



Shalom, Shalom b'shem Yeshua,

Israel: The Land of Purple!

While the eyes of the world are on Israel this summer, watching and waiting to see what will develop in the Middle East, God has reminded us that His eyes are also on that tiny country—from the beginning of the year to the end. (Deuteronomy 11:12) No other country on the face of the earth has that guarantee nor that privileged status. Only Israel.

God loves Israel. The Land is beautiful to Him. The Lord first gave it to his friend Abraham when He told him: *"I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God"* (Genesis 17:8).

In the ancient Akkadian language, the word Canaan can be translated as "purple." The land that we know as Israel today may have gotten this name from the well-developed dye industry which once flourished there. The most precious and prized dye was the purple dye, actually a red-purple color, *argaman* in Hebrew. This dye, along with the "royal blue" or *tekhelet* dye, was derived from mollusks or whelks found on the shores of the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts. The Canaanites, famous as merchants of purple-dyed cloth, fished for the dye-producing snails along the coast of northern Israel and Lebanon. The City of Tyre became a major center for the production of *argaman* (purple), so that the dye today is known as "Tyrian purple." The dye industry was a major industry for over 3000 years. *Argaman* and *tekhelet* became associated with royalty over the centuries because they were much more expensive than plant-derived dyes. One gram of dye was made from the secretion of 10,000 sea snails. The purple color was remarkably stable, resisting alkalis, soap, and most acids.

Canaan's purple, *argaman*, was the color used in the *Mishkan* or Tabernacle, along with *tekhelet* (blue) and *to'la'at* (red). When Mordechai (Book of Esther) was rewarded for saving the king's life, he was publicly arrayed in royal clothing of *tekhelet* and *argaman*. (Esther 8:15) The woman of Proverbs 31 was also dressed in *argaman*. (Proverbs 31:22) So, ladies, now is the time to dress in purple and pray for Israel as the royal priesthood that 1 Peter 2:9 declares us to be! (And for some reason, there has been a lot of red-purple, *argaman*, in stores this summer!!)

Israel: God's Land

While the world does not understand, or care, that Israel is not just "any other nation," believers in Yeshua (Jesus) who love the Bible, God's Word, must take a stand for what God Himself says about His Land. Israel is a "holy" land, a special land set apart for God. It is also a Promised Land. God's choosing of Israel is irrevocable. It is not dependent, as some believe, on Israel's own goodness or beliefs, anymore than our salvation depends on us. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob gave the children of Israel certain gifts that He will not take away: *"He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any nation..."* (Psalm 147:19-20). Besides the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises (Romans 9:4), the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob also gave His People Israel a Land—HIS LAND: *"The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine..."* (Leviticus 25:23).

God made a unilateral covenant with Abram while he slept (Genesis 15). God cut the covenant with Himself; its fulfillment did not depend on Abram. The covenant included an **unconditional** promise of a specific land to Abraham and his descendants. This land—the land now known as Israel—had clear geographical boundaries which are **far less** than the boundaries of modern day Israel.

"On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: 'To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates...' " (Genesis 15:18). *"And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you."* (Genesis 17:7)

It was **God's decision** to give the entire land of Canaan to Abraham, and through Abraham to Isaac, not Ishmael. (See Genesis 17:18-21.) At the same time, God promised to multiply and bless Ishmael, the father of the Arab nations, exceedingly. God has certainly kept that promise. If you look at a map of the Middle East, you will see that the Arab land mass is 5,120,000 square miles compared to Israel's 8,000 square miles.

Psalms 105:7-11 is one of many portions of Scripture that testify to God's sovereign will concerning the land of Israel: *"He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance.' "*

Israel and Bible Prophecy

History records that the Jewish people have been exiled from their land on three major occasions. They have also been supernaturally restored to their land by God each time. The Hebrew prophets foretold these expulsions and regatherings, along with God's great displeasure and broken heart over His children's disobedience. *"...each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me. Therefore I will cast you out of this land into a land that you do not know..."* (Jeremiah 16:12-13). *"Then it shall be, after I have plucked them out, that I will return and have compassion on them and bring them back, everyone to his heritage and everyone to his land."* (Jeremiah 12:15) *"...thus says the Lord God: 'I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' "* (Ezekiel 11:17)

The birth of the modern State of Israel was prophesied by Isaiah hundreds of years before it occurred: *"Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?"* (Isaiah 66:8) Yes! The nation of "Israel" was born on May 14, 1948. On the day of Israel's birth, Jordan and five other Arab states attacked the infant nation in an attempt to destroy it. *"...the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born"* (Revelation 12:4). But God saved the nation of Israel, and will continue to defend His covenant land and people today, and in the future. Israel will survive. The words of the prophet Jeremiah are as true today as when they were first penned:

"Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name): 'If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.' " (Jeremiah 31:35-36)

Norma Archbold makes an excellent point in **The Mountains of Israel** as she cogently explains God's plan (His will) to bring the Jewish people home and settle them in Judea and Samaria, the "mountains of Israel," also known as the West Bank: "Why did the Lord...choose a people, promise them a land; let them fall into slavery in Egypt, bring them out of Egypt, resettle them in their Land, exile them from their Land, scatter them over the face of the earth, promise to bring them back into

their Land, and promise to make the desert blossom?" God repeated His purpose 59 times in Ezekiel. He said, "...*then you shall know that I am the Lord!*" Yes, God's ultimate goal is that all men might KNOW HIM. Israel is more about GOD, than about Israel. The Jewish people are more about GOD, than about themselves. We need to ask: What is **God's will**, especially pertaining to His Land?

The Vilification of Israel

While the God of the Bible loves Israel, His enemy *ha-satan*, the evil one, hates Israel. A **spiritual battle** rages over God's Land. The people of Israel are caught in the middle. Most of them, being secular, don't even understand WHY they are in such an intense struggle. The age-old "anti-Semitism" is now masquerading as "anti-Israelism." The Flotilla incident of May, 2010 was a prime example. The world media was able to stir up anti-Israel sentiment based on fallacious evidence, portraying Israelis as villains and aggressors. The truth captured on videotape shows the opposite. The world is primed to accept any lie about Israel without bothering to check out the facts. In the case of the "Flotilla," there was a blockade in the first place to keep out arms and missiles being used to kill Israelis. All on board the Mavi Marmara were **not** either crew or peace activists. There were terrorists chanting slogans such as, "Khaibar, Khaibar, O Jews. The army of Mohammad will return." Peace activists do not use pipes, bats, and other instruments to attack soldiers and provoke a fight. The Israeli Commandos who boarded the ship carried paint ball guns for crowd control, and landed under orders not to fire their holstered handguns, which they obeyed for at least 10 minutes. The captain of the ship was warned prior to leaving Turkey that his vessel would be re-routed to the Israeli Port of Ashdod where humanitarian aid is **regularly** received. The entire episode was a setup to discredit Israel. And it worked! Remember: Satan is the father of lies.

Why such hatred and world condemnation of Israel you might ask? There is an ANCIENT HATRED at work, which has continued for almost 4,000 years. In Ezekiel 35:1-7, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob tells the prophet Ezekiel to prophesy against Mount Seir. God's reason: "...*because you have had an ancient hatred, and have shed the blood of the children of Israel by the power of the sword at the time of their calamity...*" (Ezekiel 35:5). What or who is Mount Seir? Mount Seir was the home of Esau, and was also called Edom. Esau was the son of Isaac who despised his birthright and sold it to his brother Jacob for a bowl of stew. (Genesis 25:29-34) Esau later planned to kill Jacob out of jealousy. God changed Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 32:28), and His descendants were called *B'nai Yisrael*, the children of Israel. So we have an ancient hatred between two brothers, Esau and Israel, that continues to this day. Esau's descendants, Edom, are the ones who refused passage to the Israelites after they left Egypt. (Numbers 20:18-21) Five hundred years later, Edom, along with Ammon and Moab (three ancient ancestors of the Arabic people), joined together to destroy Judah (the Jewish people). King Jehoshaphat and the Jewish people humbled themselves before the Lord, and He saved them by having their enemies turn on each other.

The Lord tells Edom in Ezekiel chapter 35 that He is against them because of their ancient hatred of Israel, their desire to take Israel's land, their blasphemies against the mountains of Israel, and their boasting against the God of Israel. God loves the Arab people, but He wants them to acknowledge that He is the only true God, and Israel is the Land that He chose to give to Jacob. We may not like or agree with what God does, but He is God, and we are not!

The "West Bank"

This leads us to today's dilemma of the "West Bank," a situation which provides almost daily fodder for Israel bashing. God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the mountains of Israel (a.k.a. the "West Bank") that His people Israel would come and settle there. (Ezekiel 36:8) God also said that He had heard all the blasphemies that had been spoken against the mountains of Israel. (Ezekiel 35:12) The

River. Renaming Judea and Samaria also served to reduce Jewish claim to the area. Nevertheless, Judea and Samaria are the heart of The Land promised by God to the children of Israel, the inheritance of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Joseph! Should this area, given by God through covenant, be called "occupied territories?" Is it wrong for Jewish people to settle in The Land that God has said they will possess? The media and the world think so, but in so doing, they oppose God.

Israel and the Palestinians

Between 1917 and 1948 the word "Palestinian" meant anyone (Jew or Arab) living in the British-occupied area which the British renamed "Palestine." An large area called Transjordan was created in 1922 in which Arabs were allowed to settle. But Jewish people were no longer allowed to settle east of the Jordan River. Transjordan became Jordan. Today, the territory once known as Palestine is two nations, Jordan (an Arab/Palestinian State) and Israel (the Jewish State).

The intent of Transjordan and Palestinian leaders in May of 1948 was to destroy Israel and to make it part of Transjordan. But, Israel survived because God was among them (Ezekiel 35:11), and the Arab nations were fighting against God Himself. Approximately 700,000 Arabs became refugees in 1948. Has the Lord or Israel been unfair to them? Consider the facts as outlined by Norma Archbold in her book: "An Arab/Palestinian state exists. 77% of Palestine is ruled by Arabic people (the land called Jordan). Only 23% of Palestine is ruled by Israel. Arabic people also rule 17 nations surrounding Israel. Yet with 17 nations and 640 times more land and with fabulous wealth from oil, Arab Moslems did not settle their brothers. This is the cause of the Palestinian problem." These nations could easily have absorbed the Palestinian refugees. They chose not to. And even though the Lord promised the "Holy Land" to the Jewish people, Israelis have always allowed Arabic people to continue to live in Israel under Israeli rule. They vote and even have seats in The Knesset.

It is not God's will that a "Palestinian State" be carved out of The Land set aside by God. It is also not God's will that Israel as a nation cease to exist! Unfortunately, this has become the Palestinian agenda since Palestinian guerilla groups have been spawned from the refugee camps. No doubt many peace-loving Palestinian people have been caught in the middle. But terrorists now openly control the Palestinian government. When Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 and gave it to the Palestinian Arabs, it soon became a launching pad for massive attacks on Israeli civilians. Palestinian children are taught to hate Jews. In textbooks, the entire land of Israel is considered to be occupied territory. The Charter of the Palestinian Liberation Organization is very clear. Its stated goal is to wipe Israel off the map and to create a Palestinian State in The Land given to Israel by God. We were deeply grieved when we found out that President Obama allocated 400 million dollars to help develop the Palestinian police force, actually their army. He is not treating Israel as a friend!

Finally, but of supreme importance, is the fact that the existence of Israel as a Jewish State is an affront to Allah, the God of Islam. Israel's return brings the truth of The Koran into question. The battle is spiritual. The victor is sure. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who loves both Jews and Arabs, and who gave His Son to die for them, longs for both brothers, and all people, to come home TO HIM. Pray. Pray. Pray. Time is running out.

Melanie Jamieson

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - August 2010

Direct TV

Sun 2:30 PM; Ch 376 (CTN)
Sun 3:00 PM; Ch 367 (WHT)

Dish Network

Sun 2:30 PM; Ch 267 (CTN)

AT&T Cable

Sun 2:30 PM; Ch 578 (WHT)

Internet

www.jewishjewels.org

New York City

Sun 4:00 PM; Ch 63 (WMBC)

See website for other local cities and times. Click on the TV, then click airtime schedule.