

WHOSE

LAND?



The International Christian
Embassy Jerusalem,
Finnish Branch



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Juha Ketola

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The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem,
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PART 1 Ulla Järvilehto

**A brief review of historical facts
concerning the Middle East**

Israel is a legitimate state, whose people have historical and ethical rights to their own land.

1.

- The State of Israel has existed for over 3000 years, whereas there has never been an independent Palestinian Arab state located in Israel's territory.

- The State of Israel thrived the most during the era of King David and King Solomon, in the first millennium before Christ.

- Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the State of Israel in the year 70 after Christ. The people of Israel were scattered to other countries. However, a small number of Jews have lived in the territory of their historical homeland throughout the times. The Romans renamed the country Palestine, after Israel's archenemies Philistines, and Jerusalem Aelia Capitolina.

- During the diaspora of the Israeli nation, its land has been in the possession of different conquerors. It was, in turn,

in the possession of the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arabs, the crusaders, the mamluks, the Ottoman Turks (for 400 years between 1516 – 1917), and after World War I, the British Mandate government, until the reestablishment of the State of Israel in 1948. There has never been an independent Palestinian state in the territory.

- Between and after the world wars, in addition to the Jewish state, four Arab states were established in the British and French mandate territories: Iraq, Transjordan, Syria, and Lebanon. So, the Arabs of Middle East did not receive less in the partitioning of countries.

2.

- Jerusalem has never been the capital of any other nation than Israel, and it became Israel's capital already 3000 years ago, during the time of King David.

3.

- Three legitimate international organizations have promised Israel its land

in the 20th century: the British Mandate in 1917 in the Balfour Declaration, The League of Nations in 1922, and the UN in 1947. However, the territory has been divided smaller each time, and thus the promises originally given to Jews have been broken. In 1922, 77 percent of the territory earlier promised to Israel was divided to Palestinian Arabs and Bedouins. Today, the country is called Jordan. Israel was left with only 23 percent of the territory.

- In 1947, the UN proposed to further partition the 23 percent left for Israel to Arabs and Jews. Israel announced that it accepts the partitioning, but the Arab side announced that it does not accept the partitioning, but rather wants to take ownership of the whole territory. Immediately after Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948, the Arabs started a war of aggression against Israel, but lost it despite having a superior number of military troops.

4.

- Israel has bought its land twice with plain money. Before World War I, the Jewish Rotschild banker family gave a big loan to the Turkish Sultan, in whose possession the land then was. As a collateral for the loan, was a land area to the Jews from their ancient homeland. The loan was never paid off.

- The second time, Israel bought its land as single plots from private landowners with the funds of the Jewish National Fund, established in 1901. Many of the landowners lived in the big cities of the Middle East, such as Beirut.

5.

- Israel has bought its land with its blood in the War of Independence, which the neighboring states declared and started, as well as in many defensive wars after it.

6.

- Israel has cleared a swampland desolate of cultivation and inhabitation.

In a land, where there were only about 600,000 inhabitants at the beginning of the Jewish return migration (also called aliyah), now lives a nation of over 7 million people, thriving settlements, cultivations, and fishponds.

- A large part of the Arabs who have lived in the land of Israel have moved to the territory after the Jewish settlers, because the land has began to thrive at the hands of the Jewish immigrants, and so offered a higher standard of living than the surrounding areas. The great immigration of the Arabs after the Jews has been documented in UN documents, and it is also mentioned in the correspondence between US President Roosevelt and UK Prime Minister Churchill.

7.

- The Arabs have 21 states with capitals, natural resources, and oil. The Jews only have one state, the acreage of which is approximately 1 percent of that of the Arab territories.

8.

● Israel offered peace to its Arab neighbors, but the neighbors started a war of aggression against Israel in 1948. As a result of this war started by the Arabs, an Arab refugee problem was created, and approximately 650,000 Arabs fled from Israel's territory. These refugees have been held in refugee camps, instead of being housed in Arab countries among their brethren. Israel accepted an equal number of refugees coming from Arab countries into its own land. Hence, there has been an equal population exchange between the countries. Similar population exchanges have also occurred elsewhere: Turkey-Bulgaria, Turkey-Greece, India-Pakistan. In no other cases, has there been a claim for a onesided right to return.

Therefore, the often repeated claim that Israel would have stolen the land from the Arabs is completely without historical or ethical evidence.

PART 2 Juha Ketola

**A brief review of the Bible's
message concerning Israel's
property rights to its own land**

1.

Israel got its land area for the sake of the redemption of all mankind.

“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you... So Abram went... and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.” – Gen. 12:15

● Galatians 3:8 tells us how God, in this context, preached to Abraham the ‘good news’, i.e., the gospel of the Redeemer of mankind, Abraham’s descendant, Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah. For this promise to come true, a nation was needed, as well as a land area for that nation.

2.

Israel's property rights to its own land are eternal and are based on the promises God gave and the covenant he made with Abraham.

"Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever." – Gen. 13:14-15

- God, as the owner of all land (Lev. 25:23, Psalms 24:1), gave Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan as an eternal possession. God gave this same promise also to both Isaac and Jacob (Gen. 26:3, 35:12), and later also to Moses and Joshua (Ex. 6:8, Joshua 1:36).

"On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates" – Gen. 15:18

- God confirmed the promise he gave to Abraham by making a covenant with him.

3.

The right of the nation of Israel to live and enjoy life in the land area God promised them forever depends on their relationship with God.

"If you will not listen to me... I will scatter you among the nations" – Lev. 26:14-33

"if you do not obey the Lord your God... You will be uprooted from the land... Then the Lord will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other..." – Deut. 28:15-64

"Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the Lord their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors..." – Lev. 26:44-45

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land... I will give you a

new heart... and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors..." – Ez.36:24-28

*"for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."
– Rom.11:29*

- God exiled the Israeli nation from its own land twice (586 B.C. and 70 A.D.) due to its disobedience and idolatry, and thus in his love chastised and admonished it. True to his covenant, God has also brought them back both times. During the exiles, the nation has never lost its property rights to the land, only temporarily its right to enjoy living there.

- Jeremiah prophesied the first exile of the Jews and their return (Jer.29:10), Jesus their second exile and return (Luke 21:24). Jesus also declared that the second return of the nation to its own promised land and to Jerusalem was a sign of God's kingdom coming to earth and his nearing royal

return to rule Israel and all of mankind (Luke 21:24-27).

4.

The nation of Israel shall live safely and thriving in its own land area, and shall fill the whole earth with its fruit, for God will redeem and brighten the nation of Israel.

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced.” – Zech.12:10

“all Israel will be saved.” – Rom.11:26

“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem.” – Zech.14:4

“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’ Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city.” – Acts 1:11-12

See also Zech.14:4-19, Rom.11:12,15

Isa. 2:14, Isa. 27:6

- The Bible only talks about two exiles, both of which have already taken place (Isa. 11:11, Amos 9:14-15). The restoration of the Israeli nation to its promised land will be followed by their restoration to their God. "Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors" (Ezek. 36:28).

PART 3 Prophet Joel

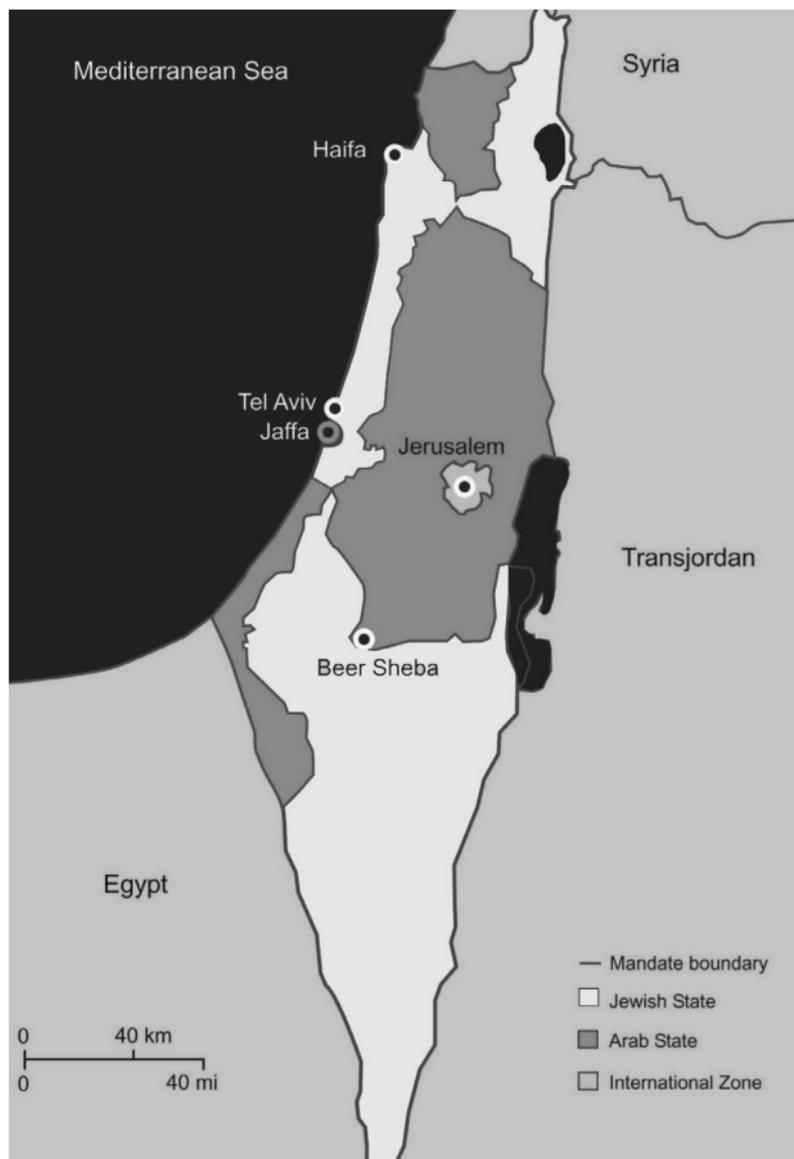
"I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land."



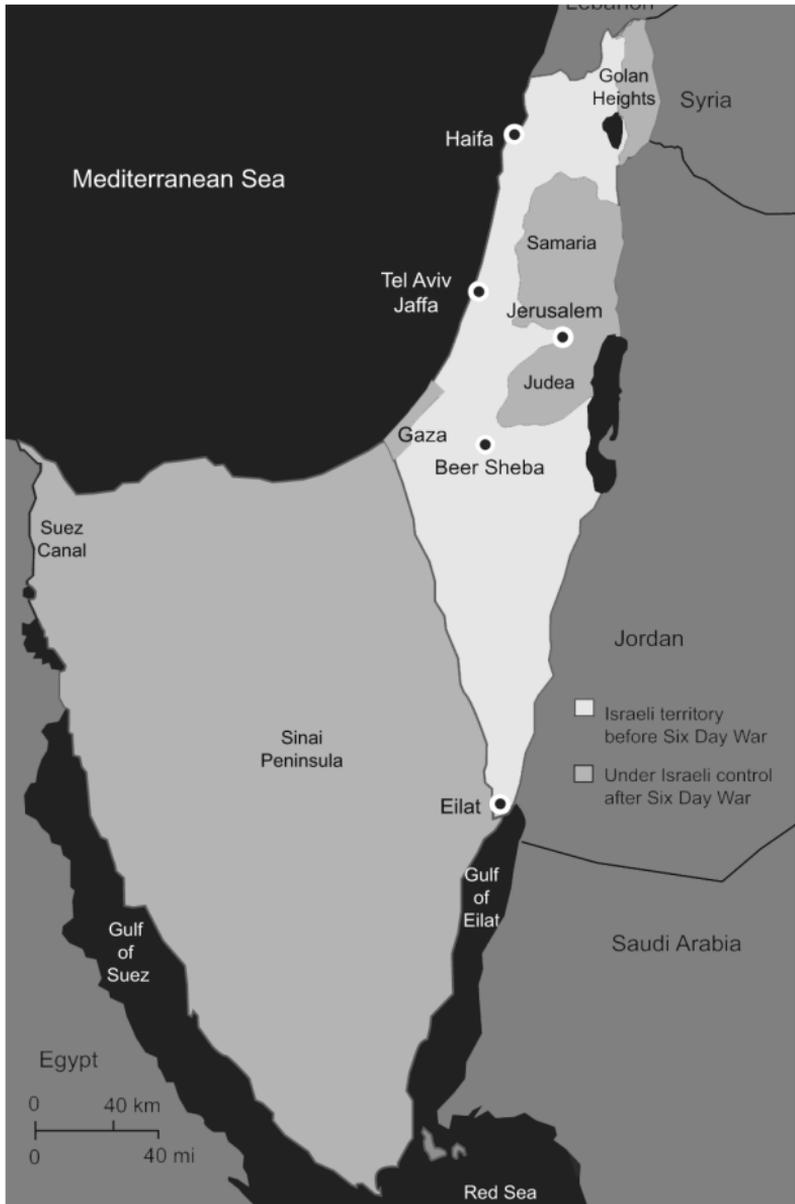
The period of the British Mandate starting from the San Remo conference in 1920.



The partition into the Jewish National Home and Transjordan in 1922.



The United Nations Partition Plan for the State of Israel in 1947.



The situation after the Six Day War in 1967.



The situation after the Yom Kippur War in 1973.



The Borders today.





Israel surrounded by Muslim states.

In this booklet, Ulla Järvilehto
and Juha Ketola recount the
historical and biblical facts
which prove that the land of
Israel really belongs to Israel.



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