

**Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hay-nu meh-lech ha-o-lahm, sheh-heh-cheh-yah-nu v'kee-y'mah-nu
v'he-ge-a-nu la-z'mahn ha-zeh. A-main.**

**Blessed are you O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has given us life, sustained us, and
brought us to this season. Amen.**

Introduction: Israel on Trial

Israel is on trial:

In the public...

In the media...

By their enemies...

And even by their allies...

So, if Israel is on trial, what are the charges?

- They are being tried for illegally occupying what the world has called Palestine.
- They are being accused of genocide - the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.
- They are being accused of apartheid - a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race.

Are these accusations valid?

Does Israel have a right to reside in this land and defend itself?

Seeing as Israel is on trial, let's present the evidence.

According to scripture we will be following criteria:

Deu 19:15 "One witness alone will not be sufficient to convict a person of any offense or sin of any kind; the matter will be established only if there are two or three witnesses testifying against him.

1Ti 5:19 Never listen to any accusation against a leader unless it is supported by two or three witnesses.

There will be two witnesses.

The first witness is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The second witness will be the events that transpired before, during and after World War I

Our first witness is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...

- Genesis 12:1 – 3 establishes covenant with Abraham – to make him a great nation
- Genesis 15:18 – 21 – established with Abraham – a covenant with land boundaries
- Genesis 17:8 – confirmed to Abraham and extended to descendants
- Genesis 26:4 – reconfirmed to Isaac (second generation)
- Genesis 35:12 – reconfirmed to Jacob (third generation)

- Numbers 34 – prepares a new generation for taking possession of the land that has been promised them.
- Deuteronomy 1:7 – 8 – prepares a new generation moving towards the fulfillment of the promises made generations before.
- Joshua 1:1 – 5 – Prepares a new leader – Joshua with the instructions to take possession of the land promised to his descendants
- Micah 7:11 – 17
- Jeremiah 29 – God will expel them from the land and after a time will regather them to the same land

The Word of Adonai is sufficient to support our beliefs, however there are some who do not consider the Word of Adonai to be authoritative.

Adonai's Word by many is considered to be fable, fairytale and allegorical.

Yet His very Word brought forth the existence of everything you see before you, including us as His creation.

Yet many have discounted His Word.

So to placate those who don't consider the Word of God to be the final authority and to meet our evidential requirement, we will now submit into evidence the events that transpired before, during and after World War I:

The first declaration by a nation supporting a Jewish national home in the land then known as Palestine came in 1917 when British foreign secretary James Balfour wrote what would become known as the “*Balfour Declaration*”

This declaration committed Britain to a solemn pledge to help the Jewish people establish a national homeland.

This declaration just didn't happen overnight or come from out of the blue, but is the result of 20 years of effort on the part of the Jewish people lead by Theodore Herzl, author of “*The Jewish State*” in 1896, leading to the Basel Conference in 1897 unifying the global Jewish movement of its day and thus establishing what we know today as Zionism.

Zionism = The dream of the Jewish people to return to what was then their former homeland.

After Herzl's death, the mantle was passed on to Chaim Weizmann who would champion the Zionist cause and helped lobby Great Britain, resulting in the “*Balfour Declaration*”

The “*Balfour Declaration*” was introduced in 1917, during World War 1, which not only involved Europe but also the Middle East.

When the war ended the victorious nations convened in Paris in 1919 for the Peace Conference. The allied powers who met were:

- United Kingdom (Great Britain)
- France
- Italy
- Japan
- United States

During this conference, Chaim Weizmann presented the following political claims to the council. Like a statement in a court of law he would seek

1. Recognition of the Jewish people as a people by international law
2. Recognition of their historical connection to the land known as Palestine.
3. The right to reconstitute what they used to have.

Reconstitution refers to Israel's prior connection to the land...to where Winston Churchill not only endorsed the "*Balfour Declaration*" but agreed history had attached the Jewish people to the land.

"It is manifestly right that the Jews who are scattered all over the world should have a national centre and a national home where some of them may be reunited. And where else could that be but in the land of Palestine, with which for more than 3000 years they have been intimately and profoundly associated"

One of the most respected politician and diplomat of the 20th century is in agreement with the *Balfour Declaration*.

Also at this conference, the Arabs through Faisal Hussein presented their claims.

- They were seeking legal standing as well.
- Asking for their right to establish an independent Arab state

Each presented their political claims to the Supreme Council of the Principal Allied Powers.

These five nations had the legal power of disposition after the war. They were the key victorious nations who had legal title by way of peace treaties. Because of their authority, they were able to transfer that authority to others, thus being able to establish the right of territorial sovereignty for which the Jews and Arabs each made their claims.

One of the cornerstones associated with deciding the transfer of sovereignty was found in Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations...

Since the war had destroyed what was the Ottoman Empire, the League adopted a mandate system that would put them (Ottoman) under the tutelage of more advanced nations. What they called big brother helping little brother

By the end of the Paris conference in 1919 the claims made by the Jews and Arabs had not been addressed. Those claims would wait until the following year in Italy at San Remo.

The following year at San Remo, the Representatives listened to each one's claims.

The final answer – they said yes to both sets of claims.

They agreed with the claims of the Jewish people as well as the Arab people.

Prior to San Remo, the "*Balfour Declaration*" carried political weight, but did not have international legal authority.

Now, in 1920 it obtained both – political weight and international legal authority

Weizmann stated: "This is the most momentous political event in the whole history of our Zionist movement.

What the San Remo resolution did was enact the "*Balfour Declaration*" as part of the law of the nations of the world.

Great Britain and France would undertake the mandates that Article 22 stipulated. There were a total of three:

1. France would oversee the Syrian mandate (which would include what is today Lebanon)
2. Great Britain would oversee the mandates of Iraq and Palestine

The initial mandate for Palestine included territory on both sides of the Jordan river.

However, to settle a dispute between the French and British, Churchill at the Cairo Conference in 1921 gave Trans-Jordan to Faisal Hussein.

This decision eliminated more than 3/4 of the territory originally given for the Jewish homeland and ended up creating an additional Arab state in the region.

Under Article 6, the following was stated...keep this in mind regarding today's climate:

“The Administration of Palestine, while ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced, shall facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions and shall encourage in cooperation with the Jewish agency...

Article 6 encourages Jewish settlements.

Quite a contrast to the views being expressed today. Today, settlements are viewed as illegal, because of the view that Israel's right to exist and develop the land for its people is not real or legitimate.

Article 6 further conveys - “not only do the Jews have the right to establish settlements, but that the world has the obligation to help them settle.

The “*San Remo Resolution*” was internationally ratified on July 24, 1922 by the League of Nations, the predecessor to the United Nations. A total of 51 nations would ratify the resolution that included the following:

“Whereas recognition has been given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country.”

Six days later, the United States Congress unanimously endorsed the “Mandate for Palestine”

What did the Arabs receive?

Basically they received the rest of the Middle East as we know it today...

- Syria that would include Lebanon
- All of Mesopotamia
- All of Arabia

Yet, James Balfour makes this statement:

“Why are you complaining? You are getting all these lands and we are granting a niche. The niche would become ertz Israel.

What is interesting, in the *San Remo Resolution*, there were no national or political rights granted to the local Arabs or the Arabs who resided in Palestine. Those rights were granted to the Jewish people exclusively.

Then there is the question of Articles 181 and 242 dealing with the partition plan of 1947 and redefined borders of 1967.

Under Article 80 of the UN Charter, it states that all previous obligations enacted by the League of Nations would be preserved.

Conclusion: Closing Statement

You have heard the evidence...evidence from the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who established His covenant with the Jewish people and provided them a specified land where they would reside. If you understand God's covenants, they are not made void or are revocable. The deed has no expiration date, but is perpetual.

You have heard the evidence regarding Israel's right to reconstitute the land that they have been connected to centuries prior.

With all this evidence supporting Israel's right to the land, how can they be accused of:

Occupation
Apartheid
Genocide

Their right to the land and their ability to defend themselves is substantiated by the evidence.

The reality is, people don't know history. We live in a world where the present is relevant and the past is irrelevant.

We live in a time where people attempt to revise historical events into a different and desired outcome.

Today there are more Jewish people living in the land than in the diaspora.

Adonai says that He will regather Israel, back to the land...

Adonai speaks to the land first, preparing it for their return

Eze 36:8 But you, mountains of Isra'el, you will sprout your branches and bear your fruit for my people Isra'el, who will soon return.

Eze 36:9 I am here for you, and I will turn toward you; then you will be tilled and sown;

Eze 36:10 and I will multiply your population, all the house of Isra'el, all of it. The cities will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

Eze 36:11 I will multiply both the human and animal populations, they will increase and be productive; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were before — indeed, I will do you more good than before; and you will know that I am Adonai.

Eze 36:12 I will cause people to walk on you, my people Isra'el; they will possess you, and you will be their inheritance; never again will you make them childless."

Only the Jewish people have ever made this land prosper - making the desert bloom

Why? Because God gave them the land, and while in it if they would follow His ways, they would be provided for. They would receive their rain in season and out of season. The land would produce for them.

Eze 37:9 Next he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath! Prophesy, human being! Say to the breath that Adonai Elohim says, 'Come from the four winds, breath; and breathe on these slain, so that they can live.' "

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as ordered, and the breath came into them, and they were alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army!

Eze 37:11 Then he said to me, "Human being! These bones are the whole house of Isra'el; and they are saying, 'Our bones have dried up, our hope is gone, and we are completely cut off.'

Eze 37:12 Therefore prophesy; say to them that Adonai Elohim says, 'My people! I will open your graves and make you get up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Isra'el.

Eze 37:13 Then you will know that I am Adonai — when I have opened your graves and made you get up out of your graves, my people!

Eze 37:14 I will put my Spirit in you; and you will be alive. Then I will place you in your own land; and you will know that I, Adonai, have spoken, and that I have done it,' says Adonai."