishment of Palestine as a homeland for the Jews. This was called the “Balfour Declaration.” In return for this agreement, the Jews promised to use their influence in the United States to bring us into war against the Axis powers. This they did. However the Arabs, who had nothing to do with this agreement, were unwilling to give up their lands and their homes to satisfy a promise made on a false premise. In the early forties, by means of terrorism and guerilla-like warfare and under the direction of the present day leaders of Israel, the Arabs were driven out of their homes and Israel was finally declared an independent state. Since that day, just as Golda Meir indicated, they have usurped a promise, already

fulfilled, and applied it to themselves in order to justify their action in the land of Palestine.

The same “dispensational” doctrine that promises Palestine to modern Jews also says they shall have possession of it for one thousand years after the second coming of Christ. But scripture says that He shall come “in flaming fire rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of His might” (II Thess. 1:7–9).

And what of Palestine itself? “The earth and the works therein shall be burned up,” and all the saved are to look “for a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness” (II Peter 3:10, 13). There seems to be neither time nor place for such a millennium.

There can be no re-establishment of the earthly kingdom of Israel upon the fleshly seed of Abraham. Jesus Himself said, “Therefore I say unto you, the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof...” “And when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables they perceived that he spoke of them “(Matt. 21:43, 45).

Later, as Jesus wept over the fate of Jerusalem, He said, “Behold your house is left unto you desolate” (Matt. 23:38). Paul wrote concerning them: “For the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost” (I Thess. 2:16). A few years later in 70 AD, these statements were fulfilled in the total destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

Is there, then, no place for Israel? Indeed there is. Paul explained that the “commonwealth of Israel” now consists of all who are in Christ, both Jews and Gentiles, “as one new man in Christ Jesus.” The middle wall of partition between them, he says, was broken down by God in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (Eph. 2:13–18).

The same gospel of hope exists for the Jew (whether of the race of Hebrew or Khazar) that exists for anyone else. On the day of Pentecost when Peter reminded the men of Israel that they had crucified their Messiah, Jesus, they asked, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

The answer was plain and simple. “And Peter said unto them, repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins: and you shall receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For to you is the promise and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto Him” (Acts 2:38–39). This is God’s answer, and modern Israel should obey, just as three thousand of them did on that day of Pentecost over nineteen hundred years ago.

“They then that received his words were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

The true children of God are “heirs of the world” — not “this present evil world” (Gal. 1:4) which is under a curse (Gal. 3:10) and destined for fiery destruction — but of the “new earth wherein dwells righteousness” (II Peter 3:13).

Instead of calling upon the United States for military arms for a conquest under the pretense of a promise long ago fulfilled, let Israel call upon the name of the lord and be saved by His grace before He comes in judgment!

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