

7. Why can human efforts not resolve the conflict between Arab and Jew over Palestine?

- Many world leaders, with good intentions, good will and diplomatic skill, have sought to resolve the conflict between the Arab peoples and the Jewish people in Palestine. For nearly one hundred years these efforts have been underway but there has been no resolution and none is now in sight.
- From a human standpoint, there is no solution, because the conflicting claims are rooted in ancient family feuds that cannot be reconciled. Each branch of the family, Arab and Jewish, has its own sacred scriptures that establish competing entitlements and neither side can concede their position to the other without denying their faith.
- Neither the Jewish claim nor the Arab/Islamic claim acknowledges that Christ is the heir of the land and that Jerusalem is first and foremost his city — the city of the great king — and through his sacrificial offering, all peoples of the earth will be blessed by his reign.

7. Where are world events leading? How will they affect us all?

- Events are leading to a divinely appointed conclusion.
- The UN has increasingly become a biased institution with a deliberate anti-Israel agenda. The UN's obsession with Israel has served to bring this nation forward to the attention of the whole world as God's witness to His plan. God will use the opposition of the nations to declare His purpose and establish it in the earth. That purpose will be accomplished when the Lord Jesus returns from heaven.
- Each of us needs to determine where we will stand in that day and how we relate to the eternal purpose that God has proclaimed in His Son — for the city (Jerusalem), for the land (Israel), and for the whole earth.

For Further Discussion and More Information

Questions? If you would like to ask a question to the speaker, James Farrar, please email him at: james@jayeffpartners.ca – James lives in the Niagara Region of Ontario, Canada.

To contact the sponsors, the Henderson Christadelphians (Brethren in Christ), please email Jim Haagen at haagen@bellsouth.net or visit the Henderson Christadelphians at their meeting place on 515 Barren Church Rd. N., Henderson, KY. Sunday services are held at 10:00 a.m. (Sunday School) and 11:00 a.m. (Memorial Services).

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The UN, Israel, Christ And You

1. How did the United Nations become involved with events that led to the establishment of Israel in 1948?

- The United Nations was formed at the end of the Second World War to be a general international organization with the primary goal of maintaining *peace* and *security*.
- As a result of World War I, the geopolitical map of the Middle East profoundly changed. The Ottoman Empire lost control over Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine. The League of Nations, a precursor international organization to the UN formed after World War I, conferred the mandate for administration of Palestine on the United Kingdom (UK) in 1922.
- After World War II, the UK, noting “that the Mandate has proved to be unworkable in practice, and that the obligations undertaken to the communities in Palestine [Arab and Jewish] have been shown to be irreconcilable”, referred the issue of governing Palestine to the UN.
- The UN formed the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) in early 1947 and it recommended, in its majority report, that Palestine be divided into two separate states, one Arab and one Jewish, with Jerusalem itself under UN administration.
- This recommendation, known as the Partition Plan, was adopted by the General Assembly as Resolution 181 on November 29, 1947.
- The UK announced that it would unilaterally withdraw from Palestine and end the mandate on May 14, 1948. That day Israel declared itself to be the Jewish state.

2. How do these events relate to the Bible?

- The prophet Joel speaks of “all the nations” dividing up or parting God's land (Joel 3:1-3) at the time when God was working to restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, that is, bringing the Jewish people scattered among the nations back to their own land
- The conflict between the Arab and Jewish peoples in Palestine has ancient roots. In each of the generations of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, there were disputes over lands and inheritances that caused intense conflict and hatred within the family. This conflict has persisted through the generations and was re-ignited when the Jewish people returned to claim their ancient land including Jerusalem. The Bible characterizes this conflict as one of “perpetual hatred” (Ezekiel 35:5) of Esau towards Jacob, leading to much bloodshed.
- God ordained, as recorded in the Bible and disputed in the Koran, that the inheritance of the land would pass to the seed of Abraham in the line of Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

3. What was God's purpose in bringing the scattered Jewish people back from the lands of their dispersion to the holy land He promised to Abraham and his seed?

- According to Galatians 3:16, citing the promise concerning the land that God gave to Abraham in Genesis 13:14-15, the promise was TO Abraham and TO his seed. This "seed" is identified as Christ. *Christ* is a translation from Greek of the Hebrew word *moshiach*, from which comes the English title *Messiah*, and means *anointed* (John 1:41). The *anointed one* is the title of an office used by God to designate the man He has chosen to serve as king and priest.
- The promise to Abraham concerning the land was confirmed by an oath and by a covenant; and according to the custom of ancient times, the covenant needed to be brought into force through the death of the covenant victim, that is, one offered as a sacrifice in which blood was shed. It was necessary that Christ be this covenant victim, that by his death, the covenant concerning the land inheritance could be brought into force, much like the death of a testator brings a last will and testament into effect (Hebrews 9:15-18). What was special about this promise of land to Abraham was that it would be *forever*. The description of this inheritance in the Bible is that it was to be *eternal* and *everlasting* (Genesis 17:7-8).
- The first purpose of the return of the Jewish people was to create the conditions in the land to which Christ will come again. He will establish a kingdom centred in Jerusalem that will govern the world (Isaiah 9:6-7). This kingdom will provide great blessing to all people of the earth, leading to the end of war and the establishment of peace and justice.

4. Who is he that will judge the world?

- The Psalms and prophets speak of one who will judge the world (Examples: Psalm 72:1-14, Isaiah 2:1-5).
- In the Scriptures of the New Testament, in the address he gave to the men of Athens, the apostle Paul identified this man as Jesus, the Christ, and stressed how God gave assurance to all men of Christ's future role by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:31).

5. What are the missing words, first in the citation of Isaiah on the plaque at the UN peace garden in New York and second, in Prime Minister Netanyahu's citation of Amos in his address to the UN General Assembly in October 2013?

- In Isaiah, the context is omitted, that "He [that is, Christ] shall judge among the nations" and through his rule, the end of war will be achieved.
- In Amos, the full declaration that it is God Himself who "will restore the fortunes of Israel, to plant them on their land, and to give them the land" was omitted. Without divine intervention, none of the promises of God will be accomplished in the earth. That intervention requires the personal return of Christ to the earth.

6. Why has the relationship between the UN and Israel been uneasy? Why has Israel been singled out for condemnation by the UN more than any other nation on earth, including by its agencies such as UNESCO and the UN Human Rights Council?

- *Example #1*—The UN Human Rights Council has Israel permanently on its agenda at every session and has passed more resolutions condemning Israel than all other countries of the world combined. It is condemned with greater frequency and ferocity than Syria where over 100,000 people have been brutally killed in civil war and millions left as refugees.
- *Example #2* — The UN General Assembly passes resolutions every fall session condemning Israel. The most egregious was a resolution in December 1998 in which Israel was the only nation on the earth that voted against the declaration that "the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem is illegal, and therefore, null and void and has no validity whatsoever." [UN Document A/53/L.52]
- The Bible indicates that Jerusalem would be a source of global agitation (Zechariah 12:2-3); it describes a deliverer coming in the future at a time when the people of Israel dwell alone and are not reckoned among the nations (Numbers 23:9;24:17-19; Isaiah 63:1-5). These prophecies could indicate that Israel's relationship with the UN will further deteriorate to the point where Israel's membership is suspended or it is expelled. At the very least, they indicate that Israel will be isolated in the community of nations as is now the case.
- Israel's deliverance will be provided by the one who holds the Sceptre that comes out of Israel — the sceptre is the symbol of the king, the Anointed, the Christ.
- The nations assemble against Jerusalem [keep in mind that the name of the UN body where pronouncements against Jerusalem are made is the *General Assembly*] and propose that the city of Jerusalem be defiled (that is, in Bible language, taken from the control of Israel and given to the Gentiles — see Luke 21:24). But the prophet says that the nations do not understand God's plan for the city (Micah 4:11-12).
- Just months before the birth of the Lord Jesus, a cousin was born named John the Baptist. John's father was a priest named Zacharias who foretold the work of Christ at the birth of his own son. He stated that the special child who would be born (Jesus) would save Israel from their enemies and the hand of all who hate them, bringing to Israel the mercy promised in the holy covenant, in the oath that was made to Abraham (Luke 1:68-75). As Jesus did not accomplish this role in delivering his people from their enemies at his first coming, he must fulfill it at his second coming — an outcome that requires that Israel be hated and have enemies in the world at the time of his coming.
- The attention Israel receives by the UN has assured that, even though Israel represents only 0.1% of the world's population, all people on the face of the earth have heard about it.