

# 1. The Israel Question

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Sub-title: Why I support Israel

Many people today are in a conundrum. They ask themselves whether they should support Israel or if they should support the “Palestinians”. This is so, not just in light of the middle eastern conflict that has been going on for decades, but especially in light of the recent war that was sparked by the Hamas-led attack against Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

As believers we should agree, that, at the very least, we should be on the side of:

- Righteousness
- Biblical truth
- Biblical covenants

We should not be influenced or swayed by ethnic preferences, nor by propaganda peddled by legacy media (MSM) or social media.

- As believers, our worldview is shaped by the Word of God
- We have the Spirit of Truth living within us, giving us discernment
- We love all people
- We hate nobody

**Daniel 5:13–14 (NET)** *So Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel, “Are you that Daniel who is one of the captives of Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? 14 I have heard about you, how there is a spirit of the gods in you, and how **you have insight, discernment, and extraordinary wisdom.***

- We need all three qualities listed in verse 14

## 1. **Abraham is the Patriarch (Father) of the Jewish People**

- Abraham begot Isaac
- Isaac begot Jacob
- Jacob (was renamed Israel) & had 12 sons, from which came the 12 tribes of Israel
- One of Jacob’s sons was called Judah (4<sup>th</sup> son)
- The term “Jew” comes from the name “Judah”

**Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)** Now the Lord had said to Abram: “**Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**”

- Abra(ha)m & his ancestors lived in Ur of the Chaldeans (present day Iraq)
- His father Terah moved the family to Haran (present day Turkey)
- From there, God commanded Abra(ha)m:
  - to leave his country (Turkey)
  - leave his family (Chaldeans)
  - leave his father’s house (Terah)
- ... to a land that I will show you (Canaan land)
- God said: I will make of you a great nation (=Israel, the Jewish people)
- God also said:
  - I will bless those who bless you - (Abra(ha)m and his descendants)
  - I will curse him who curses you - (Abra(ha)m and his descendants)
- Curse – invoke harm or injury by means of a statement ...
- (It is self-explanatory to suggest that all people, but especially Christians, should remove any anti-Jewish sentiment from their lives)

## **2. God gave the land of Canaan to Abraham & the Jewish People**

**Genesis 12:4–9 (NKJV)** So **Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. 6 Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. 9 So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.**

- Abraham departed Haran to go to the land of Canaan
- (Canaan land is the landmass where the ancient Canaanites lived, involving the region adjoining the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea)
- Notice: And the Canaanites were then in the land

- “Canaan” became known as the “Promised Land”
- God “promised” (gave) the land of Canaan to Abraham & his descendants
- Vs. 9 So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the “South”
- South – Negev – reference to the Negev desert in the south of Israel

**Genesis 13:14–17 (NKJV)** *And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “**Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.**”*

- In Canaan land, God instructed Abraham to lift up his eyes & look
- Vs.15. all the land which you see I give to you & your descendants forever
- Notice: “forever”
- Vs. 17...walk in the land through its length & its width, for I give it to you
- After the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, God dispossessed the inhabitants of Canaan, namely the Canaanites, to give the land to the Israelites

### **3. God dispossessed the Nations that lived in Canaan land**

**Deuteronomy 11:22–24 (NKJV)** *“For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—**23 then the Lord will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. 24 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.**”*

- Vs 23. The Lord will drive out these nations from before you ...
- Which nations? The Canaanite nations!
- ... you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves ...
- Vs. 24. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours...
- ... from the wilderness and Lebanon
  - From the Sinai peninsula in the south to Lebanon in the north
- From the Euphrates River even to the Western Sea
  - From the Euphrates river in Iraq in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west

- This includes present day Jordan, parts of Syria and parts of Iraq

#### **4. God made a Covenant with Abraham & promised the Land of Canaan to him & his descendants**

**Genesis 17:7–8 (NKJV)** *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. 8 Also 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 15:18–21 (NKJV)** *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—19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”*

#### **5. God promised He would re-gather the Jewish People in their land**

**Ezekiel 39:27–28 (NKJV)** *When I have brought them back from the peoples and **gathered them out of their enemies’ lands**, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, 28 then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, **but also brought them back to their land**, and left none of them captive any longer.*

#### **6. For Israel, the right to live in their God-given land is about safety and security for their people**

- Many people think that the current conflict is solely about land
- Yes, for Israel as a nation, living in their God-given land is about safety and security for their people
- But for their enemies, the conflict is about complete religious dominance
- For them, the conflict has a name – jihad (a holy war)
- Israel’s enemies have, as their goal, the complete destruction and annihilation of Israel, as a nation and as a people

**Psalms 122:6–9 (NKJV)** *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces.” 8 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, “Peace be within you.” 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.*