

WEEK 4 – Islam continued...

- The Palestinian Arabs
 - **Key definitions concerning Palestinians.**
 - **East Jerusalem** - A term used mostly by non-Jews concerning the eastern part of the Old City (including the Temple Mount) of Jerusalem, which was shared by Jews and Arabs prior to 1948. It came under the control of Jordan from 1948-1967. It was taken by Israeli forces in 1967 and has continued to be inhabited by Palestinian Arabs. Israel officially annexed East Jerusalem in 1980, uniting the whole city as the Israeli capital.
 - **Gaza Strip** - The homeland of the ancient and modern city of Gaza. It is located approximately 50 miles southwest of Jerusalem against the Mediterranean Coast. It was formerly inhabited by the Philistines in O.T. times and ended up as Egyptian territory. As of the Six-Day War of 1967, it is under the control of Israel and is inhabited by Palestinian Arabs today.
 - **Intifada** - A “shake off, uprising, strike:” the Palestinian revolt against Israeli rule in the so-called “occupied territories” that started in December 1987 then waned and was reinstated in September of 2000.
 - **Ottoman Empire** - the empire of Ottoman Turks who converted to Sunni Islam. They conquered and ruled the Middle East (and Palestine, especially Jerusalem) from AD 1453 - 1918. They were defeated by the British forces in World War I and completely dismantled after World War II.
 - **Palestine** - A term for the country west of the Jordan River, first called “Palestine” by the Greeks and Romans after the word Philistine, which refers to the enemies of Israel who inhabited the Mediterranean Coastal Plain. The Bible refers to the same territory as **CANAAN**, named after the pre-Israelite inhabitants, although Jews have always called it ‘Eretz Yisrael (The Land of Israel). It is referred to **7** times in the Bible (**3** times as *Palestina* ... Ex. 15:14, Is. 14:29, 31; **3** times as *Philistia* ... Ps. 60:8, 87:4, 108:9; and 1 time as *Palestine* ... Joel 3:4).
 - **Revisionist History** - A concentrated plan to revise, change, or re-write actual history in order to replace it with one’s religious or political views and doctrines. An act of historical **DECEPTION**.
 - **West Bank** - The term originally employed to describe the land occupied by Jordan from 1948-1967. It is a term continued to be used by non-Jewish media and sources to refer to the territory of biblical Judea and Samaria (including East Jerusalem). It was captured by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur War of 1973.
 - Who are the Palestinians?
 - A strict definition of the term “*Palestinian*” – One who inhabits the land of Palestine.

- **Ancient times** –
Genesis 15:19-21
Genesis 21:33-34
Jeremiah 25:20, 24
Jeremiah 50:37
Ezekiel 30:5
- **Modern times** - The term “*Palestinian*” was, for centuries, used to identify **JEW**s not Arabs. This was because it was well known that the Jews were the ancient rulers and nationals of the land between the Nile and Euphrates rivers (Gen 15:18). It was well known and recognized that this was the land that the Hebrew God promised to Abraham and his lineage, through Isaac. The use of the term “Palestinian,” in regard to the Arab population of the land, began in the early **1960's** as Arab leaders sought to create a unified identity for the plethora of Israeli Arabs. The Term “*Palestinian*” CANNOT be found in any dictionary, encyclopedia, or history book (in direct relation to Arabs) until after the Israel became an official national reality.
- During the late 19th century, when the Ottoman rule was dying, around **1878** harsh conditions forced many people groups to immigrate into “Palestine”, where work was available. According to historical surveys, the nationalities of these migrant workers were: Balkans, Greeks, Syrians, Latins, Egyptians, Turks, Armenians, Italians, Persians, Kurds, Germans, Afghans, Druzes, Circassians, Bosnians, Sudanese, Samaritans, Algerians, Motiwila, Tartars, Hungarians, Scots, Navarese, Bretons, English, Franks, Ruthenians, Bohemians, Bulgarians, Georgians, Indians, Copts, Maronites, Persian Nestorians, and many others. Of the 141,000 mainly Turkish Muslims settled in the land of Palestine in 1882, at least 35,000 of these were migrants. They constituted the population of the land. It is from these migrant workers that the modern-day Palestinian Arabs are descended. The modern-day Palestinians are mainly TURKISH people MINGLED with many other various nationalities.

This is a historical **FACT**.

- **Important Notes:**
Palestinian nationalism, or the desire for a government and an independent Palestinian State, was NON-existent.

Even though Islam had ruled the area on and off during the time of Islamic conquest, there was NEVER any recorded feelings of nationalism bent toward the formation of a “*Palestinian*” State by its Arab population until the early 20th century in direct reaction to Turkish rule.
- The Palestinian Arab demand for international recognition as a distinct people group who can fly a flag, receive foreign diplomats, elect Yasser Arafat as their president, and claim Jerusalem as their capital ... all actions of an autonomous State ... have created a FACT from **FICTION**.

It was not until after the formation of the Jewish State of Israel that the Palestinian Arabs started demanding that the land was their historic homeland.

Researcher Roger David Carasso writes, concerning this “*Revisionist History*.”

“The Arabs learned their disinformation tactic from the Nazis: if you repeat the lie long enough and loud enough, people will actually believe you. As a result, most people now believe there is something called the “Palestinian” people, a total fabrication, complete with a phony history and a phony culture. There is only one truth here, that there are 1.75 million people, a hodgepodge of Arabs and Turks, intentionally or maybe unwittingly, masquerading as a “people,” and made into a “people” by the PLO and many in the world community who relished attacking the Jews in yet another novel way.”

NOTE:

The land was indeed called “*Palestine*” but it was **NEVER** a Geo-Political entity. It did not exist as a government or State! (deception by revisionist history)

▪ **Their claim on the land**

- Palestinians claim they have a right to the land:
 - They claim the land is theirs as they are the physical descendants of Abraham through his son ISHMAEL. Scripturally speaking, we have already clearly seen the Bible promised the land to the descendants of Abraham through his son ISAAC, and through Isaac’s son Jacob (Genesis 17).
 - Concerning the Palestinian’s claim that all Arabs are descendants of Ishmael... there is NO biblical evidence whatsoever to prove this point, nor is there any biblical statement that Ishmael is the forefather of the **ARAB** people.

As we have already seen, the Palestinians are not a lone indigenous people group, but rather a MINGLING of Turkish and other diverse nationalities who worked for the Ottoman Empire.

- Although Palestinian’s claim Allah wants them to have Jerusalem, the word “**JERUSALEM**” does not ever appear in the Quran, nor does the Quran itself speak of any specific location in the land of Palestine as being an Islamic holy place given to MUSLIMS.
- Based on these facts there is **NO** legal or legitimate claim to the land.

NOTE:

It is important to know that Palestinian leaders revise not only history, but their own statements and beliefs in order to suite their claim for the land (IE. They once said they were the decedents of Philistines, now they say Canaanites, etc.).

- Interestingly enough, the Bible lists the Arabs as **DIFFERENT** and distinct from the Philistines (2 Chron. 17:11).

The Bible says they joined forces to defeat King Jehoram (2 Chron. 21:16) but were instead defeated themselves by King Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:7).

The Philistines **VANISHED** from history after being taken into captivity around 600 BC by Nebuchadnezzar.

▪ **Their leader**

- The current acting president of Palestine is Mahmoud Abbas though there is some controversy. The two main parties: FATAH and **HAMAS**.

Approximately 70% of the 193 member states of the United Nations have recognized the “state” of Palestine.

- Though Abbas has talked peace with Israel and at times has denounced the violence used by the Jihad movement, he is a follower of former President Yasser Arafat. His true motives are revealed from some of his other public speeches:

“The little jihad is over, and now we have the bigger jihad - the bigger battle is achieving security and economic growth”

“From here [the Gaza withdrawal], our people begin the march towards establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital”

“A Jewish state, what is that supposed to mean? You can call yourselves as you like, but I don't accept it and I say so publicly”

“I will never allow a single Israeli to live among us on Palestinian land”

- The previous president of Palestine was Yasser Arafat, the **EGYPTIAN** born head of PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization). The name “Arafat” is the name of a hill near Mecca mentioned in the Koran (The Cow 194). His real name: Abdul Rauf el-Chodbi el-Husseini. He died in Nov 2004.
- He is the NEPHEW of Hag Amin el-Husseini, who was the Grand Mufti of Palestine. Husseini organized the anti-Jewish riots of 1921-22, 1929, 1936, and 1938. He was a friend of ADOLPH HITLER who worked with the Nazis to plan the “final solution” to the “Jewish Problem.” Husseini was not only Arafat’s uncle, but he TRAINED Yasser as one of his Islamic students.
- Arafat’s career is well documented. Among his many activities was the masterminding of the 1972 murder of the Israeli Olympic team in Munich, the 1974 murder of school children at Ma’alot, the murder of Jewish passengers on the Achille Lauro cruise ship, the murder of a U.S. ambassador in Sudan, the Lebanese bombing that killed 265 U.S. Marines, as well as many brutal airplane hijackings, and the list goes on and on. He was the personal **FRIEND** of Saddam Hussein, Moammar Kadafi, and Osama bin Laden.

TIME TO THINK:

Who could get away with this? No one could pull this off. There have been many other smarter, better financed, evil rulers besides Arafat. How?

There are other forces at work...

- **Why are they, as a particular Islamic people, fighting against Israel?**
 - Secularly speaking, it is the combination of TWO differing movements:
 - The awakening or revival of Palestinian Arab nationalism brought on by the HARSH rule of the Turkish or Ottoman Empire. Arabs sought freedom from the Turks and found answers in nationalism...
 - Although a Jewish remnant has always inhabited the land called Palestine, there was no real growth of Jewish populations until after 1918 and the Balfour Declaration. This was brought on by the World War I, as well as the **ZIONIST** movement of 1897 which sought to restore and rebuild the ancient monarchy of Israel.
- KEY POINT:** These TWO movements were destined to collide.
- Scripturally speaking, there has always been a battle for the control of the land, a battle between GOD and SATAN. This battle manifests itself in many ways. In the physical world it is often manifested through national conflicts and wars, especially in the Middle East. ALL of human history is moving toward the final conflict and the physical establishment of the Messianic Kingdom prophesied in the Bible. Satan, in his attempt to confound the promises of God (thus making God imperfect), is using this issue and the secular historical circumstances to further his plan and **COUNTER** God's plan.
- **Why all the violence?**
 - The Palestinian Arabs have called an *Intifada* due to the officially stated GOALS of the PNA (Palestinian National Authority) and the NIF (National Islamic Forces). Although all factions don't agree, the goals are as follows:
 - The end of Israel's escalating aggression that aims to impose Zionist Security perception.
 - The removal of settlers and settlements from the West Bank
 - The withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territory (East Jerusalem; Gaza Strip; West Bank)
 - The return of Palestinian refugees to their homes in occupied territories
 - The actualization of Palestinian national independence and establishment of a Sovereign State, with Jerusalem as its capital.
 - They believe these goals will only be achieved through violence...just as Islam originally spread through wars and brute force.
 - Although most Palestinians are secular (some are "Christian"), the driving force behind this conflict is the Quranic **ISLAMIC** religious teaching that the

Jews and their homeland must cease to exist if the world is to become Muslim. At the heart of ALL the violence is the striving to propagate the false satanic religion of Islam.

- The actual root source of ALL conflict is spiritual (James 4).
- Most terrorist organizations have been borne out of the Palestinian Jihad. Some of the most infamous are:
 - **Fatah** - Name means “conquest.” Headed up by Yasser Arafat. Contains special units named: Tanzim, Force 17, Hawari Special Operations Group. It was founded in Kuwait with bases in Lebanon, West Bank, and Gaza Strip. It is an important group within the PLO.
 - **Hamas** - It is the Palestinian outgrowth of the Muslim brotherhood. It targets Israeli civilians and military personnel. It is based in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
 - **Hizballah** - Their purpose is to oppose all peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine. They are anti-Israeli and Anti-West. They are in league with Syria and Iran and based in Beirut, South Lebanon; with cells operating in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Americas.
 - **Palestine Islamic Jihad** - Seeks destruction of the Nation of Israel. They are anti-U.S. and opposed to moderate Arab governments. Located in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, with headquarters in Syria.
 - **Palestinian Liberation Front** - Split into pro PLO, pro Libya, Pro Syria factions. Based in Iraq and supported by Iraq and Libya.
 - **Al-Qaeda** - Founded by Osama bin Laden (killed by US Navy Seals 5/2/2011). They seek to destroy Israel and all US global goals with offensive Jihad. They have a global reach that operated out of Afghanistan under the Islamic Sect known as the Taliban.
 - **Al-Jihad** - A close partner with Al-Qaeda. They seek to overthrow the Egyptian government. They are anti-Israel and anti-US. Their headquarters are in Cairo, with cells in Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, and Lebanon.

NOTE: Each group has a specific military type of purpose that works together with the other groups.

KEY POINT

We should NEVER, ever excuse or agree with any Israeli aggression that is EVIL and wrong just because they are God’s chosen people. It is a proven FACT that Israel has committed its share of wrongdoing and murder against Palestinians in the heat of this unresolved conflict. Just because terrorist groups have attacked Israel does NOT mean we should support terrorist-like activities by the Israelis.

However, an outward and forward MILITARY offensive by the Israelis in response to terrorist attacks cannot be confused with Palestinian terrorist acts intentionally perpetrated against CIVILIANS.

We must understand this conflict through the WORD of God. We must see these peoples and nations through God's eyes.

KEEP IN MIND...

...the Palestinians and Arabs are **GENTILES** just like us.

Remember...

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
John 3:16*

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3-4