

Chapter 12B: Israel

1. History of Israel: how did we get to this place?

Gen 15:18-21

Gen 17:8

Josh. 1:2-6

Summary of history:

Before 1406 BC	Canaanite nations
1406 (or 1220) BC	Conquest by Israel
1010-971 BC	King David
971-931 BC	Solomon
	Babylonian Empire (beginning with Nebuchadnezzar)
586 BC	
	Persian Empire (beginning with Cyrus)
539 BC	
	Greece (beginning with Alexander the Great)
333 BC	
142 BC	Independent Israel (Maccabean revolt began in 167 BC)
	Roman Empire (beginning with Pompey)
63 BC	
330 AD	Byzantine Empire
636AD	Muslim rule, then various Muslim or Christian (Crusader) rulers
	Ottoman Empire (beginning with Turkish)
1517 AD	
1917 AD	British rule (at end of WW I)
1948 AD	Israel as independent nation

The establishment of modern Israel

Nov. 2, 1917: Balfour Declaration from Government of United Kingdom:

“His Majesty’s government view with favour 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 enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”

Nov. 29, 1947: UN Resolution 181: recommended 2 separate nations in Palestine, Jewish and Arab, but Arab residents refused this

May 14, 1948: Israel declared independence as nation (May 15: attacked by 5 nations)

May 11, 1949: admitted as member of UN (now 160 nations have recognized)

Bernard Lewis: “an exchange of populations” during 1947-48

Jews: accepted in Israel Arabs: not accepted by any other Arab nation

Reason: The need to preserve Palestinians as separate entity until they have the whole of Palestine

2. Present-day negotiations:

Is the question the size of Israel or its existence?

3. Arabs living in Israel today

a. Can vote, hold office (12 of 120 members of Israeli parliament – Knesset – are Arabs), serve as judges (incl. 1 on Supreme Court), serve in army (even some Arab generals)

b. Population and size: Israel: 7.2 million people (5.5 M Jews), 8,522 sq. miles of land
Arab nations in Middle East: 266.8 million people (almost 40X Israel),

- 2,494,782 sq. miles (almost 300X Israel). This includes Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Iran.
- c. Israel's treatment of minorities (esp. Christians and Muslims)
4. Suicide bombing and the Israeli security fence.
An attempt to stop suicide bombings – intentionally targeting innocent civilians for years.
Built 2003- present, not complete. Up to 24 feet high.
5. Controversy over Gaza:
- Gaza Strip: in SW Israel, 25 miles long, appx. 4 – 7.5 mi. wide. 139 sq. mi., 1.5 M people.
 - Israel took possession Six Day War, June, 1967. Many Jewish settlers in 21 communities.
 - In 2005, Israel withdrew in seeking “land for peace”: Uprooted 8000 people from homes.
 - Rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel began in 2000, increased after 2005. 12,000 missiles into Israeli towns, esp. Sderot
 - Dec. 27, 2008: Israeli air strikes. Jan. 3, 2009: ground invasion.
 - UN Human Rights Council: Goldstone Report: accused Israel of carrying out war crimes.
 - President Obama's comment after visiting Sderot when running for President.
6. What is the solution to Arab-Israeli conflict?
- Negotiations?
 - Just war? (self-defense)
 - First step for Western nations:
7. Does God still give special favor and protection to the nation of Israel?
- Dispensationalists: Yes, because Israel will be saved during Great Tribulation, inherit the land.
 - Non-dispensationalists: Unsure, because Jewish people have rejected Jesus as Messiah, and OT promises to Israel now fulfilled in the church.
Heb. 8:8-13, 1 Pet. 2:1-10
 - What can both sides affirm?
 - Jewish people today: no special “second path” to salvation apart from Christ
 - A distinctive future for the very people of Israel who have rejected Christ:
Rom. 11:12, 15, 17, 20, 24-29
8. Should the United States give special protection and favor to Israel?
- We should never support any nation “no matter what they do”
 - We should still treat Israel as a special and close ally (I disagree w/ Ron Paul's “noninterventionist” policy)
 - Our most reliable ally in Middle East
 - One of most advanced nations in world: see George Gilder, *The Israel Test* (2009)
 - Establishment of Israel as nation in 1948: morally legitimate and affirmed by UN and most nations (US: first to recognize, by Harry Truman, 11 min. after Israeli declaration)
 - Additional reasons for Christians to support this policy
 - A refreshing ally in terms of moral convictions of Judaism
 - God's plan for future salvation of Jewish people through accepting Jesus as Messiah
See Gen. 17:8: And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an *everlasting* possession, and I will be their God." (this is not the “Old Covenant” = Exod. 20 onward, with Moses)
 - Spiritual component behind current Israel-Arab conflict