

On the Corner Fringe: Where Does Jeopardy Say Bethlehem Is?

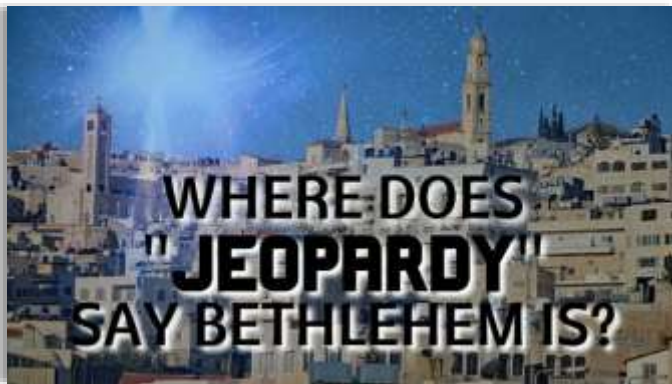
January 14, 2020

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/t5fjtdg/otcf-where-does-jeopardy-say-bethlehem-is>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document be printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

The Divine Mandate: Biblical Perspectives on Bethlehem and Israel

This transcript of a message delivered by **Pastor Daniel Joseph** of **Corner Fringe Ministries** discusses a controversial 2020 **Jeopardy** segment where a contestant was penalized for identifying **Bethlehem** as part of **Palestine**, while another was rewarded for claiming it is in **Israel**. Daniel utilizes this media event to address the long-standing geopolitical and religious tensions surrounding the **West Bank**. He argues that modern criticisms of Israel as an **illegal occupier** mirror ancient biblical conflicts found in the **Book of Judges**. Drawing on the story of **Jephthah**, he asserts that Israel's presence in the region is a **divine right** and a fulfillment of **biblical prophecy**. Ultimately, he calls for a shift away from **political correctness** toward a **biblical lens** regarding land ownership in the Middle East.



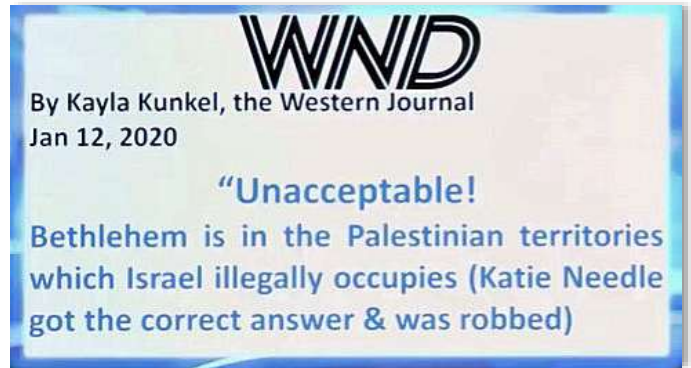
[Daniel Joseph]

Welcome to *On the Corner Fringe*. I'm Daniel Joseph. I want to share an article with you that I got yesterday. It came across my desk, and *WorldNetDaily* put it out. The article reads as follows: *WND*, by Kayla Kunkel, the Western Journal, Jan 12, 2020—"Jeopardy' under fire after accepting answer stating Bethlehem is in Israel." This is the game show Jeopardy, and I actually have the clip on this. Look at what

happened. [Short video clip from the Jeopardy show.] The question was, "BUILT IN THE 300s A.D., THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY." Katie answered, "What is Palestine?" No. Jack answered, "What is Israel?" That's it.

Oh my, can you even imagine the internet has erupted in complete chaos over this, over the fact that Jeopardy, Alex Trebek, would dare say Bethlehem is not in Palestine? Therefore, Katie has gotten it wrong, but Jack gets it right when he says, "Israel." Well, the internet has erupted in this with all sorts of comments. One of whom comes to us from Omar Badar, an Arab American. He's from the Arab

American Institute, and this was mentioned in this article of WorldNetDaily, but listen to what he says. He says, "Unacceptable! Bethlehem is in the Palestinian territories which Israel—now listen to this—illegally occupies (Katie Needle got the correct answer & was robbed)."



Now, I want to show you this article because this is the age-old debate. And I'm going to tell you that for thousands of years, not over a hundred years, or even hundreds of years, for thousands of years, Israel has been accused of illegally occupying the land. Now you look at today, and for those of you who are familiar with Israel, you know Bethlehem is in the West Bank in a very hotly disputed area because what we have is the estimation is almost 400,000 Jews living in the West Bank with another almost 200,000 living in East Jerusalem.

So, you're talking about a compiled list of almost 600,000 Jews and over 250 areas. 250, if you will, these settlements, as they call them. About 130 of these are officially recognized settlements, and like 120 are unofficially recognized. I mean, you think about the presence; there's obviously a very significant presence in the West Bank, at least according to population, of Jewish people.

Well, this is not received well, certainly not by the Palestinians who believe that Israel is infiltrating and that Israel is an evil occupier. And here's the point I want to make. There is so much more to the story than what you're going to hear in this narrative that you get through your universities, or you're going to get through CNN or MSNBC or whatever. There is so much more that needs to be understood.

We could talk about what happened in 1948 when Israel became a nation. We could talk about how the Arabs immediately banded together, and Israel went to war. I mean, they weren't going to have it. Israel's not allowed. You know, the Jewish people are not allowed to even be a people. This is not even just a land debate. It's about the eradication of people, whether people want to acknowledge this or not. They really don't want them to live anywhere, but certainly not in the land that God promised them.

And see, this is really where this debate needs to go. It needs to come off this politically correct platform. We need to understand this through biblical means, through a biblical lens. Because when you do, there's a lot of clarity that comes to it. Yes, God promised His people that He would give them this land. And yet today, the mantra is, "Well, Israel is just evilly occupying this land."

I want to share a story with you. It's in the book of Judges. It's with Jephthah. And this is what we read in Judges 11:12—**Now Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon, saying, "What do you have against me, that you have come to fight against me in my land?"** Now, you think about this, and so we can go back; this is well over 3,000 years ago, okay? This is when this took place. And the Ammonites are coming in, and they want a war with Israel. And Jephthah is like, "What is going on here? What is the problem?"

Interesting, we go on to read in Judges 11:13—**And the king of the people of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the**

Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and to the Jordan. Now therefore, restore those lands peaceably.” In other words, get off our land. Get out. This is why we're upset with you. This is why there is no peace: because you're in the land. Tell me this is not the mantra today. This is the very thing that the Palestinians are doing, what the Ammonites did over 3000 years ago. You're taking away our land. You're evilly occupying. You're stealing what is ours.

Well, here's what's fascinating. How does Jephthah answer this? Well, let's jump to Judges 11:23, and Jephthah tells them, ‘And now the LORD God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel; should you then possess it? Well, isn't that a fascinating statement? Jephthah comes on, and he says, "God has done this." The LORD God, He gives credit where credit is due. The LORD God has brought us into this land.

I want to be very clear about something. Israel coming back to the land in 1948, that, first of all, fulfills biblical prophecy. For prophecy of the end days to unfold, for it to be truly fulfilled, Israel has to be in the land. And understand, no one could take a people who were literally being exterminated. The Nazi regime was exterminating them. We had millions of Jews being put to death. No one can come out of the ashes of that unless their God is with them. Unless God makes a way. So, you're going to tell me they came close to extinction, and yet supernaturally they just accidentally came into a land and said, "Hey, yeah, this is our land. We're not an organized people. We don't have an organized army, but this is just what we're going to do. I mean, the thought of it is ludicrous.

And we need to take into consideration for just a moment what God has done. We need to glean from the wisdom of Jephthah, who recognized the only reason we're here. “Listen to me, Ammonites. The only reason we're here is that God has brought us here. God has dispossessed—if any people have been dispossessed, it's been by the hand of God; know this.” And listen to what he says as we go on—Judges 11:24—Will you not possess whatever Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the LORD our God takes possession of before us, we will possess.

Judges 11:24: the words of Jephthah are to be brought to the table today. This is really the only answer that we should be giving for this great debate, whether you think it's simply political or not. This debate over the ages of what Israel thinks it's doing in the land and Israel can't continue to build in a land that we know biblically God has given them.

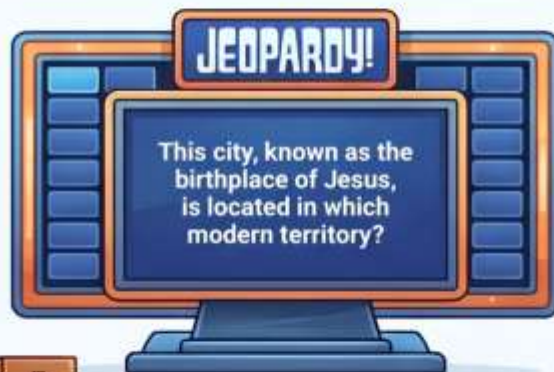
You know what the answer is? The answer is Jephthah. His words need to be brought back to the table. These are the words we need to speak because this is the reality. And I wait for the day that Benjamin Netanyahu is tired of fighting and being politically correct on all these fronts. And I respect him so much, and we love this man that God has put in power in Israel and support him. But I wait for the day when Benjamin Netanyahu just goes back and says, "You know what? This is why we're here. This is why we're building settlements in this West Bank. This is why Jewish people are expanding out in what we would call the land of Israel. It's because it was promised to us. And if we dispossess you, the Palestinians will have whatever their God will give them. And guess what? Israel will have whatever their God gives them.”

Thank you for joining me today. Bless you and Shalom.

Bethlehem & The Jephthah Defense:

A Biblical Lens on a Modern Dispute

THE MODERN DISPUTE



The Jeopardy! Controversy:
A contestant was ruled incorrect for placing the Church of the Nativity in Palestine.

600,000

Jewish Residents
Estimated population across 250 settlements in the disputed West Bank & East Jerusalem area.



Accusations of Occupation:
Critics, including the Arab American Institute, claim Israel illegally occupies Palestinian territories.

THE JEPHTHAH DEFENSE



An Ancient Argument:
3,000 years ago, the Ammonite King made the same land-theft claims as modern critics.



The Bethlehem controversy, sparked by a game show, is a modern territorial dispute often criticized as illegal occupation, but this presentation explores it through a biblical lens of God's land promises.



Jephthah's defense
(Judges 11:24) asserts that Israel possesses what God has dispossessed.



Prophetic Fulfillment:
Israel's 1948 return is viewed as a supernatural fulfillment of end times biblical prophecy.