

## 4. The Israel Question

[www.victory.net.nz](http://www.victory.net.nz) 15.09.2024  
[www.youtube.com/c/VictoryChristianCentre](http://www.youtube.com/c/VictoryChristianCentre)

Sub-title: The history of the establishment of the modern State of Israel

Many people today ask themselves whether they should support Israel or the “Palestinians”, especially in light of the recent war that was sparked by the Hamas-led attack against Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

As believers we should be on the side of:

- Righteousness
- Biblical truth
- Biblical covenants

Last week’s main points:

1. God is on the side of Israel (by covenant)
2. God’s enemies are usually anti-Zionists & enemies of Israel
3. Palestinian Incursion into Israel’s Territory on October 7, 2023
4. (Israel is at war with terrorists)

### 1. Shall a Nation be born at once

**Isaiah 66:8 (NKJV)** *Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children.*

- This scripture is sometimes applied to the birth of the modern state of Israel
- However, specifically, this is a prophecy about Israel being born (restored) as a nation at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ
- Quotes from Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament:
  - “Political Israel” was born on May 14, 1948, but it is a nation in unbelief
  - “Righteous Israel” will be born when Jesus Christ returns and they see Him and trust Him
  - It took years of political “travail” for the present Israel to become a nation
  - The restored nation will be born in a day when they see Christ

## **2. The birth of the modern State of Israel**

- The modern state of Israel is a regathering of the descendants of the Jews from ancient Israel & Judah
- The modern state of Israel was established on Friday, May 14, 1948
- On that day, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the Israeli Declaration of Independence, formally known as “the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel”
- David Ben-Gurion was:
  - the Executive Head of the World Zionist Organization
  - Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Palestine
  - Became the first Prime Minister of Israel

## **3. Sequence in the leadup to Israel’s Declaration of Independence**

- (For hundreds of years, Jews have uttered the phrase “next year in Jerusalem” at the end of their annual Passover meal)
- In the late 1800’s, Theodor Herzl, a Jew with a vision for a Jewish State founded the Zionist Movement
- In 1897, at the First Zionist Congress, he/they proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national revival in their own country
- All this happened against the backdrop of terrible persecution of Jews in Europe and Russia
- On 2 November 1917, this “right” of their own homeland was affirmed by the “Balfour Declaration”
- The British Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour wrote a letter to Lord Lionel Rothschild, a Zionist, and made the following statement:
  - Dear Lord Rothschild. I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet:  
"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object..."
- The Ottoman Empire (Turks) had controlled the region of Palestine for 600 years, until October 1918 when they were defeated near the end of the First World War
- After the end of the First World War, the region of Palestine was carved up by the League of Nations, and administered by the French and British

- The British Mandate included present-day Israel, Gaza, Westbank & Jordan (Map of 1920)
- In 1923, Great Britain allowed the Hashemite dynasty to administer the portion of the mandate east of the Jordan River, called Transjordan, and granted it full independence in 1946 (Map of 1948)
- The land west of the Jordan River remained under direct British mandatory administration until 15 May 1948, when their mandate of Palestine was terminated
- On November 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Resolution for the establishment of an independent Jewish State in Palestine, and called upon inhabitants of the country to take such steps as may be necessary on their part to put the plan into effect
- The United States, under the administration of President Truman, led the way in November 1947, and was responsible for the resolution of the United Nations setting up Israel, not only as a homeland, but as a free and independent political state
- On Friday, May 14, 1948, at 4pm, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the Israeli Declaration of Independence, also known as "the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel"
- Also on May 14, 1948, US President Harry Truman recognised the new state of Israel just minutes after its founding
- Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East

• Eight hours after Ben- Gurion read the Declaration of Independence, the Egyptian Air Force dropped its first bombs on the outskirts of Tel Aviv

- The Arab League countries of Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon invaded & attacked the newly-formed nation of Israel the very next day
- Israel's War of Independence lasted until early 1949
- Since then, Israel has fought

#### **4. Two-State Solution**

- There is much talk about a separate state for the Palestinian people
- King Hussein of Jordan said in 1981, "The truth is that Jordan is Palestine and Palestine is Jordan"
- Winston Churchill said in 1921 in Cairo one Sunday afternoon "with the stroke of a pen" he created the British mandate of Transjordan, now known as the Kingdom of Jordan
- (Map of Israel imposed on NZ Map)

## 5. Israel is at war with terrorists

**Zechariah 2:6–13 (NIV)** *“Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north,” declares the Lord, “for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven,” declares the Lord. 7 “Come, Zion! Escape, you who live in Daughter Babylon!” 8 For this is what the Lord Almighty says: “After **the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye—9 I will surely raise my hand against them** so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me. 10 “Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the Lord. 11 “Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. 12 **The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. 13 Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”***

- An angel speaks of God assigning him against Israel’s enemies
- God says to Israel – whoever touches you, touches the apple of my eye
- He says: I will surely raise my hand against them (Israel’s enemies)
- Vs. 13. Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling