

“ROOTS, FRUITS & THE FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT”¹

Specific Purpose: To explain the source, historically, of the conflict between Jews and Muslims & what the future of it will be, concluding with the undeniable need for every person, Jew or Gentile, to receive Jesus Christ as their own personal Lord & Savior before it's too late.

I. THE ROOT. – Genesis 16-17.

- A) **Ishmael – 16:1-6, 13-16.** (25:12-18 - his death)
- B) **Isaac – 17:1-8, 15-22; 21:1-7.** (22:1-ff - his potential sacrifice by Abraham)
- C) **The original enmity – 21:8-21.**

II. THE FRUIT: HATRED, LIES & DECEPTION. – Prov. 23:23- “*Buy the truth and sell it not!*”

- A) **Myth:** The “*Palestinian*” people are a distinct people group. **Reality:** There is no such thing as a “*Palestinian*” people.
- B) **Myth:** The Jews are illegal occupiers and usurpers of Arab lands. **Reality:** The Jews have an unbroken history of living in the land a minimum of at least 3,500 years-*not counting the time Abraham, Isaac & Jacob lived there!*
- C) **Myth:** The Jews stole the land from the Arabs. **Reality:** Totally false.
- D) **Myth:** If Israel would just give the Arabs back their land, everything would be fine. **Reality:** It really doesn't matter how much land Israel gives to the Arabs or “*Palestinians.*” They will settle for nothing less than all of the land...& the complete annihilation of Israel.
- E) **Myth:** Israel is continually trying to gobble up more of the Arab lands. **Reality:** Israel, in the Balfour Declaration (by Great Britain) was originally given a much larger area for their homeland, one comprised of territory on both sides of the Jordan River (i.e. modern day Jordan as well).
- F) **Myth:** The Palestinian “*refugees*” were run out of their land by the Jews. **Reality:** Most of the Arab “*refugees*” chose to leave Israel in 1948, many against Israeli requests to stay.
- G) **Myth:** The Arab nations have no problem with Jews, just “*Zionists.*” **Reality:** Hundreds of thousands of Jews (at least 800,000) fled for their lives & were run out of the surrounding Arab countries where they had live (some for generations) after those Arab countries lost the 1948 war.
- H) **Myth:** The suffering in Gaza and the “*West Bank*” (actually Judea & Samaria) is a new “*holocaust*” caused by Israel & the USA-greedy capitalist countries who refuse to help

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- the suffering Palestinians. ***Reality:*** As of 2003, the USA had contributed over 1.1 billion, Israel 700 million/year until Hamas took over, etc.
- I) ***Myth:*** Lands gained by Israel during past wars must be returned to the previous occupants. ***Reality:*** Israel has returned over 90% of the land they conquered during the wars of 1948, 1956, 1967 & 1973.
- J) ***Myth:*** Even if the Palestinians aren't a distinct people group, since they yearn for a homeland it should be given to them, or failing that, they should be allowed to return to Israel en masse. ***Reality:*** Majorities within a country seeking to maintain that status is not unusual (e.g. India, Pakistan, etc.). Secondly, societies usually reflect the cultural identity of its majority. Finally, a number of genuine distinct nationalities worldwide also yearn for a homeland, but their pleas continue to be completely ignored (e.g. The Basques, Kurds, Tibetans, etc.).
- K) ***Myth:*** The Bible is an anti-Muslim book written by a bunch of male chauvinists. ***Reality:*** God inspired it. Also, the Muslim religion didn't even exist when the Bible was written.
- L) ***Myth:*** Thousands of innocent civilians were killed in Lebanon when Israel tried to drive out the Hezbollah in 2005(?). ***Reality:*** The total number of deaths, including soldiers and terrorists-on both sides-was a little over one thousand.
- M) ***Myth:*** Israel deliberately targeted civilians. ***Reality:*** That is blatantly false.
- N) ***Myth:*** Israel is a Nazi-like regime. ***Reality:*** To compare Israel to the Nazi regime is not just to defame all Jews, it also demonstrates a complete ignorance of history & an inability to think rationally.
- O) ***Myth:*** What happened in Lebanon was a new "holocaust." ***Reality:*** to describe what happened in southern Lebanon as a new "holocaust" is so outrageous as to border on insanity.
- P) ***Myth:*** Islamic suicide bombers blow themselves up due to their extreme frustration due to the hopeless, squalid conditions they live in. ***Reality:*** The vast majority of suicide bombers are well educated, middle-class individuals, motivated not by frustration, but by a religious ideology that, among other things, guarantees a "paradise" where 70 virgins await the males who blow themselves up.
- Q) ***Myth:*** What happened in Lebanon was "genocide." ***Reality:*** To call the attempt to root out extremely well-armed, highly organized terrorists who have been killing and deliberately targeting innocent civilians in Israel for years "genocide" is ludicrous propaganda.
- R) ***Myth:*** Israel builds settlements in defiance of UN advice & sanctions because they want to take over all the land. ***Reality:*** Shortly after the Six-Day war ended, the Labor-led Israeli government offered to evacuate all of the seized territory (apart from the eastern half of Jerusalem, where religious Jews had lived for centuries) in exchange for a final peace treaty with surrounding Arab states. That peace offer was soundly rejected at a subsequent Arab league meeting in Khartoum. (Israel did remove 18 Jewish "communities/settlements" from the Sinai in 1981, from Yamit in 1982 & 21 "settlements" from the Gaza Strip in 2005, under Sharon. –Dave Dolan, IMG, Jan/Feb 2010, p. 31).

III. THE PROGNOSIS.

- A) *In the past* they got along once...*at least briefly* – **Gen. 25:9**.
- B) *In the future* the ones who trust Christ will get along perfectly...*forever!* - **Zech. 12; Mt. 24; Rev. 21:11**(Christ's return).
- C) *Otherwise*...it's everlasting punishment, whether you are of Isaac (**Mt. 25:1-13**) or Ishmael's line (**Mt. 25:31-46**)

...and for you and me as well! So be ready:

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

– Matt. 24:42-44.