

The Fight for Land – Who holds the key?

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Last week I provided some comments about the current conflict going on in and around the modern state of Israel. I know that Israel calls it a war, but that seems to be exaggerated at the moment.

Right now, the residents of Gaza are completely under siege with limited water, food, electricity, internet access, medical supplies and shelter. It took weeks just to get some humanitarian aid. It's a prison, and Israel holds the keys.

Amazingly, there is talk of an emergency aid package to Israel. They receive almost 4 billion dollars a year from the United States. It has been two weeks since the Hamas attack, but there is already an urgent need for more money while the United States is bankrupt.

Just to give a little perspective on the "war," Israel has over 4,000 tanks while Hamas has none. The Israeli Air Force has 581 aircraft while Hamas has a few paragliders. The Israeli Navy boasts a fleet of battleships, submarines and helicopters, while Hamas has some modified fishing boats.

The IDF has estimated available personnel of 646,000 while Hamas has an estimated fighting force of 40,000. Israel has nuclear weapons and the unwavering support of the United States of America. And let's

not forget the two carrier strike groups and rapid response teams that America has to watch Israel's back.

This is just a very brief comparison. When you dig deeper into the incredible sophisticated weaponry in the IDF arsenal, it's almost mindboggling.

Yes, Hamas brutally attacked the southern Gaza border area and they have been firing thousands of small rockets, but it's an incredibly lopsided confrontation.

Regardless, Prime Minister Netanyahu was quick to declare that it was going to be a long and difficult war. Hamas was immediately compared to ISIS of the Gaza, and the attack was called Israel's 9/11 and Pearl Harbor.

Well, 9/11 resulted in the never-ending "War on Terror" and Pearl Harbor led to nuclear bombs being dropped on civilian populations. These were not very responsible comparisons, but they were definitely purposeful. The "surprise" narrative was necessary for Israel to justify their anticipated response of wiping Hamas off the map.

So, despite the present disparity in the strength of the adversaries, all of the war rhetoric is probably going to lead to a full-scale war if things continue the way they are going. It's a powder keg for sure.

Recognizing this reality, my main point last week was to caution against getting drawn into taking sides. While the world loves to polarize people into opposing camps, we are in the Camp of Elohim.

Remember when Joshua met the "man" prior to the siege of Jericho?

“¹³ When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, ‘Are you for us, or for our adversaries?’ ¹⁴ And he said, ‘Neither; but I am the commander of the army of YHWH. Now I have come.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, ‘What does my lord say to his servant?’ ¹⁵ And the commander of YHWH’s army said to Joshua, ‘Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy (set apart).’ And Joshua did so.” Joshua 5:13-15

When asked what side he was on, his response was “neither.” That should be our position. We should not be cheerleading either side in this current conflict involving the modern State of Israel.

To some, my message was unexpected, even shocking, while to others it was sobering, grounding, and even humbling.

Sometimes the truth is like a splash of cold water or a slap in the face. It can wake us out of our slumber if we are willing to receive it.

It’s time for the followers of Yahushua to wake up and be ready like the five wise virgins described by Him in the parable of the Ten Virgins. (see Matthew 25)

I’m thankful for all the feedback that I received and I’m happy to report that there was only one person who unsubscribed. I think by now I’ve either offended all the people who can be offended or else this community is very spiritually mature – probably both.

Sadly though, the majority of the people who claim to follow Yahushua need to wake up.

I think it is obvious that my comments were accurate as we see the Gaza situation devolve into a human tragedy.

I know that it is easy to get emotional and caught up in taking sides when you see and hear about horrible atrocities involving violence and brutality rendered upon innocent people. Nevertheless, we need to stay focused and the focus of this conflict is a piece of land promised to the descendants of Abraham.

Last week I quoted Joshua when he oversaw the renewal of the Covenant at Shechem. This was a fulfillment of the promise to Abraham. His physical descendants, along with a mixed multitude of people, were finally going to inherit the Land.

The generation before them was prohibited from setting foot in the Land because of their adultery with an Egyptian god.

It could be argued that their hearts were in the right place. They declared “a Feast to YHWH.” (Exodus 32:5) They simply worshipped Him like an Egyptian god.

Well, that argument doesn't hold water. It's the same thing as a Christian's claiming to worship YHWH like a bunch of Babylonian sun worshippers. When you point out that Jesus (Iesus) is a child of Zeus or that their Christmas trees represent the phallus of Nimrod, the typical response is “that's not what it means to me!”

They have decided how they are going to worship YHWH instead of worshipping Him as He specifically directs. That is exactly what the people did at Sinai. It's not kosher.

The people at Sinai saw and heard the words of YHWH and they were supposed to wait for Moses, the Messenger of YHWH. They grew impatient and acted presumptuously. The consequences were devastating. Actions have consequences.

Well, Shechem was where YHWH was going to reinforce what He expected from them and He framed it in terms of blessings and curses.

But why this place? Why Shechem?

Recall our previous mention of Sukkot, when Jacob (Yisrael) returned to his family and dwelled in Sukkot? He then moved to Shechem and bought a piece of Land.

An incident occurred between the Prince Shechem and Jacob's daughter Dinah.

Was it rape or consensual sex? Was she abducted by Shechem or did she fall in love and prepare to marry him? The Scriptures are unclear, and there are numerous variant traditions surrounding the incident.

I tend to believe that it was consensual sex. The Scriptures record that Dinah "*went out to see the women of the land.*" Genesis 34:1

It seems like Jacob's children were mixing with the inhabitants of the Land. That point becomes abundantly clear later on.

So, Dinah was hanging out with the Canaanite women and ended up having sex with an uncircumcised Canaanite man.

Since the act was outside of a marriage contract, Dinah was humiliated. She lost her virginity outside of a marital relationship and therefore was "used goods" so to speak. That was a death sentence to a woman in ancient times. It could have doomed her ability to get married and have children.

If it was consensual, she likely recognized her mistake and was probably ashamed to return home to incur the wrath of her brothers.

Well, Shechem and his father Hamor stepped up. They came and attempted to make peace and Shechem wanted to marry Dinah. He essentially said “name your price and I’ll pay it.” He obviously loved Dinah.

There is no evidence that Dinah was “betrothed” (engaged) to another man at the time. So here is the Torah commandment that would apply.

“²⁸ If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found,²⁹ then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days.” Exodus 22:28-29

So, it seems that Shechem was willing to go far beyond the Torah. That should have settled the matter.

But here is where the problem begins. While Jacob was the one who had authority, “the sons of Jacob” were the ones who struck the deal. They agreed to allow Shechem to marry Dinah, and become “one people” only if the men of Shechem took the sign of the Covenant and were circumcised.

The men of Shechem all complied. They wanted peace. They wanted to become one (echad) with the children of Jacob.

Things were looking good. It seemed like the Shechem outreach was a success. They won a bunch of souls and got a bunch of converts for YHWH.

There was only one problem. While they were so focused on the sign, they neglected the reason for the sign.

While the Canaanites had complied with the peace agreement, the sons of Jacob acted deceitfully. Their “crusade” was not over. In fact, it had only just begun.

Here is what happened next.

“²⁵ On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. ²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem’s house and went away. ²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹ All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered.” Genesis 34:25-29

Was that a proper Torah response? Absolutely not!

Because of the actions of one man (Shechem), the two sons of Jacob killed all the men. Mind you, men who had just been circumcised.

The sons of Jacob then stole everything from the inhabitants of Shechem and even kidnapped their women and children.

Doesn’t that seem a little excessive? It sure was.

The funny thing is that when I was a Christian I used to think that it must have been the proper response since they were, after all, the children of Yisrael.

As the chosen people, they could do no wrong. Right?

Well, that seems to be the general attitude of most Christians today toward the Jewish people. Maybe even most Americans. Unwavering and unflinching support for Israel is the typical response. It doesn't matter how bad their actions are. It's ok because they're Israel.

The conduct of the sons of Jacob at Shechem was wrong. Period. And people should remember the Shechem incident when considering the modern State of Israel's response in Gaza. They have already displaced over a million people, killed four times the number of people that Hamas killed, and they are just getting started.

The actions of the older sons was treacherous and way over the top. Jacob called it a "stench." As a side note, I suspect that Joseph was not involved since he was likely less than 10 years old.

Here was Jacob's response to the actions of his older sons.

"² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, 'Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. ³ Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the Elohim who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.' ⁴ So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the oak tree that was near Shechem."
Genesis 35:2-4

What's up with all the foreign gods? Why did they have them? They were dressing and acting like Canaanites. They definitely weren't following YHWH wholeheartedly.

Interestingly, Jacob hid them under the same oak tree where Abram had originally visited when he came into the Land. (see Genesis 12:6) That was purposeful.

Jacob knew he needed to get back on track, so he followed the steps of his grandfather and went to Beit El - the House of Elohim.

That was where he had previously seen the portal, or gateway into YHWH's kingdom. They needed to "repent," get cleaned up and turn their faces toward YHWH.

Now let's return to Shechem when the people finally entered into the Promised Land. Moses had already provided the specifics of the ceremony they needed to conduct. We read about it in Deuteronomy 27 - 28. The point was to emphasize the blessings associated with obedience and the curses associated with disobedience.

Here is a description of the curses for disobedience.

"¹⁵ But if you will not obey the voice of YHWH your Elohim or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. ¹⁷ Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ¹⁹ Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. ²⁰ 'YHWH will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. ²¹ YHWH will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ²² YHWH will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. ²³ And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. ²⁴ YHWH will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed. ²⁵ 'YHWH will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one

way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. ²⁷ YHWH will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. ²⁸ YHWH will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, ²⁹ and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you. ³⁰ You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit. ³¹ Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you. ³² Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless. ³³ A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually, ³⁴ so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see. ³⁵ YHWH will strike you on the knees and on the legs with grievous boils of which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head. ³⁶ YHWH will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone. ³⁷ And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where YHWH will lead you away. ³⁸ You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it. ³⁹ You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them. ⁴⁰ You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off. ⁴¹ You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity. ⁴² The cricket shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your

ground. ⁴³ The sojourner who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. ⁴⁴ He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. ⁴⁵ All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of YHWH your Elohim, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you. ⁴⁶ They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. ⁴⁷ Because you did not serve YHWH your Elohim with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom YHWH will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. ⁴⁹ YHWH will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, ⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young. ⁵¹ It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish. ⁵² They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which YHWH your Elohim has given you. ⁵³ And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom YHWH your Elohim has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you. ⁵⁴ The man who is the most tender and refined among you will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of the children whom he has left, ⁵⁵ so that he will not give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating, because he has nothing else left, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in all your towns. ⁵⁶ The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter, ⁵⁷ her

afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns. ⁵⁸ If you are not careful to do all the words of this Torah that are written in this Scroll, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, YHWH your Elohim, ⁵⁹ then YHWH will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting. ⁶⁰ And he will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. ⁶¹ Every sickness also and every affliction that is not recorded in the Scroll of this Torah, YHWH will bring upon you, until you are destroyed. ⁶² Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of YHWH your Elohim. ⁶³ And as YHWH took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so YHWH will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶⁴ And YHWH will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. ⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but YHWH will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul. ⁶⁶ Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life. ⁶⁷ In the morning you shall say, 'If only it were evening!' and at evening you shall say, 'If only it were morning!' because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see. ⁶⁸ And YHWH will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer." You Deuteronomy 28:15-68

That's pretty serious, and it all happened to Yisrael because of their disobedience.

After providing the details of the ceremony to be held at Shechem, Moses gave final warnings.

“¹⁸ Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from YHWH our Elohim to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, ¹⁹ one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.’ This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike. ²⁰ YHWH will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of YHWH and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and YHWH will blot out his name from under heaven. ²¹ And YHWH will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant written in this Scroll of the Torah. ²² And the next generation, your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which YHWH has made it sick - ²³ the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which YHWH overthrew in his anger and wrath - ²⁴ all the nations will say, ‘Why has YHWH done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’ ²⁵ Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of YHWH, the Elohim of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, ²⁶ and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. ²⁷ Therefore the anger of YHWH was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this Scroll, ²⁸ and YHWH uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day. ²⁹ The secret things belong to YHWH our Elohim, but the things

that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this Torah.” Deuteronomy 29:18-29

Again, if the people were to remain in the Land, they needed to remain obedient to YHWH. Otherwise, they would be removed.

Now consider what Joshua said at Shechem, when the Covenant was renewed with the generation that finally entered into the Land.

“¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, ‘You are not able to serve YHWH, for He is a holy (set apart) Elohim. He is a jealous Elohim; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake YHWH and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.’ ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, but we will serve YHWH.’ ²² Then Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen YHWH, to serve Him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses.’ ²³ He said, ‘Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to YHWH, the Elohim of Yisrael.’ ²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, ‘YHWH our Elohim we will serve, and his voice we will obey.’ ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. ²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the Scroll of the Torah of Elohim. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of YHWH. ²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of YHWH that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your Elohim.’ ²⁸ So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance. ²⁹ After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of YHWH, died, being 110 years old. ³⁰ And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash. ³¹ Yisrael served YHWH all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that YHWH did for Yisrael. ³² As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Yisrael brought up from Egypt,

they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.” Joshua 24:19-32

To this day, the bones of Joseph rest in that same place, and there are even remnants of the stone as well in the ancient ruins of Tell Shechem.

That land belongs to Joseph, who inherited it from Jacob. It does not belong to Judah or the Jewish people.

That is an ancient entitlement to Land recorded in the Scriptures, along with a plot in Hebron purchased by Abraham, the location of the Temple purchased by David from Araunah and the field at Anathoth purchased by Jeremiah.

Ultimately though, it is completely up to YHWH who lives in His Land.

Now, I do a lot of real estate law and much of my work involves making sure that a “clean title” is passed from the seller to the purchaser.

Is the person claiming to own the property truly the owner? If so, what do they actually own and what is the proof of ownership? Are there any liens, encumbrances or use restrictions?

These are all questions that must be asked, so it is natural for me to look for the proof of ownership when considering land rights.

Well, over the past couple of weeks, I have heard a lot of people try to justify the actions of the modern State of Israel by claiming that they have a God-ordained right to the Land.

I have seen people show various timelines as a sort of proof that the Jewish people are entitled to take over the Land. The logic then continues that since they are entitled to the Land, they can essentially do anything they need to do to keep it.

These charts and timelines show examples of when Yisrael, the House of Yisrael and the House of Yahudah occupied the Land in the past.

I'm not going to repeat that information here. History is history, but the fact that the people of Yisrael used to dwell in the Land at some point in the past does not in any way give the Jewish people a pre-eminent right to dwell there now.

They refer to "The Law of Return" which assumes that the Jewish people were there before. This is a flawed argument.

First of all, if everyone was entitled to return to a place where their ancestors once lived, we would see a world in chaos.

Further, while the Tribes of Yisrael once inhabited the land, there is no proof that the Jewish people, particularly Ashkenazi and Khazarian Jews are even Semitic.

So attempting to identify with a group of people who dwelled in the Land nearly 2,000 years ago does not equate to a present day claim of ownership, or a right to return to the Land.

But we don't even need to go down that road, because the simple fact is that Yahushua prophesied judgment on the House of Yahudah.

John and Yahushua prophesied that the fig tree, representing Yahudah, would be cut down and thrown into the fire. (see Matthew 3:10 and Luke 13:6-9)

Yahushua cursed the fig tree, representing the House of Yahudah, and said it would no longer bear fruit. He said it was all over and He did not give them a return date, or a right of return outside of the Covenant renewed by His body and blood.

Even if the people who call themselves Jews are directly related to the Yahudim who once dwelled in the Land, it does not mean they have a right to go back now when they aren't even acknowledging the Messiah and the Renewed Covenant.

There was no promise of a return to the Land without the Messiah. It's really that simple.

So, while these timelines of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Yisrael in the Land provide some nice history, they ignore the most important point.

Both houses of Yisrael were evicted from the Land. The House of Yisrael is still in their exile period prophesied by Ezekiel 4, although that has expired during this generation. I have outlined a new book that shows how YHWH works through generations.

The House of Yahudah was given a second chance to return after their 70 year Babylonian exile. That return only involved a remnant of Yahudah.

It was a failure that culminated with the rejection of the Messiah. Again, There is no promise of another return to the Land for the House of Yahudah.

So while history records the presence of Yisraelites in the past, there is nothing to indicate that a Jewish people could return and form a secular government without Yahushua.

Yahushua prophesied that the generation of His time would see the destruction of the Temple, and they did.

Next week I will go a little deeper into the history of the Promised Land, because it's important to get straight.

The founders of Zionism and the modern state of Israel were not repentant, like Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah. Their desire was not to honor YHWH and obey His Torah. It was to find a safe space for the Jewish people.

They have had the backing of the New World Order and the Illuminati powers. While you may hear talking points that promote the Jews "right to return," those talking points do not have Scriptural support.

Were it not for the Holocaust, I imagine that the Zionists would have had to settle on Uganda, where they were actually looking to establish a Zionist state, among many other possibilities.

There was a big gap from 70 CE until 1948 CE, when the United Nations voted to partition land to Jews and "Palestinians."

I place the word "Palestinian" in quotes because the term Palestine was actually coined by the Romans. The so-called "Palestinians" could actually include Yahudim who remained as farmers after the Romans quashed the revolts.

The Palestinians may actually include Yahudim who converted to Islam long ago in order to remain in the Land.

So the Zionist claim for a Land set aside specifically for Jewish people that excludes "Palestinians" falls flat. Especially when Jewish people trace their heritage through the mother, which is completely opposed to the Scriptures.

They cannot prove that they are entitled to the Land based upon the Torah, and they cannot even prove that they originate from the Yahudim.

Of course, most Christians are not interested in the Land. They just want to get to Heaven. So if the Jewish People want to claim it, why not?

Well, the Land is an integral part of the promise to Abraham. Land and descendants to fill the land. If you follow the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, then you should be interested in the Land as well.

Here is the promise as originally given to Abram:

"² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:2-3

This promise was made to a man thousands of years ago as he was about to embark into a land filled with giants. It was not made to the present day Jewish people.

YHWH entered into a Covenant relationship with Abram so that He could raise up a people in the midst of the Nations.

It's important to understand that a covenant is a relationship between two parties. Each brings something to the table.

YHWH owns the Land and its bounty. The man Abraham would later enter into the Covenant of Circumcision.

The seed of Abraham would become a people who would tend the set apart Land. The Covenant relationship would extend to the Land.

It was just like Adam and the Garden. And just like with Adam - there were rules.

Adam could live in the Land (Garden), but he had to tend it and watch over it. He was a gardener.

“YHWH Elohim took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Exodus 2:15

The same held true with Yisrael. They could live in the Land, but they needed to abide by the rules.

Last week I talked about how Yahushua taught the Torah concerning loving your neighbor.

Here is the Command. *“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am YHWH.” Leviticus 19:18*

From the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Yahushua taught that our enemy is our neighbor.

He taught the following:

“⁴³ You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing

than others? Do not even the Nations do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Matthew 5:43-48

So residents of the Land are supposed to express the love of Elohim to their guests from the Nations. They are supposed to be witnesses on behalf of YHWH.

Yahushua also spoke about children. *“¹³ Then children were brought to him that He might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, ¹⁴ but Yahushua said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’” Matthew 19:13-14*

That’s who is going to be in the kingdom. In fact, the second recorded miracle in the Galilee and the first recorded healing involved a child. (John 4:46-54)

Incredibly, there are people cheerleading for a war so that a Zionist regime can annihilate a bunch of people, including children, whose ancestors were displaced and put into enclosed spaces.

If you support such conduct, because you believe supporting a Jewish state is a higher cause, you are sadly mistaken.

We all must answer to the One who said: *“but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”* Matthew 18:6 (see also Mark 9:42 and Luke 17:2)

Clearly, Yahushua places high value on the young and the innocent. Hamas is guilty of causing little ones to sin and destroying lives of little ones. The modern State of Israel has now killed over 1,500 children indiscriminately. They both have blood on their hands.

Of course, there is the commandment not to kill, or rather murder, found in the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:13)

The Hebrew word is “ratzach.” It literally means to “dash to pieces” and includes both intentional and negligent homicide.

If you are defending yourself or your family from someone trying to harm you, that is not murder. If YHWH sends you into battle and you face and kill an enemy, you are not violating the Command.

If, on the other hand, you walk into a village and slaughter defenseless men, women and children, that is murder.

I would also argue that when you drop a bomb on an apartment building that likely contains defenseless men, women and children, then that is murder as well.

You can say “we aren’t targeting civilians,” but that doesn’t relieve you of blood guilt. Bombing an apartment building is a lot different from bombing a military airfield, a strategic bridge or a tank on the battlefield.

The Torah provides the following punishment for a murderer:

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for Elohim made man in his own image.” Genesis 9:6

“Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death.” Leviticus 24:17

“Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death.” Exodus 21:12

“If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Moreover, you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer, who is guilty of death, but he shall be put to death.”
Numbers 35:30-31

Justice requires a measured response. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life. Remember Shechem.

It's a serious thing to shed the blood of the innocent, whether you are a Hamas terrorist or an Israeli soldier. Just because Benjamin Netanyahu says it is war doesn't mean it's ok to kill children, or the innocent.

And let's not forget the Commandment concerning treatment of the foreigner.

“You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am YHWH your Elohim.” Leviticus 19:34

Again, if YHWH allows you to dwell in the Covenant Land, then it is imperative that you treat the foreigner well. How you treat the stranger is a big deal to YHWH. In fact, it is well understood that one of the great sins of Sodom and Gomorrah was their mistreatment of strangers.

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.” Ezekiel 16:49

Currently there is a Jewish State occupying the Covenant Land and that state was founded based upon the political movement called Zionism.

While Zionism has a Biblical sound to it, there is nothing Scriptural about Zionism. It is a strictly a Marxist leaning political movement that essentially began in the late 1800's.

With the formation of the modern State of Israel, supported by the United Nations and the Illuminati, people have tried to point to a fulfillment of prophecy.

Sloppy eschatology and poor teaching has many Christians firmly entrenched in their support of the Jewish State, because they believe that it is consistent with their faith. Sadly, they are being deceived.

According to Ezekiel, there will be another miraculous return involving miracles like the exodus from Egypt.

"I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out." Ezekiel 20:34

That "second exodus" will eclipse the exodus from Egypt according to Jeremiah.

"¹¹ then you shall say to them: 'Because your fathers have forsaken me, declares YHWH, and have gone after other gods and have served and worshiped them, and have forsaken me and have not kept my law, ¹² and because you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to me. ¹³ Therefore I will hurl you out of this land into a land that neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor.' ¹⁴ Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH, when it shall no longer be said, 'As YHWH lives who brought up the people of Yisrael out of the land of Egypt,' ¹⁵ but 'As YHWH lives who brought up the people of Yisrael out of the north

country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers. ¹⁶ ‘Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares YHWH, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks. ¹⁷ For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes. ¹⁸ But first I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations.” Jeremiah 16:11-17

We haven't seen this yet, but do you see the reason for the punishment? They polluted the Land with “the carcasses of their detestable idols ... and abominations.”

YHWH removed His Covenant people because they polluted the Land and promises a return so great that they will no longer talk about the exodus from Egypt.

Well guess what? At the last Passover, everyone around the world was still talking about the exodus from Egypt.

So, while the modern State of Israel exists, that does not mean it is a fulfillment of any prophecies. In fact, it could be viewed as a great deception as the banner of Remphan, the Star of Saturn, is being raised throughout the Land. YHWH sees that as detestable and abominable.

Do you remember what Yahushua warned about one of the signs of His return?

He warned of great deception involving false messiahs and false prophets. Even the elect would be deceived. (see Matthew 24:23)

People are being deceived by Babylon and Babylon will be judged as one that causes the children to sin.

“²¹ Then a mighty messenger took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, ‘So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more; ²² and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more, ²³ and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all Nations were deceived by your sorcery. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.” Revelation 18:21-24

People will be deceived because of the “sorcery” of Babylon, which is “pharmakeia” in the Greek. It is where we derive the word “pharmacy,” and pharmaceuticals are the conduit for Babylonian sorcery.

The majority in Babylon are currently under a powerful spell. We clearly witnessed this with the Covid debacle. I saw a recent statistic that 7 out of 10 Americans take pharmaceutical drugs. I also saw a statistic that 70% of Americans took the Covid vaccine. Coincidence?

The majority of people on Earth, and even some of the elect, will believe whatever they are fed by the mainstream media or whatever they hearing spewed from Babylonian pulpits.

Very few actually understand the Covenant that traces back to the Garden of Eden, or the deception that originated in the Garden.

As previously mentioned, Adam was created to be a gardener. He was placed in a garden - a protected and set apart place.

He was expelled from the Garden due to disobedience, and has never been allowed to return.

The people of Yisrael were permitted into the Land based upon a Covenant relationship. They had responsibilities, just like Adam. The Land was like the Garden and their purpose was to play a part in the restoration of mankind due to the fall of Adam.

The end goal was not for Yisrael to simply dwell in the Land. Their presence in the Land had to have purpose. Their actions needed to align with the instructions of Elohim.

The end goal was for the Messiah to come and atone for the sin of Adam and set things straight. A new Adam was needed.

Yahushua was crucified and entombed in a garden.

“Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.” John 19:41

That is why after the resurrection Mary thought the risen Yahushua was the Gardener. (John 20:15)

Of course, Yahushua was the Gardener. He took on the punishment that Adam deserved making a way for mankind to return to the Garden.

His blood containing His DNA was the seed that was planted and watered while He hung on the execution stake. (John 19:34)

He has been waiting a long time for His seed to bear fruit, and He is coming back to gather His harvest.

“Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety.” Jeremiah 32:37

A sign that He gathers His people will be the fact that they dwell in safety. The Jewish State has suffered wars, violence, terror and suffering since its' inception.

The Land needs peace that can only come from the Prince of Peace, and His “chosen people” are His faithful and obedient Bride.

Yahushua said He would send out Messengers to gather His elect - His chosen people,

“And He will send out His messengers with a loud shofar blast (teruah), and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:31

They will be the ones who live in the Land. All authority has been given to Him and He gives us the keys to the Kingdom. (Matthew 28:18 and 16:19)

Until that time we should be listening and obeying while we await the Masters return.

When asked about His return Yahushua said: *“For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”* Matthew 24:37

What was it like in the Days of Noah? Here is what the Scriptures report.

“¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in Elohim’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence (hamas). ¹² And Elohim saw the earth, and behold, it was

corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.” Genesis 6:11-12

The word for violence in Hebrew is “*hamas*.” In the days of Noah, the earth was filled with “*hamas*” and we are currently watching “*Hamas*” spread like wildfire throughout the Middle East and beyond.

That is reason to despair for those who are without hope, anticipating World War III.

But for those who eagerly anticipate the coming of the Son of Adam, it is a sign of His imminent return to the Earth and the Covenant Land.