

The Truth About Israel's Land

It's not unusual today, to hear critics of the nation of Israel question if Israel has a right to their land. Those who accuse Israel of being "occupiers" are unaware of the facts, or they intentionally try to create a false narrative. Below are some important Biblical and historical facts concerning the land of Israel.

Bible

- Genesis chapter 11, Terah leaves Ur of the Chaldees (southern Assyria) to go to the land of Canaan; Terah takes with him his son Abraham (Abram), Abraham's wife Sarah, and his grandson Lot. But they stop short of Canaan, and dwell in Haran (northwest Assyria – near to Euphrates River). Terah, Abraham's father dies in Haran.
- Genesis chapter 12, God calls Abraham (75 years old) to leave Haran and go to a land He will show him. Abraham leaves Haran (around 2091 B.C.), and travels southwest into Canaan. While in Shechem (middle of Israel - about 25 miles north of modern-day Jerusalem), the LORD appeared to Abraham, and promises to give this land to Abraham's seed.
- Genesis chapter 13, the LORD confirms His covenant (Abrahamic Covenant) with Abraham.
- Genesis chapter 15, the LORD reminds Abraham that He brought him out of Ur of the Chaldees to give him this land as an inheritance. Abraham's covenant descendants (his seed) are the Hebrew people.
- Exodus chapter 3, after nearly 400 years in Egypt, God calls Moses to go to Pharaoh, and bring His people out of slavery in Egypt, to a good land (Canaan).
- Numbers chapter 14, after leaving Egypt (1446 B.C.), the Hebrews arrive near the Promised Land, send in ten spies, eight give an evil report, but Joshua and Caleb give a faithful report. Because of their unbelief, everyone twenty and older, except for Joshua and Caleb, will not be allowed to enter the Promised Land, but will wander and die in the wilderness.
- Joshua chapter 3, Joshua leads the Hebrews across the Jordan River into the Promised Land in 1406 B.C.).
- Book of Judges, the Hebrew people live in the Promised Land (Canaan) for approximately 400 years, directed by leaders of the Twelve Tribes, and Judges that God raises up.
- 1 Samuel chapter 10, Saul anointed as 1st King of Israel (1050 B.C.)
- 2 Samuel chapter 2, David becomes Israel's 2nd King (1010 B.C.)
- 1 Kings chapter 2, Solomon becomes 3rd king of Israel (970 B.C.)
- 1 Kings chapter 11, Solomon dies, the nation of Israel is divided into northern kingdom of Israel, and the southern kingdom of Judah (930 B.C.)
- At this point, it has been over 1,000 years since Abraham entered Canaan.
- It has also been approximately 500 years since Joshua led the Hebrew people into the Promised Land.
- 2 Kings chapter 17, 722/721 B.C., the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians

- 2 Chronicles chapter 36, in 586 B.C. the southern kingdom of Judah was conquered by the Babylonians. Many Israelites were taken into captivity, but a remnant remained in Judah.
- Daniel chapter 5, in 539 B.C. the Babylonian empire fell to the Persians.
- Ezra chapter 1, in 538 B.C. Cyrus the Great, King of Persia issues decree allowing Jews to return to Judah.
- The prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah write about the Lord gathering His people back to the land He gave them. This began to happen at the decree of Cyrus.
- In addition, Bible prophecy speaks of a second gathering. We know that in 70 A.D. the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, and again many of the Israelites were scattered. The second gathering will begin in the latter days. Many believe this second gathering began when the nation of Israel was restored in 1948. See Acts chapter 15:13-18, Luke records the words of James, the half-brother of Christ, speaking of this second gathering back to their homeland, the land given to them by God.

History

- Around 400 B.C. the Old Testament time ended, with the Israelites living in Judah.
- In 330 B.C. the Persian empire falls to Greece and Alexander the Great. Israel comes under the control of Greece.
- In 323 B.C., Alexander the Great died and his empire was divided to his four generals. Israel comes under the control of Seleucus (one of Alexander's generals) and his Seleucid Kingdom.
- Around 66-63 B.C. the Roman general Pompey conquers the Middle East, and Israel comes under the control of the Roman Empire.
- The New Testament opens around 4 B.C. The Israelites are still living in Judah.
- At the birth of Christ, and throughout His ministry, Israel was controlled by the Roman Empire.
- In 70 A.D. the Romans, led by General Titus will destroy Jerusalem and the Temple. The nation of Israel will be missing as a recognized country from 70 A.D. until May 14, 1948.
- What caused Israel to become a recognized nation once again with a homeland? Without a doubt it was the Hand of God, and WWI was part of the means.

World War I

- WWI saw the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire) fight against the Allied Powers (Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Canada, Japan, and the United States).
- The Ottoman Empire was the Turks. At its height, the Ottoman Empire included the modern-day regions of Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, some of Arabia, and a considerable amount of the North African coastal strip.
- At the start of WWI in 1914, the Ottoman Empire made a mistake in siding with Germany and the other Central Powers countries against the Allied Powers.

- During WWI, the Jews and the Arabs separately offered to fight with Great Britain, in exchange for their promise to give them a homeland if they helped them win the war.
- After the Allied Powers victory in WWI, the boundaries of Germany were redrawn, and new nations established in Europe. In addition, the Ottoman Empire was divided, and nation boundaries established for the Jews (Israel) and the Arabs (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq).
- The land of Israel was promised to the Jews by the Creator of all things, and its homeland re-established by British Mandate after WWI.
- The country of Israel and its borders are just as valid today as those of the Arab countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq. The facts that created the modern-day Arab nations after WWI, are the same used to re-establish the nation of Israel.
- There has never been a nation called Palestine, or a recognized country or government called Palestine, or a flag of a country called Palestine. To say there was, and to deny the nation and homeland of Israel, is an attempt to re-write world history.
- The land we know as Israel's is their ancestral homeland and was legally confirmed after WWI, and Israel was once again recognized as a nation in 1948.
- Judea and Samaria have never been part of another country. The Palestinian Arabs never owned or controlled it. Instead, it was unlawfully seized by Jordan during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Jordan formally annexed Judea and Samaria, renaming it the West Bank.
- In 1967, during the Six-Day War between Israel and the Arab states of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan; Israel captured the stolen territory.
- Israel has repeatedly offered the Palestinians statehood in 2000, 2001, and 2008. Each time the Palestinians have rejected these offers.
- There is substantial archeological evidence linking the land of Israel to the Jewish people for thousands of years, beginning with the covenant made by God with Abraham in approximately 2,000 B.C.
- Israel does not "occupy" their land. Rather, they have a legitimate legal and moral control of the land of the Jewish state.