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**B0622 – June 4, 2006 – Israel: The Re-Birth Of The Nation Of Israel 1917-
1948**

The People of Israel

The Abraham Covenant - Unconditional

Isaac

Jacob – renamed Israel

The Land of Israel – eternal possession

The Sovereign Nation of Israel (1445-605BC)

The Mosaic Covenant – Conditional (1445BC) – Blessing/Cursing Motif

Wilderness Wanderings (1445-1405BC)

Conquest and Settlement (1445-1398BC)

Judges (1368-1050BC)

Kings (1050-722BC)

Kingdom Divided (931BC)

Northern Kingdom Falls (722BC) – 5th Degree of Cursing

Southern Kingdom Falls (605BC) – 5th Degree of Cursing

The Subservient Nation of Israel (605BC-1948AD)

Babylon (605-536BC)

Medo-Persia (536-332BC)

Greece (332-63BC)

Rome (63BC-324AD)

Byzantine (324-638AD)

Arab I (638-1099AD)

Crusades (1099-1187AD)

Arab II (1187-1517AD)

Ottoman (1517-1917AD)

Britain (1917-1948AD)

Attempts at Jewish Assimilation in Europe

During the latter period of the Ottoman Turks, who controlled the Promised Land from 1517-1917, several factors played a role in implanting in Jews of the Diaspora a desire for a national homeland in their ancient Land, now known as Palestine.

First, the French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte opened the door for Jewish assimilation and happiness. Bonaparte said, "I desire to take every means to ensure that the rights which were restored to the Jewish people be not illusory...to find for them a Jerusalem in France." With this statement many leading Jews in France renounced any need to return to the Land of Israel. For example, Abraham Furtado said, "We are no longer a nation within a nation. France is our country, Jews. Your obligations are outlined; your happiness is waiting." This renouncing of the need for a separate nation set the tone for Jewish life for the next century. Jews across Europe hoped they could achieve similar results in the nations which they resided. However, it did not and as hard as the Jews tried to assimilate they were continually blockaded. For example, they continued to be accused of Blood Libel, an ancient accusation of the Catholic Church that Jews ritually murdered Christians and baked their blood into the Passover *matzot*. Additionally, for their small numbers they reached many high positions of influence and wherever they were it did not go unnoticed, especially for the Rothschild bankers, who supposedly had plotted to exploit and impoverish Catholic Europe. Despite their best efforts to assimilate in Europe it was widely believed that no Jew could truly be loyal to the country in which he lived. This became very apparent during the Dreyfus Affair. For hundreds of years they had tried to assimilate and in the history of the world no such people has had such difficulty assimilating. Was the providential hand of God at work in keeping this people distinct?

Anti-Semitism in Europe (19th Century)

Thus, anti-Semitism began to rise in Europe. They were falsely accused of murdering Catholics in order to drink their blood, an ancient accusation from the Medieval Ages. They were accused of wrecking economies. Everything that went wrong was charged to the Jews.

Evolution (1859AD)

In addition to this, in 1859, Charles Darwin published his book "The Origin of Species", at least, that's the title most of us know his work by. The full title is *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. This racist book led many to conclude that there was biological proof

for the racial superiority of certain peoples, namely, tall Aryan's with blond hair and blue eyes. The exact opposite of this was the Jew who had dark hair and dark eyes. This belief of Aryan supremacy led to the most horrific expression of racism the world has ever seen when the Holocaust began in 1943.

Protocols of the Elders of Zion (1894AD)

Meanwhile, in the late 1800's in Russia, a document was being propagated to convince the Russian czar, Nicholas II, that the Jews were his greatest enemies. The main instrument used to propagate this notion was a document called the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion". This forged document made its way to Europe and was widely circulated. The Protocols purported to show, from reports of an alleged International Jewish Congress, that there was a widespread international Jewish movement to destroy existing Christian organizations and to replace them by Jewish world domination." The Jews were accused of a great conspiracy. By 1919 most people in Europe believed the document to be genuine. In 1921 the Lond Times exposed the Protocols as being an outright forgery, based on blatant lites, but it was already too late. too many people believed them. Anti-Semites in the 21st century still refer to the Protocols. In the US, Henry Ford circulated the Protocols in his newspaper.

Anti-Semitism re-kindled by Medieval Catholic accusations, intensified by evolutionary racism and the fabricated Protocols of the Elders of Zion crushed all attempts of the Jews to assimilate and was well on its way toward physical annihilation. But, at the same time, it gave many Jews a fever for Jewish nationalism.

Jewish Nationalism

The Dreyfus Affair (1894-1906AD)

The key event which gave rise to the political movement that resulted in the re-birth of the nation of Israel was the Dreyfus Affair. In 1894, Alfred Dreyfus, a captain in the French Army and a wealthy Jew, was convicted of treason and sentenced to life in prison on Devil's Island. He was convicted of passing secret army information to the Germans. An unsigned letter had been found in a wastebasket by the cleaning woman. Handwriting comparisons led to the arrest of Dreyfus even though his handwriting was by no means identical to that on the discovered letter. At the trial the letter was bolstered with a secret collection of papers submitted to the judges only so as to protect state security. Dreyfus was a Jew nevertheless and incarcerated and sent to Devil's Island. Two years later

another letter turned up with the same handwriting. But this time Dreyfus was on Devil's Island. Who then was the culprit? It was determined among the French officers that it was Major Esterhazy, but the Army could not afford to admit it made an error and thus they forged new evidence to strengthen the case against Dreyfus. Esterhazy was actually found out and taken to court but found innocent. Dreyfus was tried again in 1899 and with irrefutable evidence of his innocence and yet again he was found guilty. It was not until 1906 that a new French president pardoned Dreyfus and re-instated his rank and he was awarded the medal of the Legion of Honor. However inhumane this case was it gave rise to the political movement of Zionism led by Theodore Herzl.

Theodore Herzl

Herzl said, "What made me into a Zionist was the Dreyfus Case...the original one in Paris, which I witnessed in 1894. At that time I was living in Paris as a newspaper correspondent and attended the proceedings of the military court until they were declared secret. I can still see the defendant coming into the hall in his dark artillery uniform trimmed with braid. I still hear him give his credentials: "Alfred Dreyfus, Captain of artillery," in his affected nasal voice. And also the howls of the mob in the street in front of the Ecole Militaire, where he was degraded, still ring unforgettably in my ears: "Death! Death to the Jews!" Death to Jews all because this one was a traitor? But was he really a traitor?...I...believed in his innocence, because I did not consider a Jewish officer capable of being a traitor to his country. Not that I regarded the Jews...as better than other human beings. But under the particular circumstances the whole thing appeared unlikely to me. A wealthy man, who had chosen this career only through ambition, simply could not have committed the most dishonorable of all crimes...the Dreyfus case contains more than a miscarriage of justice: it contains the wish of the vast majority in France to damn one Jew and through him all Jews. "Death to the Jews!" the crowd yelled when they ripped the Captain's stripes from his uniform. And since that time, "Down with the Jews" has become a battle cry. Where? In France. In Republican, modern, civilized France, one hundred years after the Declaration of the Rights of Man...And here we are at the matter that concerns us, here we are at the lesson in history that any unprejudiced observer must draw from the Dreyfus case. Up to that time, most of us had believed that the solution of the Jewish question was to be expected from the gradual progress of mankind toward tolerance. But if an otherwise progressive, surely highly civilized people could come to such a pass, what was there to be expected from other people, who even today are not at the height at which the French have already been for a hundred years?" (Eban, *My People*, 297-298).

And so, the soon to be leader of Zionism was born and Jews were fleeing from Russia and Western Europe, some went East to Palestine, most went west to the British domains but above all most came to the United States. America offered freedom; her constitution makes a special point of the individual's right to the "pursuit of happiness." Calvin Coolidge later said, "The Jewish faith is predominantly the faith of liberty" (Eban, *My People*, 302). The early history of Jews in America is one of individuals rather than of communities. "In Texas alone one learns of pioneers like Adolphus Sterne, who fought in the war against Mexico and later became a member of the Texan Congress; David S Kaufman, a graduate of Princeton College, who was also elected to the Texas legislature; Moses Albert Levy, who served as surgeon-general in Sam Houston's army" and many others (Eban, *My People*, 302). So, America became a haven for Jews and they have enjoyed more freedom in America than any other time in history since they were a sovereign nation more than 2,500 years ago.

But Herzl was fully convinced after the Dreyfus case that the Jews could never assimilate or exist as a nation within a nation. Yet there was a need for unity among the Jewish people who held many different opinions. Out of this grew Zionism, a political movement that sought a free and independent state of Israel in her ancient homeland. Attempts had been made to move Jews to Argentine lands. In 1903 a British officer suggested Uganda as a Jewish settlement. "The Palestine ideal alone reflected the age-old yearnings of the Jewish people..." For centuries at Passover they would recite, "Next year in Jerusalem..." The forerunners to Herzl were Moses Hess and Leon Pinsker, a Russian Jew who wrote on the brutal massacres occurring there. So, two great events led to Zionism; in the west the Dreyfus affair and in the east anti-Semitic massacres in Russia. Together they worked (or God worked through them) to turn the hearts and minds of the Jews to their ancient homeland, *Eretz Israel!*

In 1897 the land was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire (Turks). A significant Jewish community had already been established there *without* the approval of the Turks. In that same year, Herzl called the First Zionist Congress where he said "At Basle I created the Jewish State. In five years, perhaps, and certainly in fifty, everyone will see it." And he was only off by one year, for in 51 years, on May 14, 1948, the world witnessed the re-birth of the state of Israel. For Herzl, anti-Semitism troubled him. The Jewish question began to haunt him. The Dreyfus affair horrified him. All his energy and all his money and all his labor brought about the first Zionist Congress, the first worldwide gathering of Jews since their dispersion. At the Congress in Basle, Switzerland he presented a flag, white with two blue stripes and the star of David. He believed a flag was important for men to unite under and to be led to the Promised Land. He also adopted a national

anthem, *Hatikvah* (The Hope). His energies were poured into talking to leaders all over the world to help in establishing a state of Israel. He died of pneumonia, his dreams unrealized, at age 44. 6,000 Jews attended his funeral. Failing to establish a state of Israel he did not fail in the long-run. He had lit a fire in the hearts of the Jewish people, and in 1949, when his dreams were realized his remains were brought to Israel and re-interred on a hill overlooking Jerusalem, named Mount Herzl.

Chaim Weizmann

His dreams were picked up by another Jew, Chaim Weizmann, a brilliant scientist in Britain and friends with many in political leadership. He helped Lloyd George in the production of acetone during the war effort of WWI and gained a friend in the man who would later be Prime Minister.

The Balfour Declaration

But the real breakthrough came when Weizmann met James Balfour in 1906. Balfour tried to convince Weizmann of a state in Uganda but Weizmann ended up convincing Balfour of Palestine. Balfour became an ardent supporter of Zionism. Without Balfour there would have been no hope. On November 2, 1917, the British Foreign Office issued this declaration in the form of a letter to Lord Rothschild, a member of the House of Lords.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following Declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet:

“His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Your sincerely,
Arthur James Balfour

This Declaration led to the British invasion of Palestine which ended in success just one month later. Some time later Prime Minister Lloyd George said to Weizmann, “Now you have your State. It is up to you to win the race.” The League of Nations formally conferred the Declaration on Britain in 1922. “The Balfour Declaration is the decisive diplomatic victory of the Jewish people in modern history.” Yet, it was no more than an opportunity. Weizmann became recognized and treated as the President of Israel even before Israel became a State.

Waves of Immigration to Israel (*aliyah*)

In the meantime there were waves of immigration (*aliyah*). Jews from all over the world coming into the land of Israel which was a wretched, swamp filled, malaria infested wilderness. Times were difficult. To help establish unity among those returning, Zionism chose to revive the Hebrew language as the medium of communication in the life and literature of the people. One man, Eliezer ben Yehudah, dedicated his entire life to remolding the Hebrew language as the vehicle of Jewish life. The Hebrew language formed a link between the people of Israel and the land of Israel and revived their past glories. They began to build roads, drain the swamps and convert the land into a flourishing and productive country. Between the years of 1917 and 1939 the population grew from 55,000 to 450,000. There were times when the men went hungry so the cattle could eat. They explained, “We are Zionists, but our cows are not.”

Between the Wars (1917-1939AD)

During their time under the British Mandate it was supposed that the British would serve and protect the interests of the Jewish people in their return and development of the Land of Israel. However, when the Ottoman Empire fell Arab interests in the land were revitalized as well. They made no early attempts at the land of Palestine because they knew they had no ancient claims to the land. Further, they were given a big Arab state including Iraq, Transjordan, and Saudi Arabia. However, by 1936 the Arabs had not “secured” their big Arab state and the British dominated Iraq. Thus, the Arabs began to claim Palestine as theirs and totally resisted a Jewish National Home. Quickly, all the leading Arab families (who were all Muslim) agreed on one point: they demanded the abolition of the Jewish national home and the Balfour Declaration, and the establishment of an Arab independent state. Their case was that sovereignty belonged to Arabs

wherever they were and to Jews nowhere at all. “Arab nationalism and Zionism were henceforward locked in mortal combat.” The British began to back off from the Balfour Declaration and began to obstruct and later repress the Jews. Tensions were high and guerrilla warfare was often carried out between both Jews and Arabs. The British often did nothing or sided with the Arabs. The relations between the British and Zionists came to a virtual breaking point in 1939 with the publication of the White Paper. This document drastically limited immigration and land settlement and determined to hand all the land over to an Arab government. This resulted in the first open conflict between the British and the Jews whom they had agreed to help in establishing a Jewish State under the Balfour Declaration. But the British aim of keeping tranquility among the Arabs was too great. During WWII, ships loaded with survivors of the Holocaust were sent back to the blood-stained ground of Europe, many of them to concentration camps in Germany. One ship was turned back at the Black Sea and sunk. More than 700 Jews drowned. It was looking as if a State of Israel might not be founded after all. During this time Israel had established small military groups called *Haganah*, the *Palmach* and others to protect themselves from the Arabs. These would all later unify and become known as the IDF, Israeli Defense Forces.

WWII & The Holocaust (1939-1945AD)

Then, the horrifying news of WWII and the Holocaust. Smaller persecutions of Jews came before 1939 but the final solution to the Jewish question came in that year. The most terrible things happened after 1941. In June 1941, Hitler broke his pact with Stalin and marched into Russia. At once, the Jewish population in the invaded territories was systematically exterminated. Jews were rounded up, shot on the spot, and dumped into common graves. Jews were forced to gather their brethren and then they were herded onto trucks and freight cars, taken outside the town to some ravine or ditch, stripped of valuables and clothing, and then—men, women and children were shot. The countryside became an immense graveyard, drenched in the blood of innumerable anonymous corpses. Other methods of execution employed were mass drownings, burnings, and gassings in mobile gas chambers usually disguised as convoy trucks. The final blow took place in the concentration camps where Jews were stripped of everything they possessed including hair, gold teeth, and false limbs. Even their bones were turned into phosphate and their fat into soap. Thousands of German nationals became rich from the pillage. In the words of Himmler, “We have written a glorious page in our history. A story which should never be told. We have taken everything they owned.” Hoess, the camp commander of Auschwitz, stated at his postwar trial:

I commanded Auschwitz until December 1, 1943 and estimate that at least 2,500,000 victims were executed and exterminated there by gassing and burning, and at least another half a million succumbed to starvation and disease, making a total dead of about 3,000,000... We executed about 400,000 Hungarian Jews alone at Auschwitz in the summer of 1944.

When you arrived at Auschwitz you were either chosen for labor or rejected. If you were chosen for labor the average lifespan was three months. If not then you went straight to your death. You were led to think you were going to have a shower and after undressing you were handed a bar of soap. The gas chambers had simulated shower heads coming out of the ceiling. Then canned Zyklon "B" gas was dropped through little windows in the ceiling. The asphyxiation process took 3-10 minutes. After 30 minutes the bodies would be removed by Jews who had been selected to clean out the chambers, search the bodies and bury or burn them. Then they would take the bodies to the crematoria. The ashes would be loaded onto trucks or dumped into ditches. It was all a part of long-term planning that had begun in 1933 and was carried out systematically. To read the documentation is to enter into a world of horror.

After the Holocaust the numbers, oh the numbers, before the Holocaust there were ~ 16 million Jews. During the Holocaust some estimates say as little as 4.1 million were murdered and others as many as 6 million. Neither is a little number. Either way it is completely inexcusable and there is no doubt that the extermination was carried out by thousands and so it can only have been carried out by those thoroughly convinced of the ideology. They had been thoroughly indoctrinated years in advance into the "Aryan" myth. But that does not remove responsibility. It has taken 60 years for the Jewish population to climb to 15 million, still less than 1939.

In the aftermath, the White Paper had said that no Jews could return to the Land of Palestine, yet the world looked upon this tragedy of a people and though no one would stand firmly on their side it was too great a horror not to extend some sympathy to the people. Where were the rest of the homeless Jews going to reside. There was but one place the Jews could accept. They would not dwell (except in America) among foreign nations. *Eretz Israel* was their only hope.

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