



*In the beginning...*

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

# The Book of Genesis

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## Part 1

- Genesis 1, 2 Creation
- Genesis 3 Fall of Man
- Genesis 4 Cain & Abel
- Genesis 5 Genealogy of Noah
- Genesis 6-9 Flood of Noah
- Genesis 10-11 Table of Nations & Tower of Babel

## Part 2

- Genesis 12-20 Abraham
- Genesis 21-26 Isaac
- Genesis 27-36 Jacob
- Genesis 37-50 Joseph



*In the beginning...*

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

The  
Unconditional  
Covenant  
Chapter 15

# Genesis 15

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Genesis 15:1

- If we do not know God as our shield, we don't understand our predicament!
- Abram now knows experientially that God is his Protector
  - He had just defeated 5 kings with his small army!

# Our Predicament

- Our adversary seeks whom he may devour!
  - 1 Peter 5:8
- The Devil would sift us like wheat
  - Luke 22:31
- Also, we wrestle against spiritual wickedness
  - Ephesians 6:21
- ...and against the flesh
  - which *easily* ensnares us - Hebrews 12:1
  - And makes us *think* we can stand! – 1 Cor 10:12

# Our Shield & Defender

- Jesus 'ever liveth to make intercession' for us
  - Hebrews 7:25
- Jesus prayed: *“keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are”*
  - John 17:11

# Our Shield & Defender

<sup>11</sup> And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.

**2 Chronicles 14:11**

# Our Shield & Defender

<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

**Philippians 4:13**

<sup>13</sup> Without me ye can do nothing.

**John 15:5**



# Genesis 15

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, **Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.**

Genesis 15:1

- We are to lay up our treasure in heaven...
- ...but have we considered that Jesus is our greatest reward?
- *“I let go of all I have just to have all of You...”*
- Perfect love casts out fear! – 1 John 4:18

# Genesis 15

<sup>2</sup> And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

**Genesis 15:2-3**

- We have a surviving fragment of an ancient document by 'Nicolaus of Damascus' dating to c.20 B.C. citing 'Abram's' visit and stay in Damascus in between leaving Haran before arriving at Canaan

# Genesis 15

- <sup>4</sup> And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.
- <sup>5</sup> And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.
- <sup>6</sup> And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

# Abram's Faith

- We don't need faith to believe *in* God!
  - there is overwhelming evidence in creation and the Word!
- We need faith to believe God!
  - i.e. to believe in His promises by faith!
- This is given as an eternal example of faith
- This is also the first mention of God's Plan of redemption
- The promise of Genesis 3:15 now takes on substance

# Justification by Faith

- 1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
- 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.
- 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

**Romans 4:1-3**

# Justification by Faith

<sup>5</sup> He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? <sup>6</sup> Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. <sup>9</sup> So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

**Galatians 3:5-9**

# Justification by Faith

<sup>23</sup>And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

**James 2:23**

# Genesis 15

<sup>7</sup> And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. <sup>8</sup> And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? <sup>9</sup> And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. <sup>10</sup> And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.



# Jeremiah 34

<sup>17</sup> Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

**Jer 34:17**

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Jer 34:17

# Jeremiah 34

18 And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof,

19 The princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land, which passed between the parts of the calf;

**Jer 34:18-19**

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Jer 34:18-19

# Genesis 15

<sup>11</sup> And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; <sup>14</sup> And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

# Abram's Vision

- Abram's seed to be strangers in a foreign land
- They shall be servants
- They shall be afflicted Ex 1:8 'New king who knew not Joseph'
- The affliction will last 400 years Ex 12:40 'Sojourning 430y'
- God will judge the nation that afflicts them 10 plagues
- They will leave with great wealth Ex 12:35-36
- They will return to this land (Canaan) v16

# Genesis 15

<sup>15</sup> And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

<sup>16</sup> But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

Gen 15:15-16

*“Iniquity of the Amorites not yet full” ?*

- They need to sin a bit more?
- God is giving them time to repent?
- The end of something is in sight:
  - the influx of the Nephilim would cease



# Genesis 15

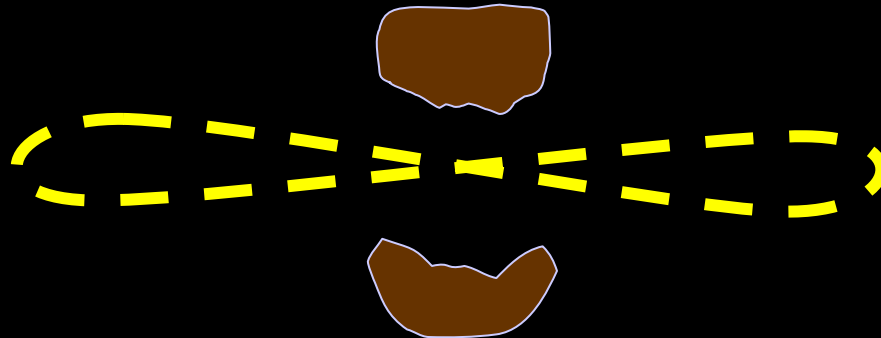
<sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. <sup>18</sup> In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: <sup>19</sup> The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, <sup>21</sup> And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

# Genesis 15

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# Unconditional Covenant

- Abram falls into a deep sleep
- God makes His declaration without Abram's participation
- Explained in Jeremiah 34:18-19
- God alone passes through the sacrifices
- *'barath'* to cut a covenant



# The Terms of the Covenant

- Declared eternal and unconditional
- Re-confirmed by an oath: Gen 22:15-18
- Confirmed to Isaac and to Jacob: Gen 26:2-5  
*(despite their acts of disobedience);*
- NT declares it immutable: Heb 6:13-18

# The Promised Land

- The Boundaries are Unmistakeable
- *“from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates”*

# The Promised Land



Wadi el Arish  
River of Egypt

River Euphrates

# The Promised Land



# Boundaries of the Land

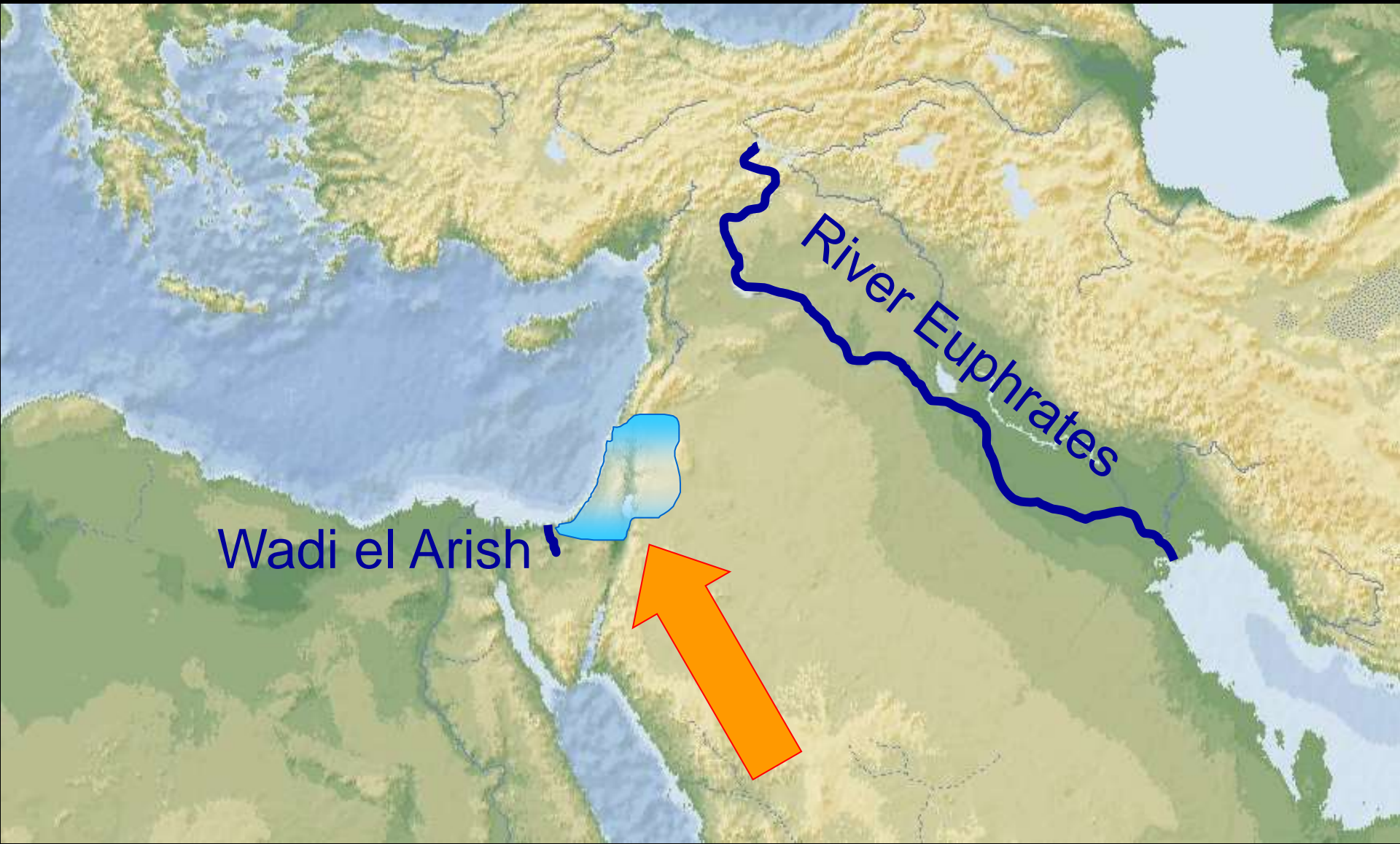
- Abraham was promised the land between the river of Egypt and the Euphrates,  
Gen 15:18–21; cf. Deut 11:24
- The full extent of the land promised was never possessed
  - For a brief period during the reigns of David and Solomon, Israel held the land from the Euphrates to the Gaza strip, or from Dan to Beersheba  
1 Kings 4:24–25
  - Nevertheless, the ideal of the promise was not lost sight of  
Ezek 47:15–20
- *The promise to Abraham awaits fulfillment.*



# History of the Promised Land

- Abram will die in the Land
- His son Isaac will die in the Land
- His grandson Jacob will die in Egypt
- Then when the 400 years are complete...
- Moses will lead Israel out of Egypt
- Joshua will lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land

# Inheritance Under Joshua



# Inheritance Under Joshua



# Consolidation Under King David

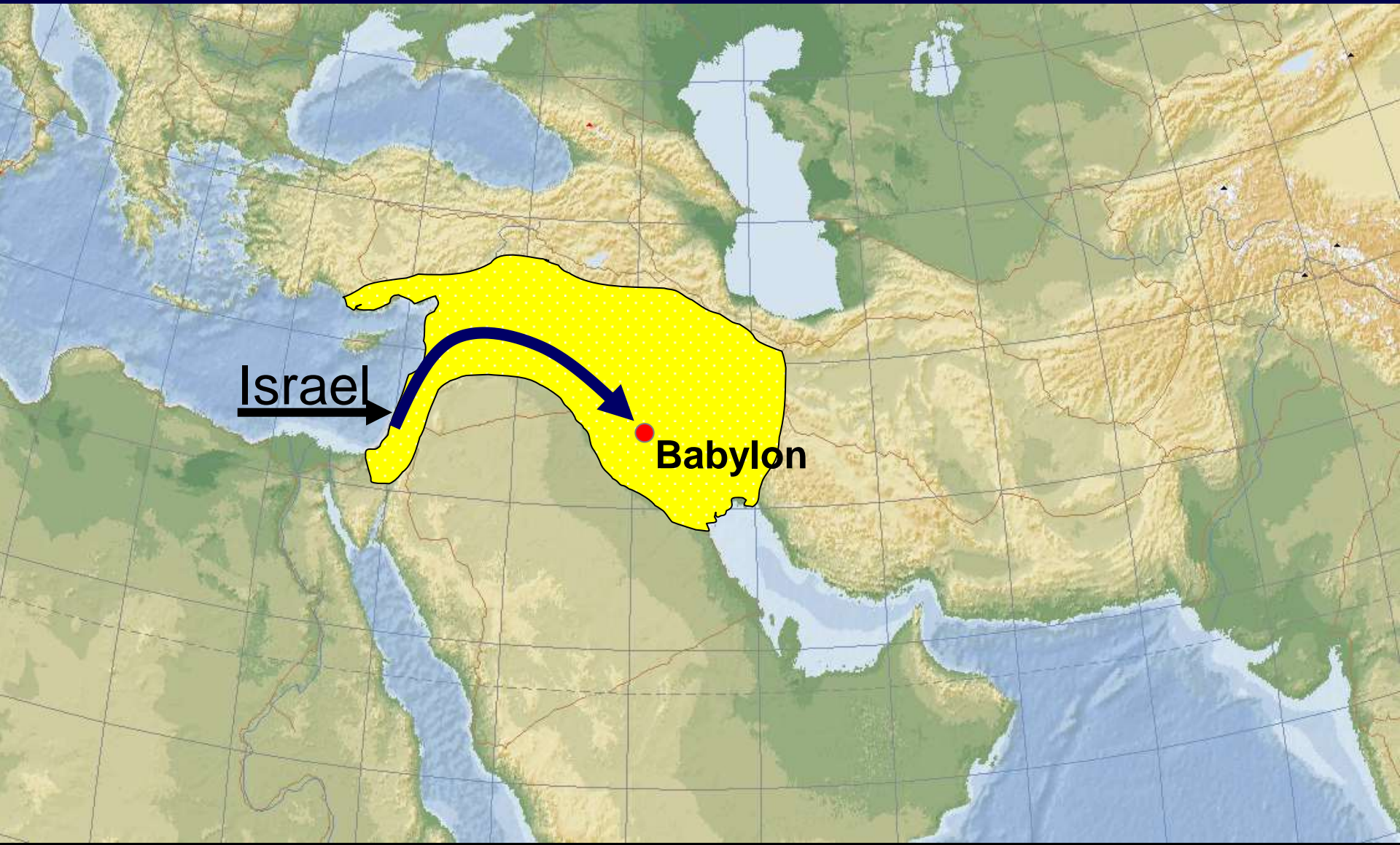


# Last Remnant Before Captivity



# Babylonian Empire

606-539 BC



# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

**Gold**

**Babylon**

**Silver**

**Persia**

**Brass**

**Greece**

**Iron**

**Rome I**

**Iron + Clay**

**“Rome II”**



# Persian Empire

539-332 BC



Israel



# Greek Empire

332 – 68 BC



Israel

# Roman Empire 68 BC – 476 AD



# Byzantine Empire 330 - 1453



# Rise of Islam

633-732



# Ottoman Empire 1299-1918



# Sykes-Picot Agreement 1916



# British & French Mandate 1918



# 1917 Balfour Declaration

- A short note from Britain's foreign secretary, A. J. Balfour, to Lord Rothschild, one of Britain's most prominent Jews, stating that,

*“His Majesty’s Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”*



# 1917 Balfour Declaration



# 1922 British Partition

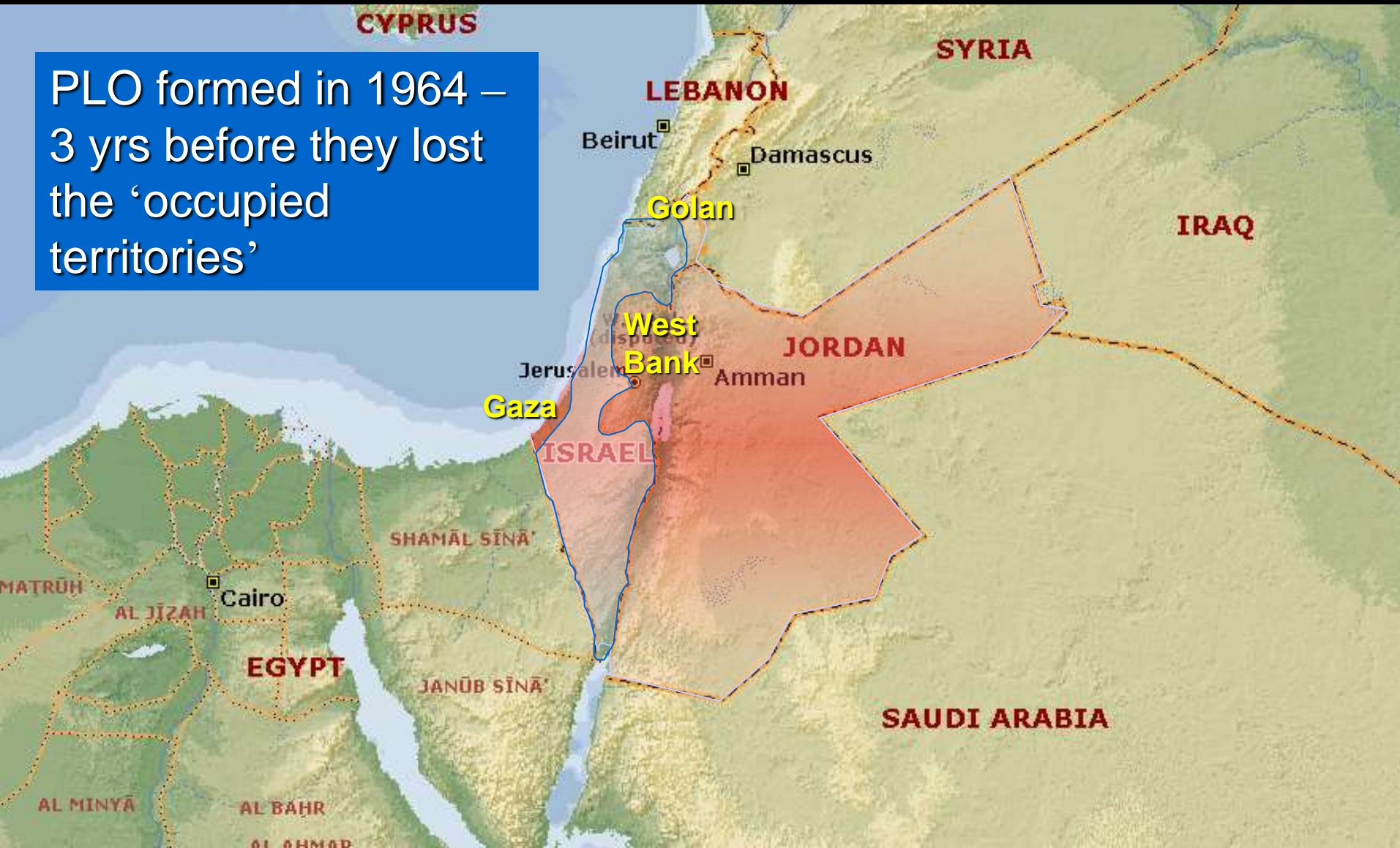


# 1948 UN Partition



# 1948-1949 War of Independence

PLO formed in 1964 –  
3 yrs before they lost  
the ‘occupied  
territories’



# 1967 6-Day War



# 1978 "Camp David" Partition



# 1993 “Oslo Accords”



# 2003 "Road Map" Partition



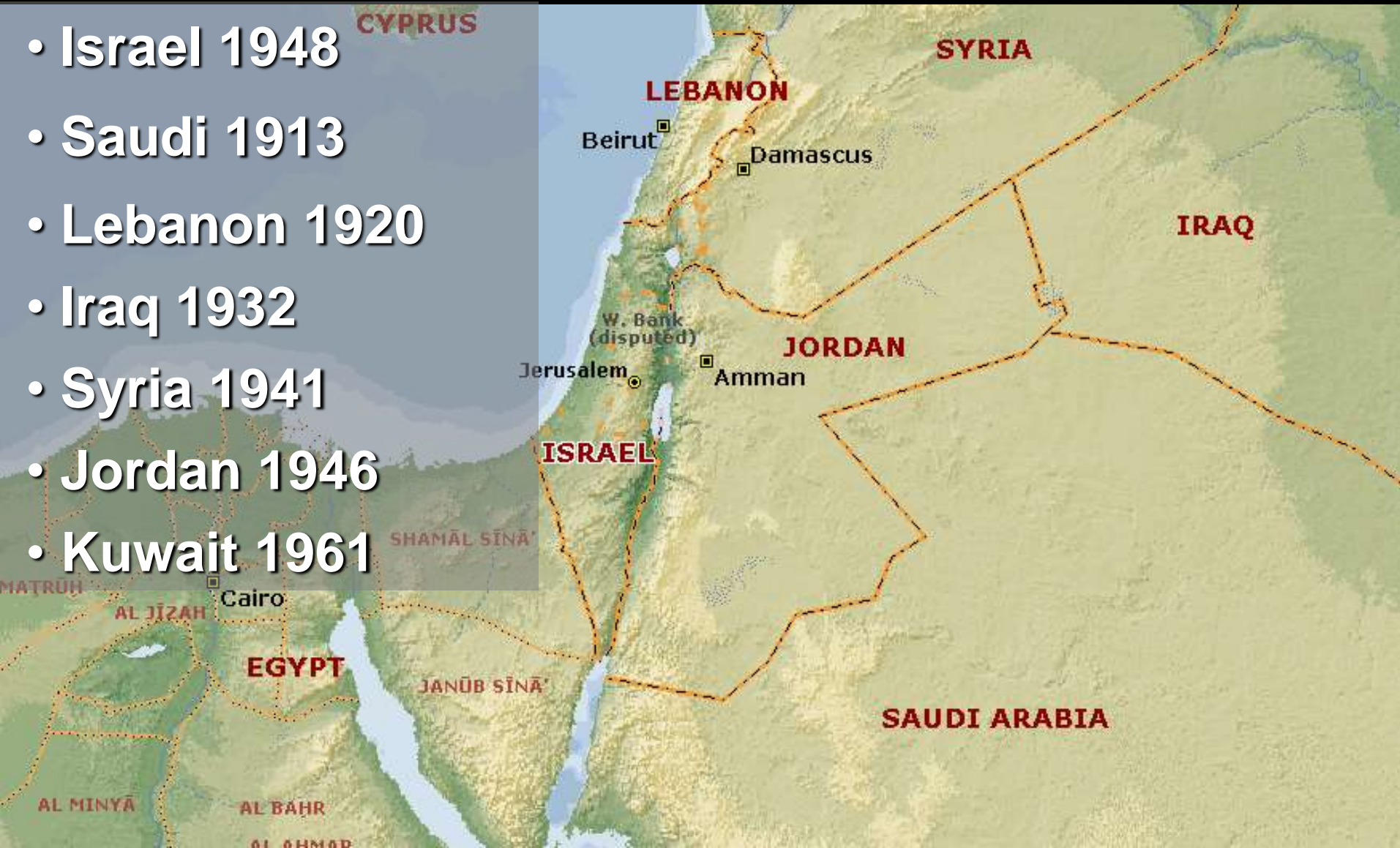


# 2006 Hamas Elected



# Nation Status?

- Israel 1948
- Saudi 1913
- Lebanon 1920
- Iraq 1932
- Syria 1941
- Jordan 1946
- Kuwait 1961



# United Nations Bias



- Of 865 Security Council resolutions passed before 1990:
  - 526 were directed against Israel 61%
- Of 690 General Assembly resolutions voted on before 1990:
  - 429 were directed against Israel. 62%
- During 5 wars against Israel
  - No UN resolutions against the Arab Nation

# United Nations Bias



- November 2003 – Israel introduced it's first resolution since 1976.
- Israel requested that Arab terrorist not target Israeli women and children.
- It was rejected.
- The UN then adopted a resolution that demanded protection of Palestinian children from Israel!

# A Cup of Trembling

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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**

One Third of all UN resolutions have to do with Israel (1:1000 of the worlds population)

# Not Reckoned

<sup>8</sup> How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?

<sup>9</sup> For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

**Numbers 23:8-9**

# Not Reckoned

*“Israel has been a member of the United Nations for more than 50 years. Yet she is not allowed to take her 2 year term as one of the 10 rotating nations (joining the 5 permanent ones) on the UN security council.*

*Of the 191 current members, 190, including the worst terrorist nations, are allowed to take their turns on the security council - but not Israel.*

*Nor is Israel, as already noted, allowed to take a rotating turn on the 50-3-member UN commission on Human Rights.*

# Not Reckoned

*All of the other 190 UN member nations are allowed to do so.*

*These have included Libya, Cuba, Zimbabwe, and other egregious violators of human rights. Incredibly, Sudan, where more than 2 million blacks in the south have been slaughtered by Muslims, has been voted in for a third consecutive term.*

*But Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is excluded, as the Bible foretold”.*

**Dave Hunt – Judgment Day**



# The Promised Land?

- What of the Promise given to Abram?
- Revealed in the Vision given to Ezekiel
  - Chapters 45-46

# Israel in the Millennial Kingdom



# Israel's Right To The Land

- Historical right – land of their fathers
- Archaeological – Jews presence for 3000 yrs
- Practical value – the desert is now fruitful  
Isaiah 32:10-15 / 41:18-19 / 43:19-20
- Humanitarian – the Jews need a homeland
- Balance – the only democracy in the Middle East
- Religious right – Israel 2565x, Jerusalem 811x
- Divine right – the God of Heaven said so!

*“The survival of the Jewish people is the greatest proof of the existence of Almighty God. If there were no God in Heaven, there would not be one Jewish person on the earth”*

**“Reluctant Witnesses” - Stephen R. Haynes**



*“Queen Victoria once posed this question to her prime minister Benjamin Disraeli. She asked, “Can you give me one verse from the Bible that proves there is a God?” He thought for a moment and responded, “I can give you the answer in just one word.” “What is it?” she wanted to know. Disraeli replied, “The Jew, Your Majesty.”*



*“An eminent man once said:  
“The universal dispersion of the  
Jews throughout the world, their  
unexampled sufferings and their  
marvellous preservation, would be  
enough to establish the truth of the  
Scriptures if all other evidence was  
cast in into the sea””*

**Reluctant Witnesses - Stephen R. Haynes**



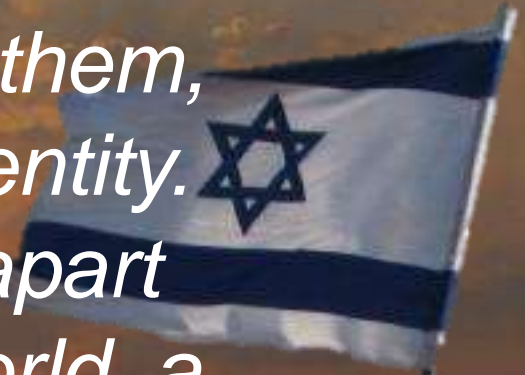
*“The very existence of the Jews in history, together with all that has happened to them in their long turbulent history, is proof that there is a God present and active, through His Holy Spirit, in history. By all normal laws of geography, history and ethnography, they ought as a distinct race to have disappeared long ago!”*

**David Torrance**



*“Despite wars, persecutions and repeated attempts to obliterate them, they have kept their peculiar identity. They have remained a people apart from the other nations of the world, a testimony to the preserving hand of God. **“For I the Lord do not change therefore , you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed”** (Mal 3:6)*

David Torrance





*“If the Bible is in error concerning Israel, its major subject, then all of the synagogues and Christian churches that claim to base their beliefs upon those scriptures ought to admit that fact and shut their doors. If, however, the Bible is true, then the nations of the world ought to govern their conduct accordingly; for if they do not the consequences will be disastrous”*

**Dave Hunt**



# God's Promise

<sup>35</sup> Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

<sup>36</sup> If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

**Jeremiah 31:35-37**

# God's Promise

<sup>37</sup> Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 31:35-37**

# Next Session

- The Life of Abraham cont'd...



# *The Book of Genesis*

*In the beginning...*  
מֵהֵלֶכֶת אֵלֶּיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ



calvary  
chapel  
portsmouth

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