

Why WYE?

"They Shall Say Peace, Peace When There Is No Peace"

For nine days world attention focused on the Wye Plantation peace negotiations. Why? In the eyes of the world powers, a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza is a must. Why? Is it because of Palestinian rights? Not really. The issue is not moral, as the public is led to believe, but pragmatic. Plain and simple, without Arab oil, the world economy would collapse.

When Prime Minister Netanyahu returned to Israel, he told the "right wing" leaders that he was subjected to incredible pressure to compromise and that he acquired the best deal possible under this pressure. President Clinton spent marathon hours pressuring, pressuring, pressuring Netanyahu. Wye was but another step towards-what Hillary Clinton has publicly declared as a right of the Palestinians-a Palestinian state.

There is something world leaders have overlooked. The Land is not theirs to parcel out. Nor does it belong to the Palestinians. It belongs to God and He has promised it to Israel. This peace will not last because God is angry with the nations for partitioning "His land." (Joel 3:1-3) The boundaries of the Land of Israel were set in God's promise of Genesis 15:18-20. In God's due time Israel will possess all of it.

Palestinian rights ???

PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat in his speech before the U.N. in 1974 declared, "The Jewish invasion began in 1881 . . . Palestine was then a verdant area, inhabited mainly by an Arab people in the course of building its life and dynamically enriching its indigenous culture."

What happens when this claim is compared with the personal observations of the following recognized authorities? In 1738 Thomas Shaw observed a land of "barrenness.... from want of inhabitants." In 1785 Constantine Francois de Volney recorded the population of the three main cities. Jerusalem had a population of 12,000 to 14,000. Bethlehem had about 600 able-bodied men. Hebron had 800 to 900 men. In 1835 Alphonse de Lamartine wrote, "Outside the city of Jerusalem, we saw no living object, heard no living sound. . .a complete eternal silence reigns in the town, in the highways, in the country . . . The tomb of a whole people."

In 1857, the British consul in Palestine, James Finn, reported, "The country is in a considerable degree empty of inhabitants and therefore its greatest need is that of a body of population." This historic observation is a remarkable confirmation of the Biblical predictions that during Israel's period of time of punishment and dispersion, the Lord would cause the Land to become desolate of man and beast (Jeremiah 33:10; Zechariah 10:12; Jeremiah 16:14-18). No wonder by 1857 it was just waiting for "a body of population"! In the Lord's providence this needed body of population-the Jewish people-began to return after 1878 at the end of their Scriptural period of God's disfavor.

The most popular quote on the desolation of the Land is from Mark Twain's THE

INNOCENTS ABROAD (1867), "Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes. Over it broods the spell of a curse that has withered its fields and fettered its energies....Palestine is desolate and unlovely.... It is a hopeless, dreary, heartbroken land."

The records of history confirm the Biblical predictions that during the Jewish dispersion and period of God's disfavor, the Land of Israel would become desolate awaiting the return of the Jewish people when its period of disfavor ended in 1878. The records of history simply do not confirm today's Palestinian claim of Palestinian roots and culture in a "verdant area" since the Arab rule of the land (A.D. 640-1099).

Southern Syria vs. "Palestine"

Until the 1960s the Arabs in the Land called themselves Southern Syrians and clamored that the Land become a part of a "Greater Syria." This "Arab Nation" would include Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Transjordan as well as Palestine. An observation in TIME magazine well articulated how the Palestinian identity was born so belatedly in the 1960s:

Golda Meir once argued that there was no such thing as a Palestinian; at the time, she wasn't entirely wrong. Before Arafat began his proselytizing, most of the Arabs from the territory of Palestine thought of themselves as members of an all-embracing Arab nation. It was Arafat who made the intellectual leap to a definition of the Palestinians as a distinct people; he articulated the cause, organized for it, fought for it and brought it to the world's attention. . . .

If there was an Arab Palestinian culture, a normal population increase over the centuries would have been expected. But with the exception of a relatively few families, the Arabs had no attachment to the Land. If Arabs from Syria or other Arab lands drifted into Palestine for economic reasons, within a generation or so the cultural tug would pull them back. This is why the Arab population average remained low until the influx of Jewish financial investments and Jewish people in the late 1800s made the Land economically attractive. Then sometime between 1850 and 1918, the Arab population shot up to 560,000. Not to absolve the Jews but to defend British policy, the not over friendly British secretary of state for the colonies, Malcolm MacDonald, declared in the House of Commons (November 24, 1938), "The Arabs cannot say that the Jews are driving them out of the country. If not a single Jew had come to Palestine after 1918, I believe the Arab population of Palestine would still have been around 600,000. . ."

Jewish contributions and Jewish immigration continued to flow into the Land. The Jews created industry, agriculture, hospitals-a complete socio-economic infrastructure. As job opportunities increased, so did Arab immigration. In fact, in 1939 President Roosevelt observed that "Arab immigration into Palestine since 1921 has vastly exceeded the total Jewish immigration during this whole period." For one specific example, in 1934 between 30,000 and 36,000 Arabs from the Hauran Province in Syria left for "the better life" in Palestine.

On the other hand, Great Britain's White Paper of 1939 closed the doors of Jewish immigration to their Land. Simultaneously, there was a large-scale Arab immigration to the new Land of opportunity during World War II. In 1946 Bartley C. Crum, a United States Government observer, noted that tens of thousands of Arabs had entered Palestine

"because of this better life-and they were still coming."

The Testimony of Arabs

Because Arabs until the 1960s spoke of Palestine as Southern Syria or part of Greater Syria, the General Syrian Congress stated in 1919, "We ask that there should be no separation of the southern part of Syria, known as Palestine." George Antonius noted the Arab view of Palestine in 1918:

The representative Arab view was substantially that which King Husain [Grand Sherif of Mecca, the great grandfather of the current King Hussein of Jordan] had expressed to the British Government. . . in January 1918. In the Arab view, Palestine was an Arab territory forming an integral part of Syria.

As late as May 1947, Arab representatives reminded the United Nations in a formal statement, "Palestine is a...part of the Province of Syria....Politically, the Arabs of Palestine were not independent in the sense of forming a separate political entity."

On May 31, 1956, Ahmed Shukairy had no hesitation, as current head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in announcing to the Security Council the observation, "It is common knowledge that Palestine is nothing but southern Syria."

Syrian President Hafez Assad once told PLO leader Yassir Arafat:

You do not represent Palestine as much as we do. Never forget this one point: There is no such thing as a Palestinian People, there is no Palestinian entity, there is only Syria. You are an integral part of the Syrian people, Palestine is an integral part of Syria. Therefore it is we, the Syrian authorities, who are the true representatives of the Palestinian people.

In the words of the late military commander of the PLO as well as member of the PLO Executive Council, Zuhair Muhsin:

There are no differences between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese. We are all part of one nation. It is only for political reasons that we carefully underline our Palestinian identity....yes, the existence of a separate Palestinian identity serves only tactical purposes. The founding of a Palestinian state is a new tool in the continuing battle against Israel [emphasis ours].

These testimonies confirm the Christian Scriptures that God gave the Land to the Jewish people as an everlasting possession. The relatively few Arabs who wandered into the Land between A.D. 670-1878 were but temporary dwellers.

As observed by Ernst Frankenstein, substantial Arab immigration was a recent phenomenon:

The early "lovers of Zion" began the stimulation of Arab immigration. Some writers have come out with the conclusion that in 1942, 75 percent of the Arab population were either immigrants or descendants of immigrants into Palestine during the

preceding one hundred years, mainly after 1882.

The Verdict Of History: Land Rights

Indeed, the verdict of history confirms the Prophets. The population of the Land of Israel would be minimal until the period of Israel's disfavor ended in 1878 when the regathering of the Jewish exiles began (Jeremiah 33:10; Zechariah 9:12 and Jeremiah 16:14-18). The record of history testifies that the great influx of Arabs also began after that date. These facts of history explain why the United Nations needed to develop a definition that a "Palestinian Refugee" is any Arab who had been in "Palestine" for only two years.

Arafat's demand for a Palestinian state contradicts his own bible, the Muslim Koran, which teaches that the Jewish people were given the Land of Israel by God's decree and that they would return and resettle their ancient Jewish homeland in the latter days. Send for your free copy of the article which contains these passages from the Koran.