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To Whom Does The Land of Israel Really Belong? And What Is Its Future?

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4
5 Session Seven / Wednesday, March 14, 2007

6
7 Text Book: “The Next World War” by Grant R. Jeffrey

8
9 Dr. Dwight Pentecost: *There is no more perplexing problem facing those in places of*
10 *responsibility in affairs of state than the problem of what to do about the nation Israel.*
11 *If one could amicably settle the Arab-Israeli dispute, his wisdom would be recognized as*
12 *the wisdom of Solomon. Men of state debate the issue: to whom does the land (Eretz*
13 *Israel) actually belong? Doe sit belong to the Arabs who have been there for*
14 *generations? Or does the land belong to those descendants of Abraham who first*
15 *conquered it, possessed it for centuries as a great and glorious homeland and then were*
16 *driven out? (Prophecy for Today / page 51)*

17
18 HELICOPTER VIDEO

19
20 **WHAT CAUSED THE JEWS TO LEAVE ISRAEL?**

21
22 **Matthew 24:1-2**

23 **And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him**
24 **for to shew him the buildings of the temple. [2] And Jesus said unto them, See ye not**
25 **all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon**
26 **another, that shall not be thrown down.**

27
28 Our Lord Jesus was crucified under the Roman rule in Israel of Governor (Procurator)
29 Pontius Pilate. The night before His death, Jesus prophesied the coming invasion of
30 Rome and the collapse of Jerusalem and its environs. Matthew 24 and 25) In 70
31 A.D., His prophecy came to pass.
32

1 When Pilate was dismissed and recalled to Rome, the Roman Emperor sent succeeding
2 governors to Judea: Cuspus Fadus, Alexander Cumanus, Felix, Festus (the Apostle Paul
3 was tried before the two latter men) and finally by the unprincipled FLORUS. This was
4 a man of little or no morality and his rule was so corrupt that the Jews finally erupted in
5 65 A.D. in full rebellion.

6
7 The Romans quickly reacted. The Roman Emperor sent Vespasian, one of his ablest
8 generals to take command of his forces in Israel. In the meantime, there was political
9 unrest even in Rome as Nero committed suicide. He was followed by Galba who was
10 soon assassinated by Otho who sat on the throne very briefly and was dethroned by the
11 military. The military then demanded that Vespasian return from the Israel campaign to
12 be the new emperor and Vespasian left his son Titus in charge of the invasion. The
13 initial Roman attacks came from the north in Galilee. The saga of Gamla, not known
14 by most people, is one of the saddest on record. From there Titus turned his attention to
15 the eternal holy city and set up his attack headquarters on Mount Scopus on the north side
16 of Jerusalem. “With a force of eighty thousand fighting men, the son of the emperor
17 made his appearance before the city of Jerusalem in February of 70 A.D. He had
18 brought with him a larger number of battering machines than had been in used in the
19 warfare of that time. He was accompanied by King Agrippa and Josephus, the future
20 historian. The inhabitants of the city refused to surrender. Titus crucified as many as
21 five hundred Jewish prisoners a day, and cut off the hands of others and sent them back
22 into the besieged city. Yet there were no signs of surrender. Titus settled down to a
23 long siege. Famine stalked the city. Houses and streets were filled with unburied
24 corpses. The *Zealots* were determined to defend the city unto death.” (Abraham to
25 the Middle East Crisis / G. Frederick Owen / Eerdmans / page 155-158) Finally Titus’
26 legions set fire to the city after knocking down the massive walls with those battering
27 rams. By accident the Temple also caught fire and was destroyed.

28
29 By 73 A.D. , Jerusalem and Israel had been left in smoking ruins. By September 8th all
30 resistance in Jerusalem had ended. There still remained three fortresses that were not
31 taken (all of them fortress palaces of King Herod the Great): Machaerus (now in Jordan
32 where John the Baptist was beheaded), the Herodium (between Bethlehem and the Dead
33 Sea, believed to be the burial site of King Herod the Great), and Masada. The final
34 battle was on famed Masada. It was Israel’s last stand.

35 36 MASADA VIDEO

37
38 Now the Jews, at least those still alive, were dispersed around the world. This certainly
39 was not the first dispersion. The Roman Empire continued resolutely for another three
40 hundred years, ultimately with two headquarters: Rome and Istanbul.

1 It should be noted here that there was a brief Jewish uprising in Palestine under the Bar
2 Kochba which resulted in terrible defeat at the battle of Bitier in 134 A.D. This even
3 increased the dissemination of Jews from Israel.
4

5 In the sixth century, Mohammed gave the world Islam. The struggle between Islam and
6 Christianity continued through the Crusades with the Muslims retaining control of the
7 Holy Land and most of the Middle East. The middle of the eleventh century found
8 Europe in the densest gloom of intellectual and moral darkness. We mark these
9 centuries as the Middle Ages. They continued until the Renaissance of Europe and
10 Luther's Reformation of the Church..
11

12 THE MAMELUKES were the rulers of Egypt and Palestine during the Middle or Dark
13 Ages. Their rule was cruel, unjust and totalitarian. The Turks finally routed them and
14 hanged their chief at the main gate to Cairo. Upon their demise, Israel was subjected to
15 four centuries of Turkish Rule THIS IS KNOWN AS THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE. It
16 began with Suleiman the Magnificent, whose rule was fair and reasonable. (The site of
17 Gordon's Calvary just outside the north wall of Jerusalem is on Suleiman Street.)
18 Unfortunately, when Suleiman died, the Turkish empire became autocratic, ineffective
19 and very harmful to the land (Eretz Israel). For example, the Turks denuded the land,
20 especially throughout Galilee, of its trees and the area we know today as the Valley of
21 Esdraelon (or Armageddon) became a malarial swamp.
22

23 World War I brought the British to Israel (or Palestine as it was known). Turkey joined
24 forces with Germany in that war. Under British General Sir Edmund Allenby the land
25 of came under British rule and with the support of the League of Nations (the forerunner
26 of the United Nations), the BRITISH MANDATE came into existence - and remained in
27 effect until May of 1948. Early in that mandate, Lord Balfour of the British
28 government, declared that Jews had the right to immigrate to Israel. However, during
29 World War II, the Brits learned they needed oil from Iraq. To placate the Arab nations,
30 the British under Secretary Beavan cracked down on any and all Jewish immigration -
31 even at the point of a gun.
32

33 **THE BALFOUR DECLARATION / NOVEMBER 2, 1917**

34

35 After World War I, Britain was granted a 30-year mandate to rule a region that included
36 present-day Israel, the West Bank and Gaza and modern Jordan. This area was called
37 Transjordan and contained very few inhabitants. Lord Arthur James Balfour, the head of
38 Great Britain's Foreign Office, received approval from the British cabinet and released
39 the following declaration in favor of a Jewish homeland. This declaration stated:
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His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status employed by Jews in any other country.

This declaration was endorsed on July 24, 1922, by the League of Nations, the United States, and for a short time even some Arab states. Under this declaration and other treaties, JORDAN, SYRIA, IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIS RECEIVED ALMOST 500 TIMES AS MUCH LAND AS WAS GRANTED TO THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOMELAND.

BUT WHILE ALL THIS POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WAS BEING HAGGLED, , THE JEWISH PEOPLE CONTINUED TO BE DISENFRANCHISED SINCE THE ROMAN INVASION IN 70 A.D., 1900 YEARS EARLIER. Many thousands of Jews remained in Israel and old Jerusalem; but they were consigned to non-status residents and had no say in the governance of their land.

“The Jewish people have been attached more devotedly to Palestine than have any other people to their fatherland. With deep passionate love and strong tender affection, they have throughout the ages spoken of the country as the Land of Israel. Wherever they went they carried with them this undying love for the land. To them Palestine was permeated with sacredness and a spirit of holiness as was no other land. They dreamed about it, and knew its rivers and mountains better than those of their native country. They gave their money to keep some of their people there. Because of this faithfulness to the dream of the land, the Jews often fared badly at the hands of their fellow men. Their books were frequently burned, their feasts derided, their synagogues plundered, their cemeteries desecrated and their shops pillaged. Although entire communities were forced into ghettoes or prisons - or exile, yet the ideal of their race continued. (Abraham to the Middle East Crisis / Owens / page 282)

A Jewish prayer at the conclusion of the Passover Feast illustrates this passion of the Jews to return to the land:

How long, O Lord, how long? Will thine anger not be turned away from Thy people and wilt Thou have mercy and restore us to Thy favor? Behold our suffering. We are scattered among the heathen. They mock us, saying where is thy God, where is the promise of His coming? We grow faint, yet we hope. Lord our God, may it please Thee to gather Thy people speedily. Restore us Thy favor, at least next year may we celebrate this feast with Thee in Jerusalem, Thine own habitation.

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3 ZIONISM was born in the late 1890s under the leadership of Dr. Theodor Herzl.
4 Zionism was a move to return Jews to Israel, a move certainly predicted by the Old
5 Testament prophet Ezekiel. Herzl had biblical reason to believe such a “return” would
6 happen.

7
8 **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

9 **The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord,**
10 **and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, [2] And caused**
11 **me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open**
12 **valley; and, lo, they were very dry. [3] And he said unto me, Son of man, can these**
13 **bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. [4] Again he said unto me,**
14 **Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the**
15 **Lord. [5] Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to**
16 **enter into you, and ye shall live: [6] And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring**
17 **up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live;**
18 **and ye shall know that I am the Lord. [7] So I prophesied as I was commanded: and**
19 **as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came**
20 **together, bone to his bone. [8] And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came**
21 **up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.**
22 **[9] Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to**
23 **the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and**
24 **breathe upon these slain, that they may live. [10] So I prophesied as he commanded**
25 **me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an**
26 **exceeding great army.**

27 **[11] Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel:**
28 **behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our**
29 **parts. [12] Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God;**
30 **Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your**
31 **graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. [13] And ye shall know that I am the**
32 **Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of**

1 **your graves, [14] And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place**
2 **you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and**
3 **performed it, saith the Lord.**

4
5 This scripture was fulfilled in the late 40's. There was immediate and constant
6 harassment from the Arab nations when the Jews began to return. Skirmishes and all-
7 out battles began as Jews were hounded throughout the land. The Arabs had made up a
8 majority of the population of that part of the world for nearly 13 centuries. To them,
9 Jerusalem was the Holy City, second only to Mecca and Medina. To face the prospect
10 of any part of Palestine being taken from them was a just cause for “jihad” or a holy war.
11 The United Nations had gathered to decide whether or not to declare A PARTITION
12 PLAN, where by a portion of the land of Palestine would be set aside for Jewish
13 occupation. **It was a tense time in the UN. Abba Eban, who I met several times**
14 **and interviewed once, was a vital part of that time. Now dead, Eban made this**
15 **filmed report before he died:**

16 **VIDEO / ABBA EBAN AND THE VOTE FOR PARTITION**

17
18
19 On May 14, 1948, Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion declared Israel as a sovereign
20 independent state, a move that was immediately supported by then U.S. President Harry
21 Truman. It is interesting to me that Ben Gurion stated publicly: “The Bible is our
22 mandate. The mandate of the League of Nations is only a recognition of this right and
23 does not establish new things.”

24
25 From our text writer, Grant Jeffries: “At the end of World War I, the Allies broke up
26 the Ottoman Empire which had allied itself with Germany. 88% of the land that was
27 initially granted by the League of Nations and Great Britain to the Jewish national
28 homeland was arbitrarily torn away by Britain and given to the Arabs in 1921. The
29 British had promised Emir Faisal that he would be king of Syria. In the diplomatic
30 shuffle after World War I, the French received the mandate to rule Syria, and France set
31 up a separate Arab leadership. In an attempt to placate Faisal, the British offered him the
32 crown of Iraq. Winston Churchill then offered 80% of the British Mandate to Faisal’s
33 brother Abdullah as emir of the newly created territory called Transjordan. This illegal
34 annexation of 80% of the Promised Land helped create the disaster that still troubles the
35 Middle East. **OUT OF SOME 5 MILLION SQUARE MILES OF FORMER TURKISH**
36 **(OTTOMAN) TERRITORY, ARAB NATIONS RECEIVED 99.8 PERCENT OF THE**
37 **LAND. This territory is now 21 independent Arab nations with a total population in**
38 **excess of 200 million. The Arab nations also received the enormous oil reserves that**
39 **were discovered in the 1930s. ISRAEL RECEIVED LESS THAN ONE-FIFTH OF**
40 **ONE PERCENT OF THE LAND – ONLY 8,000 SQUARE MILES.”**
41 (The Coming World War / Jeffries / pages 26 and 27)

1 The Israeli Declaration of Statehood in May of 1948 triggered the War of Independence.
2 The Arab nations truly believed they could easily and quickly destroy the young State of
3 Israel. NOTE: THE ARAB MEDIA AND POLITICAL LEADERS FROM
4 SURROUNDING ARAB NATIONS APPEALED TO THE ARAB RESIDENTS OF
5 PALESTINE TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES SO THAT INVADING ARMIES COULD
6 PURGE THE LAND OF ALL RESIDENTS WITHOUT INADVERTENTLY
7 ATTACKING ARABS. The Jews encouraged the Arabs to stay! Most did not and
8 left Israel of their own volition! On April 27, 1950, the Arab National Committee of
9 Haifa wrote a memorandum to the Arab governments that read: “The removal of Arab
10 inhabitants was voluntary and carried out at our request. The Arab delegation proudly
11 asked for the evacuation of the Arabs and their removal to the neighboring Arab
12 countries.” Thus the stimulus for Arabs leaving their homes came from Arab leadership
13 and not from the Jews. (See Jeffries - pages 27 and 28)
14

15 Further, in 1960 King Hussein of Jordan stated that the Arab nations that had rejected the
16 existence of a Jewish state had added to the plight of Palestinian refugees by keeping
17 them in refugee camps and not allowing them to integrate as Arab citizens in the
18 countries where they had settled. Hussein added, “Since 1948 Arab leaders have
19 approached the Palestine problem in an irresponsible manner. They have used the
20 Palestinians for selfish political purposes. This is ridiculous and I could say even
21 criminal.”
22
23

PASTOR’S NOTE: While I certainly don’t concur with everything that the Israeli government has done in recent years, it is my feeling that the world view toward Israel ought to be based upon historic and biblical fact, not on CNN and other left-leaning news agencies that have an obvious axe to grind. Nor can our current government be excused for its continuing neglect of putting our U.S. Embassy in the Israeli capital, which is Jerusalem. All these years, our embassy has been in Tel Aviv. This has been an obvious caving in to Middle East oil interests and is, I believe, an affront to God.

24
25
26 In the meantime, you and I have lived to see the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy of the
27 restoration of Israel.
28

29 **Ezekiel 34:13**

30 **And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries,**
31 **and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel**
32 **by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.**
33

1 HOW THE LAND OF ISRAEL WILL BE AFFECTED DURING THE MILLENNIUM

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3 1. Here again is the basic scenario of end-time prophecy:

- 4 ● The Rapture
- 5 ● The raptured saints will gather at the Judgment Seat of Christ and then be
- 6 ushered (hopefully) into the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- 7 ● On earth, Antichrist will rise to power and the 7 year tribulation will begin
- 8 ● The Battle of Armageddon will end this tribulation period
- 9 ● Jesus will return (the Second Coming)
- 10 ● Jesus will rule the earth for 1,000 years - the Millennium

11
12 2. All of God's promises to Abraham will be totally fulfilled in the Millennium:

13
14 **Isaiah 10:21-22**

15 **The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. [22]**
16 **For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall**
17 **return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.**

18
19 **Isaiah 19:25**

20 **Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and**
21 **Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.**

22
23 Remember that Abraham sired Ishmael by Hagar, an Egyptian girl, the handmaiden of
24 his wife Sarah. God made great promises to Hagar and Ishmael, many of which will be
25 fulfilled in the Millennium ("blessed be Egypt my people and Assyria") While God is
26 not through with the Jews, He is not done with the Arabs either.

27
28 **Isaiah 43:1**

29 **But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee,**
30 **O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou**
31 **art mine.**

32
33 **Isaiah 65:8-9**

34 **Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith,**
35 **Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may**
36 **not destroy them all. [9] And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah**
37 **an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall**
38 **dwell there.**

39
40 **Ezekiel 34:24**

41 **And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I**

1 **the Lord have spoken it.**

2

3 What a fascinating promise! During the Millennium, David will serve as a co-regent
4 with Christ from the seat of government in Jerusalem.

5

6 **Isaiah 11:1-2**

7 **And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow**
8 **out of his roots: [2] And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of**
9 **wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge**
10 **and of the fear of the Lord;**

11

12 **Isaiah 55:3**

13 **Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will**
14 **make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.**

15

16

17 THE MILLENNIUM WILL BE CHARACTERIZED BY:

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19 ● **RIGHTEOUSNESS** Isaiah 26:2

20 Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

21

22 ● **OBEDIENCE** Psalm 22:27-28

23 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds
24 of the nations shall worship before thee. [28] For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the
25 governor among the nations.

26

27 ● **HOLINESS** Isaiah 4:3-4

28 And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in
29 Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in
30 Jerusalem: [4] When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion,
31 and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of
32 judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

33

34 ● **TRUTH** Isaiah 10:20

35 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are
36 escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but
37 shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

38

39 ● **THE FULNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** Joel 2:28-29

40 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and
41 your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your

1 young men shall see visions: [29] And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in
2 those days will I pour out my spirit.

3

4 Keep your eyes on Israel, good friend. It is the barometer of prophecy. Is it possible
5 that this generation will pass before all of the realities of Christ's coming are manifest? I
6 believe we are so close to that "catching away."

7

8 Let us never grow weary in spirit, even though we might grow weary in body. Let us
9 always abound in the work of God, occupying until He comes.

10

11

12 **Next time: DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS**