

# ALL ROADS LEAD TO ISRAEL

## Series: JESUS vs JIHAD

“What Bible Prophecy says about World Events”

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### Intro:

**Camp David accords**, popular name for the historic peace accords forged in 1978 between Israel and Egypt at the U.S. presidential retreat at Camp David, Md.

The official agreement was signed on Mar. 26, 1979, in Washington, D.C. by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, with U.S. President Jimmy Carter signing as a witness.

The Camp David Accords won joint Nobel Peace Prizes for Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin in 1978, and for President Jimmy Carter in 2002.

But the peace between Israel and Egypt have been kept from 1979 to this day because of one thing: **AMERICIAN DOLLARS**

Billions of dollars in subsidies from American taxpayers to Israel and Egypt.

### According to the US State Department---

Egypt receives **\$1.3 billion** annually in military aid (which Egypt must use to purchase weaponry from American arms manufactures), plus millions in economic assistance from the US Agency for International Development.---the military aid is estimated to make up 1/3 of Egypt’s military spending.

Israel receives **\$3 billion** annually in grants and military aid.

## 1. An Island in a Islamic Sea

Israel is surrounded by **26 predominantly Muslim nations:**

- |              |                                 |           |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| ➤ Mauritania | ➤ Djibouti                      | ➤ Qatar   |
| ➤ Morocco    | ➤ Somalia (in northern Africa)  | ➤ Bahrain |
| ➤ Algeria    | ➤ Yemen                         | ➤ Kuwait  |
| ➤ Tunisia    | ➤ Oman                          | ➤ Jordan  |
| ➤ Libya      | ➤ U.A.E. (United Arab Emirates) | ➤ Syria   |
| ➤ Egypt      | ➤ Saudi Arabia                  | ➤ Lebanon |
| ➤ Sudan      |                                 | ➤ Iraq    |
| ➤ Ethiopia   |                                 |           |

### All in the Middle East, Farther East---

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| ➤ Iran            | ➤ Turkey (Officially claims to have secular government—but being pushed towards an Islamic theocracy) |
| ➤ Afghanistan     |   |
| ➤ Pakistan        |   |
| ➤ To the North--- |   |

Israel is a small island of a mere 85,000 sq miles in a vast Islamic sea.

Little Israel should go completely unnoticed by the oil-rich Arab Muslim world.

### Yet the exact opposite is true.

To Muslims, Israel is the “fly in the soup” that cannot be ignored.

Columbia University's School of International Affairs, professors claimed that the Middle East conflict is **the most complex problem imaginable**.

**In reality**---the Middle East conflict is amazingly simple:

**In a nutshell it is this: One side wants the other side Dead!!**

- **Israel**----Wants to exist as a Jewish state and to live in Peace.
- **Palestinians/Muslims/Arabs**—do not recognize the right of the Jewish state of Israel to exist.

**If tomorrow**----

If Israel laid down its arms and announced "We will fight no more"—what would happen?

If Arab countries around Israel laid down their arms and announced "We will fight no More"—

What would happen...

- **1<sup>st</sup>**---case: (**Israel laying down of arms**) there would be an immediate destruction of the state of Israel and the mass murder of its Jewish population.
- **2<sup>nd</sup>**---case: (**Muslim laying down of arms**) There would be peace the next day!

**That is the essence of the Middle East problem**----That is why the Middle East conflict is simple to understand and seemingly impossible to solve!!!

**It is very hard to bargain with people who are bent on killing you**---

**Which is summed up in:**

- **Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah**, words:
  - "We are going to win because they (the Jews) love life, and we love death"
- **Osama bin Laden's** words after the 911 attacks:
  - "We cannot accept that Palestine will become Jewish...I swear by God (Allah) the Great, America will never dream nor those who live in America will never taste security and safety unless we feel security and safety in our land and in Palestine"

It goes further back than these guys thou----**it goes back to: Isaac, Ishmael**

## **2. The Dream of a Jewish Homeland**

When longtime White House correspondent **Helen Thomas** attended the White House Jewish Heritage Celebration on May 27, 2010, a reporter asked for her comments on Israel.

*"Tell them to get out of Palestine," "Remember, these people (the Palestinian Arabs) are occupied, and it's their land" "She then suggested that the Jews could "go back to Poland or Germany and America and everywhere else"*

**But** Those lands are where the Holocaust took place. The Jew's refer to the holocaust as the "**Shoah**" – (Hebrew="The catastrophe" In Germany and in German-occupied territories, Jews were systematically rounded up, shipped to concentration camps, and murdered in a state-sponsored campaign of mass extermination.

**Of the 9 million Jews living in Europe before the Holocaust, 2/3 were killed**---

- 1 million (plus) Jewish children,
- 2 million Jewish women
- 3 million Jewish men

**The Demand for a Homeland**---After WWII, vast numbers of Jewish Holocaust survivors and refugees demanded a homeland in Palestine—and the newly revealed horrors of Dachau and Auschwitz tilted global public opinion in favor of the Zionist Jews.

**The truth is that the Jewish homeland has always been Israel, the land God promised to Abraham and his decedents.**

- **In 1914**, some 85,000 Jews lived in Palestine, alongside some 6,000 Arabs. At that time, Palestinian Jews outnumbered Palestinian Arabs **14 to 1**. This population figure is often overlooked when Westerners discuss the Jewish-Arab conflict in Israel.
- The land of Israel has "**Continuously**" been the Jewish homeland from the time of Abraham through the centuries of the Diaspora (Dispersion) and right up to present day.
- Since biblical times, far more Jews than Arabs have lived in Palestine, and this was true long before the establishment of the State of Israel.
- It is only reasonable that Jews should have a homeland of their own on the land they have continuously occupied since Old Testament times.
- The need for a Jewish homeland was underscored by the periotic times of persecution Jews suffered as they were dispersed around the world.

**Theodor Herzl, Zionist journalist wrote in 1895:**

*"The idea which I have developed in this pamphlet is a very old one: The restoration of the Jewish State. The earth resounds with outcries against Jews, and these outcries have awoken the slumbering idea... I am absolutely convinced that I am right---though I doubt whether I shall live to see myself proved to be so. Those who are the first to inaugurate this movement will scarcely live to see its glorious close. But the inauguration of it is enough to give them self-respect and the joy of freedom of soul...The Jewish State is essential to the world; it will therefore be created... Am I before my time? Are the sufferings of the Jews not yet grave enough? We shall see..The present generation is too dull to understand it rightly, a future, a finer, and a better generation will arise to understand it. The Jews wish for a State---they shall have it, and they shall earn it for themselves."* Herzl died in 1904, 44 years before Israel was restored as a nation.

**Israeli Independence--**

**Within hours after Israel declared its independence in 1948**, five nations –Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen---declared war on the new Jewish State.

Saudi Arabia sent a military contingent under Egyptian command. ---Thus began Israel's yearlong war of survival.

**The war concluded** with the 1949 armistice agreement, which gave Egypt control of the Gaza area.

- The West Bank region of Samaria and Judea came under Jordanian supervision.
- The remainder of the land was declared to belong to Israel.
- Jerusalem became a divided city---east Jerusalem was apportioned to the Arabs, West Jerusalem to the Jews.
- Jordan controlled the entire Old City of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount and many of the most revered Christian sites.
- Israel was admitted as a member of the United Nations on May 11, 1949.

### **The Six Day War—**

In **May 1967**, Egypt sent troops into the Sinai Peninsula, ordered United Nations troops out of the area, and formed a military alliance with Jordan.

In **June**, forces from Syria, Jordan, and Egypt moved simultaneously against Israel

The invasion quickly collapsed, and the conflict became known as "The Six Day War."

After Israel successfully repulsed the attack, the cease fire lines gave Israel control of the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza, and the Sinai.

Jerusalem was united under Israel control.

The government of Israel later annexed the Golan Heights (Syria had controlled the Golan Heights for 19 yrs and had used the land to launch attack's into Israel's Galilee region) Israel also annexed east Jerusalem. The remaining areas were not annexed but were controlled by an Israeli occupation force to prevent further attacks.

**In 1973**, while most Jewish civilians and soldiers were at Yom Kippur services, Egypt and Syria launched simultaneous attacks against Israel.

- Egyptian tanks crossed the Suez.
- Syrian tanks rolled into the Golan.

The Israel Defense Force (IDF) was initially caught off guard but ultimately repulsed the attack. Israeli forces in the south crossed the Suez Canal into Egypt. In the North, IDF forces advanced to within 20 miles of Damascus.

The Soviet Union under Leonid Brezhnev threatened to enter the war, raising the specter of WWII. A ceasefire was brokered that required Israel to withdraw to its 1967 borders, making no claim to the new territories it had taken in Egypt and Syria. Both Israeli and Arab forces suffered heavy casualties.

### **3. The Arab Perspective**

- The British role in creating the State of Israel and America's role in defending Israel left a deep scar in the Arab psyche.
  - Many Arab Muslims believe to this day that the Christian West planted Israel in their midst to assert control over the Middle East.
  - They see the existence of Israel as a new manifestation of the ancient Crusades.
- Muslims call the non-Muslim world the "House of War" and the existence of Israel on land that once belonged (in their view) to the House of Islam is no small matter.
  - It strikes at the heart of Islamic ideology and Arab pride. That's why Muslims will not rest until the Jews either accept the Islamic religion or leave Palestine---one way or another.
- The (PLO) Palestine Liberation Organization was founded to bring about the "liberation" of Palestine from Jewish control and place it under Arab rule.
  - PLO headquarters were initially in Jordan, but Jordan expelled the PLO in 1970 and the organization moved to Lebanon.--- Yasser Arafat rose to prominence during the transition.

### **The Oslo Accords---**

**A summit meeting in Oslo, Norway, in 1993 produced the Oslo Accords---**an agreement between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin and the PLO's Yasser Arafat.

The Accords created the Independent Palestinian Authority (IPA), which had jurisdiction over Gaza and Jericho, and in subsequent years, has received governmental authority over Ramallah, Bethlehem, and other areas.

The PLO has demanded, and continues to demand, the whole of the West Bank, including those settled and farmed by Israelis. The PLO also demands the entire Old City of Jerusalem.

### **Jerusalem has been the international capital city of the Jewish people since King David gained control of the city around 1004 BC**

Through Jerusalem is never mentioned by name in the Koran, the al-Aqsa Mosque, which stands on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, is mentioned several times in the Hadiths.

According to the Hadiths, Muhammad supposedly declared that the blessing for a Muslim who prays in the al-Aqsa mosque is multiplied hundreds of times over and that the al-Aqsa mosque was the second mosque established on earth.

The Koran states that Allah miraculously swept up Muhammad and took him on a journey by night from the al-Haram mosque in Mecca to the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem (**Koran 17:1**)

The journey ended with Muhammad ascending directly into heaven from the rock now located in the Dome of the Rock shrine.

The Dome of the Rock was completed on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem in **AD 692.**

It was the first great religious building complex in the history of Islam and marked the beginning of a new era. It was a declaration to the world that Islam was to be the supreme religion of the world.

### **Bible scholars believe that the Dome of the Rock stands on the site of Solomon's original temple.**

In order to the anti-Christ to manifest himself in the temple of Jerusalem, would a new temple have to be constructed on the site of the Dome of the Rock?

No one knows for sure---We only know that any action Israel might take to remove the Dome of the Rock or turn it into a Jewish temple would send shockwaves through the Muslim community.

For thousands of years, Israel has been the focus of conquest and crusades. It is the land where Abraham, Jesus and Muhammad walked---and centuries later, their followers still compete for control of its historic lands, magnificent city, and its holy Temple Mount.

## **4. The Burden of Damascus**

Damascus, the Syrian capital ---northeast of Israel, may very well be the oldest continuously inhabited city in existence. For 1,000's of years it has been a leading center of culture and commerce in the Middle East. Today it's a metropolis of more than 2.5 million people.

## **Damascus holds a unique place in prophetic scripture.—**

It is mentioned as existing in the time of Abraham (**Gen. 14:15**)

**Acts 9**---Saul was on the road to Damascus, intending to imprison the Christians there, when he was struck by a blinding vision of Jesus.

Isaiah and Jeremiah hold an intriguing prophecy about Damascus---

**Is. 17:1,14** *"I See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins...*

*<sup>14</sup> In the evening, sudden terror! Before the morning, they are gone! This is the portion of those who loot us, the lot of those who plunder us.*

### **Jer. 49:24-27**

*<sup>24</sup> Damascus has become feeble, she has turned to flee and panic has gripped her; anguish and pain have seized her, pain like that of a woman in labor.*

*<sup>25</sup> Why has the city of renown not been abandoned, the town in which I delight?*

*<sup>26</sup> Surely, her young men will fall in the streets; all her soldiers will be silenced in that day," declares the LORD Almighty.*

*<sup>27</sup> "I will set fire to the walls of Damascus; it will consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad."*

The city of Damascus has been captured many times by many kingdoms---

- The Aramaeans, The Assyrians, The Babylonians, The Greeks (Under Alexander the Great), The Romans, The Forces of Caliph Umar, The Ottomans, Plus others...

But in all those years and siege, conquest---the city has never been destroyed and has never been left uninhabited. **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

**It means that the biblical prophecies against Damascus remain to be fulfilled.**

The prophecies suggest that God intends to hold Damascus accountable for its long history of violence against innocent people, and especially for Syria's attacks against Israel

### **Ps 83:2-5 (ESV)**

*<sup>2</sup> For behold, your enemies make an uproar; those who hate you have raised their heads.*

*<sup>3</sup> They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together against your treasured ones.*

*<sup>4</sup> They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!"<sup>5</sup> For they conspire with one accord; against you they make a covenant—*

God is watching over His people, Israel—and He will judge the cities and nations that wish to do Israel harm. That includes the city of Damascus.----

**Is 17:1** *See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins...*

A civil war rages across Syria and as Syrian leaders plot the destruction of Israel, it seems ever more likely that the fateful "burden of Damascus" will fall upon that city right before our eyes. God will not allow crimes against Israel to go unavenged.

He told Abraham-----

*"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"* **Gen 12:3**

**In the timeline of history, Bible prophecy, ALL ROADS LEAD TO ISRAEL-**