

# Palestine... Facts and Issues of Israel's Homeland

(By: John K Johnson)

**My comments:** The subject of the “plight of the Palestinian People,” is one of the most intentionally concocted misinformation campaigns in human history. The place called “Palestine,” IS Israel (established via God ordering Joshua’s conquest of the land), and which became a great Dynasty under King David (1005 BCE), before a certain Roman Emperor (Hadrian) “renamed” it to insult the Jews in 135 CE, 1140 years after the National Dynasty of Israel’s King David. Before “Israel,” it was known in historical archives as Canaan. Note the following: *“Hadrian attempted to root out Judaism, which he saw as the cause of continuous rebellions. He prohibited the Torah law, the Jewish calendar and executed Judaic scholars. The sacred scroll was ceremoniously burned on the Temple Mount. At the former Temple sanctuary he installed two statues, one of Jupiter, another of himself. In an attempt to erase any memory of Judea, he wiped the name off the map and replaced it with Syria Palaestina, as an insulting reminder of the Jews’ ancient enemies the Philistines, long extinct by then. He reestablished Jerusalem as the Roman pagan polis of Aelia Capitolina, and Jews were forbidden from entering it.”*

(<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Bar+Kokhba%27s+revolt>)

“Palestine,” unlike Israel, had no “people” dynasty to reflect its greatness or identity, such as the surrounding empires of Egypt, Syria, Babylonia or other ancient places, i.e. Greece, Rome, and Persia. Now, in an effort to unravel this mysterious “non-state” issue, and to example how records of “nations” have been corrupted by the inclusion of the name “Palestine” (especially in modern anti-Semitic mindsets that want to blot Israel out of existence), I am including secular archive publications for your comparative analysis. Where you see **brackets, with text underlined**, like this in bold type, it is this author’s emphasis, and a way of calling your attention to a typical inclusion of a reference to “Palestine” that should “technically” be one of the two names of its proper historical and ancient name, Canaan or Israel. Palestine NEVER existed until Hadrian named it such out of a whim, and yet today, the myth is continued by nation builders (i.e., UN tinkering, British Balfour Declaration of 1917, etc.). Every nation and their leaders who have come against the plan God has for Israel have decayed on the ash heap of history. The nations are gone, and their leaders await their day of judgment for their final punishment. None who deal carelessly with Israel will escape. Pray for the leaders of our Nation to bless Israel, and not enjoin those who want to divide or give away the land... so more calamity of God’s wrath will not come upon us. This IS NOT to say I endorse the “Zionist” position; as I believe true “Israel” is a people who follow the faith of Abraham and embrace the Yeshua (Greek name Jesus) of the Torah’s prophetic definition, and who keep the Commandments of God. I believe the true “Israelites” are yet to be returned to the Land of the Bible... except for a few faithful who now dwell there among the liberal citizenry that make up the general population, but that is for another discussion, not herein.

It is true that “Palestine” can be referred to as a “place,” but NEVER as a nation state. Further, as to the plight of the Palestinian people, God loves them as much as he loves you or me. The problem is not with the innocent regional people of the embattled land of Israel (regardless of where their ancestors “originated”) who have been deceived and cajoled into thinking of themselves as a “refugee,” or having “homeless” status; the problem is with the devious scheming and evil surrogates of satanic power that opposes God’s people and His Israel, some of whom are known as Hamas, PLO, al-Qaeda, and Hezbollah, etc. This is a spiritual battle and these “disenfranchised” people (generally called “Palestinians”) are the “pawns” on the playing field of these evil powers. For any reputable media or institution responsible for dissemination of news or educational teaching to distort these facts is nothing less than complicit agreement with evil. There will be a day when persons who perpetuate these lies against God’s people will be held accountable for their actions. The first example is a contemporary encyclopedia example.

(Part 1: Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2006)

## I. Introduction

Palestine, historic region, the extent of which has varied greatly since ancient times, situated on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, in southwestern Asia. Palestine is now largely divided between Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories, parts of which are self-administered by Palestinians.

## II. The Land

The region has an extremely diverse terrain that falls generally into four parallel zones. From west to east they are the coastal plain; the hills and mountains of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea; the valley of the Jordan River; and the eastern plateau. In the extreme south lies the Negev, a rugged desert area. Elevations range from 408 m (1,340 ft) below sea level on the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the surface of the earth, to 1020 m (3347 ft) atop Mount Hebron. The region has several fertile areas, which constitute its principal natural resource. Most notable of these are the Plain of Sharon, along the northern part of the Mediterranean coast, and the Plain of Esdraelon (or Jezreel), a valley north of the hills of Samaria. The water supply of the region, however, is not abundant, with virtually all of the modest annual rainfall coming in the winter months. The Jordan River, the region’s only major stream, flows south through the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias), the region’s only large freshwater lake, to the intensely saline Dead Sea. **all this “descriptive” real estate is Biblical Israel**

## III. History

The Canaanites were the earliest known inhabitants of Palestine **Palestine did not then exist, it was Canaan**. During the 3rd millennium BC they became urbanized and lived in city-states, one of which was Jericho. They developed an alphabet from which other

writing systems were derived; their religion was a major influence on the beliefs and practices of Judaism, and thus on Christianity and Islam.

Palestine's location [**Israel's location**]—at the center of routes linking three continents—made it the meeting place for religious and cultural influences from Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Asia Minor. It was also the natural battleground for the great powers of the region and subject to domination by adjacent empires, beginning with Egypt in the 3rd millennium BC.

Egyptian hegemony and Canaanite autonomy were constantly challenged during the 2nd millennium BC by such ethnically diverse invaders as the Amorites, Hittites, and Hurrians. These invaders, however, were defeated by the Egyptians and absorbed by the Canaanites, who at that time may have numbered about 200,000. As Egyptian power began to weaken after the 14th century BC, new invaders appeared: the Hebrews, a group of Semitic tribes from Mesopotamia, and the Philistines (after whom the country was later named), an Aegean people of Indo-European stock. [**Hadrian named "Judea" Syria Palaestina, why do not our media pundits use the whole name?!**]

#### **A. The Israelite Kingdom**

Hebrew tribes probably immigrated to the area centuries before Moses led his people out of serfdom in Egypt (1270? BC), and Joshua conquered parts of Palestine (1230? BC) [**Palestine did NOT then exist, Joshua conquered Canaan**]. The conquerors settled in the hill country, but they were unable to conquer all of Palestine [**Ditto**].

The Israelites, a confederation of Hebrew tribes, finally defeated the Canaanites about 1125 BC but found the struggle with the Philistines more difficult. The Philistines had established an independent state on the southern coast of Palestine and controlled a number of towns to the north and east. Superior in military organization and using iron weapons, they severely defeated the Israelites about 1050 BC. The Philistine threat forced the Israelites to unite and establish a monarchy. David, Israel's great king, finally defeated the Philistines shortly after 1000 BC, and they eventually assimilated with the Canaanites.

The unity of Israel and the feebleness of adjacent empires [**"feebleness," obvious slap in the face of God, as if the history of the Davidic Empire was a moot issue, even the "queen of the South," left her visit to the Kingdom speechless at the splendor of the empire!**] enabled David to establish a large independent state, with its capital at Jerusalem. Under David's son and successor, Solomon, Israel enjoyed peace and prosperity, but at his death in 922 BC the kingdom was divided into Israel in the north and Judah in the south. When nearby empires resumed their expansion, the divided Israelites could no longer maintain their independence. Israel fell to Assyria in 722 and 721 BC, and Judah was conquered in 586 BC by Babylonia, which destroyed Jerusalem and exiled most of the Jews living there.

#### **B. Persian Rule**

The exiled Jews were allowed to retain their national and religious identity; some of their best theological writings and many historical books of the Old Testament were written during their exile. At the same time they did not forget the land of Israel. When Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered Babylonia in 539 BC he permitted them to return to Judea, a district of Palestine [**Cyrus allowed them to return to Israel, Palestine did not then exist**]. Under Persian rule the Jews were allowed considerable autonomy. They rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and codified the Mosaic law, the Torah, which became the code of social life and religious observance. The Jews believed they were bound to a universal God, Yahweh, by a covenant; indeed, their concept of one ethical God is perhaps Judaism's greatest contribution to world civilization.

### **C. Roman Province**

Persian domination of Palestine [**Palestine did not then exist, it was Israel**] was replaced by Greek rule when Alexander the Great of Macedonia took the region in 333 BC. Alexander's successors, the Ptolemies of Egypt and the Seleucids of Syria, continued to rule the country. The Seleucids tried to impose Hellenistic (Greek) culture and religion on the population. In the 2nd century BC, however, the Jews revolted under the Maccabees and set up an independent state (141-63 BC) until Pompey the Great conquered Palestine [**Palestine did not then exist, it was Israel**] for Rome and made it a province ruled by Jewish kings. It was during the rule (37-4 BC) of King Herod the Great that Jesus was born.

Two more Jewish revolts erupted and were suppressed—in AD 66 to 73 and 132 to 135. After the second one, numerous Jews were killed [**550,000 slaughtered is called "numerous"**], many were sold into slavery, and the rest were not allowed to visit Jerusalem. Judea was renamed Syria Palaestina.

Palestine received special attention when the Roman emperor Constantine the Great legalized Christianity in AD 313. His mother, Helena, visited Jerusalem, and Palestine, as the Holy Land, became a focus of Christian pilgrimage. A golden age of prosperity, security, and culture followed. Most of the population became Hellenized and Christianized. Byzantine (Roman) rule was interrupted, however, by a brief Persian occupation (614-629) and ended altogether when Muslim Arab armies invaded Palestine and captured Jerusalem in AD 638. [**"Palestine," here is an acceptable regional reference, but Israel will always be Israel, just as is Greece, Egypt and Syria, are who they are...why are they not "regionalized?"**]

### **D. The Arab Caliphate**

The Arab conquest began 1300 years of Muslim presence in what then became known as Filastin. Palestine was holy to Muslims because the Prophet Muhammad had designated Jerusalem as the first *qibla* (the direction Muslims face when praying) and because he was believed to have ascended on a night journey to heaven from the area of Solomon's temple, where the Dome of the Rock was later built. Jerusalem became the third holiest city of Islam. [**There is NO confirmable historic record of Muhammad**]

**EVER setting foot in Jerusalem... how could he have ascended from a place he had never been?!**

The Muslim rulers did not force their religion on the Palestinians, and more than a century passed before the majority converted to Islam. The remaining Christians and Jews were considered “People of the Book.” They were allowed autonomous control in their communities and guaranteed security and freedom of worship. Such tolerance (with few exceptions) was rare in the history of religion. Most Palestinians also adopted Arabic and Islamic culture. Palestine benefited from the empire’s trade and from its religious significance during the first Muslim dynasty, the Umayyads of Damascus. When power shifted to Baghdād with the Abbasids in 750, Palestine became neglected. It suffered unrest and successive domination by Seljuks, Fatimids, and European Crusaders (*see* Caliphate; Crusades). It shared, however, in the glory of Muslim civilization, when the Muslim world enjoyed a golden age of science, art, philosophy, and literature. Muslims preserved Greek learning and broke new ground in several fields, all of which later contributed to the Renaissance in Europe. Like the rest of the empire, however, Palestine under the Mamluks gradually stagnated and declined. **[These regional references to “Palestine” are clearly a continuing disassociation with fact... it was Israel]**

**E. Ottoman Rule**

The Ottoman Empire defeated the Mamluks in 1517 and, with few interruptions, ruled Palestine until the winter of 1917 and 1918. The country was divided into several districts (sanjaks), such as that of Jerusalem. The administration of the districts was placed largely in the hands of Arabized Palestinians, who were descendants of the Canaanites and successive settlers. The Christian and Jewish communities, however, were allowed a large measure of autonomy. Palestine shared in the glory of the Ottoman Empire during the 16th century, but declined again when the empire began to decline in the 17th century.

The decline of Palestine—in trade, agriculture, and population—continued until the 19th century. At that time the search by European powers for raw materials and markets, as well as their strategic interests, brought them to the Middle East, stimulating economic and social development. Between 1831 and 1840, Muhammad Ali, the modernizing viceroy of Egypt, expanded his rule to Palestine. His policies modified the feudal order, increased agriculture, and improved education. The Ottoman Empire reasserted its authority in 1840, instituting its own reforms. German settlers and Jewish immigrants in the 1880s brought modern machinery and badly needed capital.

The rise of European nationalism in the 19th century, and especially the intensification of anti-Semitism during the 1880s, encouraged European Jews to seek haven in their “promised land,” Palestine **[Palestine was not the name to the Jews, it was Canaan originally, “Israel,” post-Joshua Conquest... and eternally thereafter]**. Theodor Herzl, author of *The Jewish State* (1896; translated 1896), founded the World Zionist

Organization in 1897 to solve Europe's "Jewish problem" (*see* Zionism). As a result, Jewish immigration to Palestine [**Israel**] greatly increased.

In 1880 Arab Palestinians constituted about 95 percent of the total population of 450,000. Nevertheless, Jewish immigration, land purchase, and claims were reacted to with alarm by some Palestinian leaders, who then became adamantly opposed to Zionism.

## **F. The British Mandate**

Aided by the Arabs, the British captured Palestine from the Ottomans in 1917 and 1918. The Arabs revolted against the Ottomans because the British had promised them, in correspondence (1915-1916) with Husein ibn Ali of Mecca, the independence of their countries after the war. Britain, however, also made other, conflicting commitments. Thus, in the secret Sykes-Picot agreement with France and Russia (1916), it promised to divide and rule the region with its allies. In a third agreement, the Balfour Declaration of 1917, Britain promised the Jews, whose help it needed in the war effort, a Jewish "national home" in Palestine. This promise was subsequently incorporated in the mandate conferred on Britain by the League of Nations in 1922.

During their mandate (1922-1948) the British found their contradictory promises to the Jewish and Palestinian communities difficult to reconcile. The Zionists envisaged large-scale Jewish immigration, and some spoke of a Jewish state constituting all of Palestine. The Palestinians, however, rejected Britain's right to promise their country to a third party and feared dispossession by the Zionists; anti-Zionist attacks occurred in Jerusalem (1920) and Jaffa (1921). A 1922 statement of British policy denied Zionist claims to all of Palestine and limited Jewish immigration, but reaffirmed support for a Jewish national home. The British proposed establishing a legislative council, but Palestinians rejected this council as discriminatory.

After 1928, when Jewish immigration increased somewhat, British policy on the subject seesawed under conflicting Arab-Jewish pressures. Immigration rose sharply after the installation (1933) of the Nazi regime in Germany; in 1935 nearly 62,000 Jews entered Palestine. Fear of Jewish domination was the principal cause of the Arab revolt that broke out in 1936 and continued intermittently until 1939. By that time Britain had again restricted Jewish immigration and purchases of land. **[These last 3 paragraphs are amazing! What if the Allies had decided to rezone France, or Italy, or Poland, yet Israel, a historical sovereign nation since 1005 BCE, can be carved up like a holiday turkey]**

## **G. The Post-World War II Period**

The struggle for Palestine, which abated during World War II (1939-1945), resumed in 1945. The horrors of the Holocaust produced world sympathy for European Jewry and for Zionism, and although Britain still refused to admit 100,000 Jewish survivors to Palestine [**Israel!... Their homeland!**], many survivors of the Nazi death camps found

their way there illegally. Various plans for solving the Palestine problem were rejected by one party or the other. Britain finally declared the mandate unworkable and turned the problem over to the United Nations in April 1947. The Jews and the Palestinians prepared for a showdown.

Although the Palestinians outnumbered the Jews (1,300,000 to 600,000), the latter were better prepared. They had a semiautonomous government, led by David Ben-Gurion, and their military, the Haganah, was well trained and experienced. The Palestinians, on the other hand, had never recovered from the Arab revolt, and most of their leaders were in exile. The Mufti of Jerusalem, their principal spokesman, refused to accept Jewish statehood. When the UN proposed partition in November 1947, he rejected the plan, while the Jews accepted it. In the military struggle that followed, the Palestinians were defeated. Terrorism was used on both sides.

The state of Israel was established on May 14, 1948. Five Arab armies, coming to the aid of the Palestinians, immediately attacked it. Israeli forces defeated the Arab armies, and Israel enlarged its territory. Jordan took the West Bank of the Jordan River, and Egypt took the Gaza Strip.

The war produced 780,000 Palestinian refugees. About half probably left out of fear and panic, while the rest were forced out to make room for Jewish immigrants from Europe and from the Arab world. The disinherited Palestinians spread throughout the neighboring countries, where they have maintained their Palestinian national identity and the desire to return to their homeland. In 1967, during the Six-Day War between Israel and neighboring Arab countries, Israel captured the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as other areas. **[As a note of interest, why is it that the size nation Israel is, like a match box in the middle of a football field, compared to the surrounding Arab territories, do not the Arabs embrace these “brothers” aka Palestinians, and give them some relief? The Arab nations view them as refugees to prevent their settling in other countries to focus critical opinion on Israel... these “pawns” are noticeably not loved by their Arab supporters because they use them (their blood) to assault Israel whom they “hate” unto death, just as their plan is to “drive Israel into the sea,” and “wipe” Israel from off of the map of the region.]**

Israel stationed troops in the West Bank and Gaza, which came to be known as the Occupied Territories. **[How can a territory said to be “occupied” if it is YOUR land? The media’s constant use of this fallacious term is untrue and fosters confusion and instability in the region.]** Israeli administration of the territories and the building of Jewish settlements stirred resentment among Palestinians. In 1987 an intifada (uprising) broke out that initially was characterized by widespread participation in civil disobedience but then became increasingly violent. During this period radical Islamic organizations, such as Hamas, also began to gain influence among Palestinians.

## **H. The Oslo Accords**

In 1993, in part due to the intifada, leaders from each side, meeting in Oslo, Norway, agreed to the signing of an historic peace accord. Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin met in the United States on September 13, 1993, to witness the signing of the agreement. The plan, known as the Oslo Accords, called for limited Palestinian self-rule in Israeli-occupied territories **[Ditto]**, beginning with the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Palestinian administration of these areas began in 1994 under the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). In September 1995 the PLO and Israel signed a second peace accord, expanding limited Palestinian self-rule to almost all Palestinian towns and refugee camps in the West Bank. Under the agreements, Israel maintained the right to send armed forces into Palestinian areas and control the areas between Palestinian enclaves.

Under the accords, both Israel and the PLO envisioned an eventual two-state solution, in which Israel would be secure in its borders and Palestine would become a full-fledged state **[NOTE, “would become,” a “first” in nation state history! Palestine HAS NEVER BEEN A STATE]**. The PLO recognized Israel’s right to exist and removed from its charter a clause calling for the elimination of the state of Israel **[Other ARAB states , i.e, Iran, Syria, and Muslim terrorist groups, are broadcasting Israel’s total destruction as we speak, 2006]**. Disputed issues to be resolved by negotiations included the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in Israel, the withdrawal of Israeli settlements from the West Bank and Gaza, and the prospect of a Palestinian capital in Jerusalem.

In 1995 Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli opposed to the peace agreement. The subsequent government of Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the idea of a Palestinian state and showed little interest in continuing the peace process with the PNA, which was headed by Arafat. The peace process **[peace process, aka “compromise of Israel’s land and security”]** was renewed by the Labor government of Ehud Barak. However, in July 2000 Israeli and PLO negotiators at Camp David, Maryland, failed to reach an agreement.

Some political observers believed that an Israeli proposal put forward at the Camp David talks, which were mediated by U.S. president Bill Clinton, was the best offer that Israel had made. But the Palestinians objected to Israeli control of Palestine's borders and airspace, to annexation of large areas where 80 percent of the Israeli settlers live, and to Israeli sovereignty over most of the inner neighborhoods of Arab East Jerusalem, as well as Haram al-Sharif, a Muslim holy site. The new state that would have emerged, according to Palestinians, would have been neither viable nor sovereign, but resembling South Africa's bantustans. In 2000 a second intifida began in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel reoccupied a number of cities in the West Bank and continued to expand settlements there. The peace process ground to a halt.

In 2004 Arafat died. He was succeeded by Mahmoud Abbas. In 2005 the Israeli government of prime minister Ariel Sharon unilaterally withdrew Israeli forces and settlements from the Gaza Strip. The same year Israel returned control of some West Bank cities to the PNA. Sharon’s pullout from Gaza angered the right wing of the Likud

Party, and Sharon found that his former supporters were attempting to block his initiatives. He bolted from Likud and formed his own centrist party, but soon after he suffered a massive stroke. Formal peace negotiations remained suspended. In January 2006 a militant Islamic organization, Hamas, won decisively in the elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council. Political observers believed the Hamas victory was due to frustrations over PNA corruption, breakdown of law and order, deterioration of economic conditions, and the continued Israeli occupation **[Ditto]**, not the rejection of a two-state solution, which polls show most Palestinians support .

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## **End of Part 1**

**Palestine (Part 2: Ancient “Israel” Territory... Canaan Land )**

**[There are NO Author’s comments in the following articles—See My Conclusion at the end]**

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**Canaan** or **Kná'an** (Arabic **كِنَان**, **Kanān**, Hebrew **כְּנָעַן** / **כְּנָעַן**, **Kənā'an** / **Kənā'an**; Septuagint Greek **Χανααν**, **Khanaan**) is an ancient term for a region roughly corresponding to present-day Israel/Palestine including the West Bank, western Jordan, southern and coastal Syria and Lebanon continuing up until the border of modern Turkey.

Various Canaanite sites have been excavated by archaeologists, most notably the Canaanite town of Ugarit, which was rediscovered in 1928. Much of our modern knowledge about the Canaanites stems from excavation in this area.

## **Etymology**

In linguistic terms, *Canaanite* refers to the common ancestor of closely related Semitic languages including Hebrew, and Ugaritic, and was the first language to use a Semitic alphabet, from which the others derived their scripts; see Canaanite languages.

The name *Canaan* is of obscure origins but is extremely ancient; the first known references appear in the 3rd millennium BC. The Biblical explanation is that it derives from Canaan, the son of Ham whose offspring correspond to the names of Canaanite tribes in Gen. 10. (see below)

Since Egyptian (though not Hebrew) scribes consistently prefixed the article, we may suppose that it

originally meant "the country of the Canaanites," just as the Hebrew phrase "the Lebanon" may originally have meant "the highlands of the Libnites"; and the name "Canaan" may also be connected with certain clan-names such as Achan, Akan, Jaakan, Anak (generally with the article prefixed), Kain, and Kenan.

Nowadays, **Canaanite** can describe anything pertaining to Canaan; especially its culture, its languages and its inhabitants.

## Phoenician Canaan

Early on the Canaanites acquired fame as traders across a wide area beyond the Near East. There are occasional instances in the Hebrew Bible where "Canaanite" is used as a synonym for "merchant" - presumably indicating the aspect of Canaanite culture that the authors found most familiar. The term was derived from the place name, because so many merchants described themselves as Canaanites.

One of Canaan's most famous exports was a much sought-after purple dye, derived from two species of sea snails found along the east Mediterranean coast (Canaan also means *purple*), and worn proudly by figures from ancient kings to modern popes. After most of Canaan was conquered by Israel between ca. 1200 BC-1100 BC, the remnant, "Phoenicia", became a synonym for "Canaan" (both in the sense of the country, and the purple dye.)

Much later, in the 6th century BC, Hecataeus affirms that Phoenicia was formerly called  $\chi\nu\alpha$ , a name that Philo of Byblos subsequently adopted into his mythology as his eponym for the Phoenicians: "Khna who was afterwards called Phoinix".

St. Augustine also mentions that one of the terms the seafaring Phoenicians called their homeland was "Canaan." This is further confirmed by coins of the city of Laodicea by the Lebanon, that bear the legend, "Of Laodicea, a metropolis in Canaan"; these coins are dated to the reign of Antiochus IV (175 BC - 164 BC) and his successors.

The first of many Canaanites who emigrated seaward finally settled in Carthage, and Augustine adds that the country people near Hippo, presumably Punic in origin, still called themselves *Chanani* in his day.

## Canaan in Mesopotamian inscriptions

Canaan is mentioned in a document from the 18th century BC found in the ruins of Mari, a former Sumerian outpost in Syria. Apparently Canaan at this time existed as a distinct political entity (probably a loose confederation of city-states).

Soon after this, the great empire-builder and law-giver Hammurabi (1728 BC-1686 BC), first king of a united Babylonia, extended Babylonian influence over Canaan and Syria, and he may be identical with the Amraphel of *Genesis*.

Tablets found in the Mesopotamian city of Nuzi use the term *Kinahnu* ("Canaan") as a synonym for

red or purple dye, apparently a renowned Canaanite export commodity. The dyes were likely named after their place of origin (much as "champagne" is both a product, and the name of the region where it is produced). The purple cloth of Tyre in Phoenicia was well known far and wide.

## Egyptian Canaan

During the 2nd millennium BC the name *Kan'an*, favoured in Egyptian usage, was used for a province of the Egyptian empire bounded on the west by the Mediterranean Sea, on the north by the Pass of Hamath in southern Lebanon, on the east by the Jordan Valley and on the south by a line extended from the Dead Sea to the Gaza area. This region corresponds closely to the description given in the Hebrew Bible, in *Numbers* 34.1–12.

At the end of what is referred to as the Middle Kingdom era of Egypt, and the event that actually caused its end, was a massive Asiatic invasion of Egypt. Around 1674 BC, the Semitic invaders, whom the Egyptians referred to as the "Hyksos", conquered Lower Egypt (northern Egypt), evidently leaving Canaan an ethnically diverse land.

Among the migrant tribes who settled in the region were the Amorites. In the Old Testament, we find *Amorites* mentioned in the *Table of Peoples* (Gen. 10:16-18a). Evidently, the Amorites played a significant role in the early history of Canaan. In Gen. 14:7 *f.*, Josh. 10:5 *f.*, Deut. 1:19 *f.*, 27, 44, we find them located in the southern mountain country, while in Num. 21:13, Josh. 9:10, 24:8, 12, etc., we hear of two great Amorite kings residing at Heshbon and Ashtaroth, east of the Jordan. However, in other passages such as Gen. 15:16, 48:22, Josh. 24:15, Judg. 1:34, etc., the name *Amorite* is regarded as synonymous with "Canaanite" - only "Amorite" is never used for the population on the coast.

In Egyptian inscriptions *Amar* and *Amurru* are applied strictly to the mountain region east of Phoenicia, extending to the Orontes. Later on, *Amurru* became the Assyrian term for the interior of south as well as north Canaan.

In the centuries preceding the Hebrew invasion(s), Canaan and Syria became tributary to the Egyptian Pharaohs, although domination by the sovereign power was not so strong as to prevent frequent local rebellions. Under Thutmose III (1479 BC-1426 BC) and Amenhotep II (1427 BC-1400 BC), the pressure of a strong hand kept the Syrians and Canaanites sufficiently loyal. The reign of Amenhotep III, however, was not quite so tranquil for the Asiatic province. Turbulent chiefs began to seek their opportunities, though as a rule, could not find them without the help of a neighboring king. The boldest of the disaffected nobles was Aziru, son of Abd-Ashirta, a prince of Amurru, who even before the death of Amenhotep III, endeavoured to extend his power into the plain of Damascus. Akizzi, governor of Katna (near Hamath), reported this to the Pharaoh, who seems to have frustrated the attempt. In the next reign, however, both father and son caused infinite trouble to loyal servants of Egypt like Rib-Addi, governor of Gubla (Geba).

Egyptian power in Canaan suffered a major setback when the Hittites (or Hatti) advanced into Syria in the reign of Amenhotep III, and became even more threatening in that of his successor, displacing the Amurru and prompting a resumption of Semitic migration. It is related that Abd-Ashirta, and his son Aziru, at first afraid of the Hittites, were afterwards clever enough to make a treaty with their

king, and joining with other external powers, attacked the districts remaining loyal to Egypt. In vain did Rib-Addi send touching appeals for aid to the distant Pharaoh, who was far too engaged in his religious innovations to attend to such messages.

In the el Amarna letters(~1350 BC) sent by governors and princes of Canaan to their Egyptian overlord Akhenaten (Amenhotep IV) in the 14th century BC - commonly known as the Tel-el-Amarna tablets - we find, beside *Amar* and *Amurru* (Amorites), the two forms *Kinahhi* and *Kinahni*, corresponding to *Kena* **and** *Kena'an* respectively, and including Syria in its widest extent, as Eduard Meyer has shown. The letters are written in the official and diplomatic language Babylonian/Akkadian, though "Canaanitish" words and idioms are not wanting.

Seti I (ca. 1290 BC) is said to have conquered the *Shasu*, Arabian nomads living just south and east of the Dead Sea, from the fortress of Taru (Shtir?) to the "*Ka-n-'na*", and Rameses III (ca. 1194 BC) is said to have built a temple to the god Amen in the "*Ka-n-'na*". This geographic name probably meant all of western Syria and Canaan, with Raphia, "the (first) city of the *Ka-n-'na*", on the southwest boundary toward the desert. Some archaeologists have proposed that Egyptian records of the 13th century BC are early written reports of a monotheistic belief in *Yahweh* noted among the nomadic Shasu. (See pages 128 and 236 of the book *Who Were the Early Israelites?* by archaeologist William G. Dever (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI, 2003). Evidently, belief in *Yahweh* displaced polytheistic beliefs that had arisen among the early Hebrews, during and after the reign of King Josiah (around 650 BC), according to that book, and also according to archaeologists Neil A. Silberman and colleagues, in *The Bible Unearthed* (Simon and Schuster, New York, 2001).

Most interesting is the mention of troublesome invaders called sometimes *SA-GAS* (a Babylonian ideogram meaning "robber"), and sometimes Habiri. These Habiri are believed by some to signify generally all the nomadic tribes known as "Hebrews", and particularly the early Israelites, who sought to appropriate the fertile region for themselves. The terms Habiri and the Assyrian form *Habiru* may also include other related peoples such as the Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites.

In the El Amarna letters(~1350 BC), we meet with the Habiri in northern Syria. Itakkama wrote thus to the Pharaoh, "Behold, Namyawaza has surrendered all the cities of the king, my lord to the SA-GAS in the land of Kadesh and in Ubi. But I will go, and if thy gods and thy sun go before me, I will bring back the cities to the king, my lord, from the Habiri, to show myself subject to him; and I will expel the SA-GAS." Similarly Zimrida, king of Sidon, declared, "All my cities which the king has given into my hand, have come into the hand of the Habiri." Nor had Canaan any immunity from the Semitic invaders. The king of Jerusalem, Abdi-heba, reported to the Pharaoh, "If (Egyptian) troops come this year, lands and princes will remain to the king, my lord; but if troops come not, these lands and princes will not remain to the king, my lord." Abdi-heba's principle trouble arose from persons called Iilkili and the sons of Labaya, who are said to have entered into a treasonable league with the Habiri. Apparently this restless warrior found his death at the siege of Gina. All these princes, however, maligned each other in their letters to the Pharaoh, and protested their own innocence of traitorous intentions. Namyawaza, for instance, whom Itakkama (see above) accused of disloyalty, wrote thus to the Pharaoh, "Behold, I and my warriors and my chariots, together with my brethren and my SA-GAS, and my Suti ?9 are at the disposal of the (royal) troops to go

whithersoever the king, my lord, commands"; El Amarna letter, EA 189. This petty prince, therefore, saw no harm in having a band of Semites for his garrison.

## Biblical Canaanites

Ham discovered Noah naked while Noah was sleeping off some wine (*Genesis* 9:22). Because of this Noah cursed Ham's son Canaan to go into servitude not only to his Shemite and Japhethic cousins, but even to his Hamite brethren (*Genesis* 9:25).

In the so-called *Table of Peoples* in the tenth chapter of *Genesis*, Canaan is included among the four sons of Ham. It is generally agreed (apart from perhaps the most extreme minimalists) that Cush in 10:6 signifies Ethiopia, Mizraim (lit. *two lands*) is the Hebrew name for Upper and Lower Egypt, and Phut (*Puti*) a Libyan tribe. The name of their father, Ham, is often thought to be cognate with the old Egyptian name for Egypt, *Kam-t* (black), though this is more widely disputed. Some skeptics in the very early 1900s postulated that Cush, Mizraim, Put and Ham were all locations in northern Arabia, and suggested the name *Canaan* was therefore similarly of Arab origin. It is plausible that inscriptions in the Canaanite language incorporated some geographic and religious phrases that originated in Arabic.

The Canaanites are initially identified as divided into eleven tribes or areas: Sidon; Heth; Jebusites; Amorites; Girgasites; Hivites; Arkites; Sinites; Arvadites; Zemarites; Hamathites.

Canaanite populations are said to inhabit:

- *the Jordan Valley* Josh. 11:3, Num. 13:29; Gen. 13:12), and
- *Mediterranean coastal territories* Josh. 5:1; also including Phoenicia Isa. 23:11; and Philistia Zeph. 2:5

The *Canaanites* or *Kna'anim* (כְּנַעֲנִים, Standard Hebrew Kənaʿani, Tiberian Hebrew Kənaʿānî) are said in Deuteronomy 7:1 to have been one of seven nations driven out before the Israelites. Other passages describe regional ethnic divisions, of which the Canaanites were the coastal component. The term "Canaanites" in this context corresponds exactly to "Phoenicians". The seven Canaanite nations mentioned are the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.

The Bible indicates that God cautioned the Israelites against the sexual depravities of the Canaanites and their fertility cult (Leviticus 18:27). Thus the land of the Canaanites (specifically the Amorites, Hivites, Hethites, Girgashites and Jebusites) was deemed suitable for conquest by the Israelites partly on moral grounds. Deuteronomy 20:16-17, one of the 613 mitzvot, prescribes that no inhabitants of the cities of six Canaanite nations, the same as mentioned in 7:1, minus the Girgashites, are to be left alive.

## Further reading

- Jonathan N. Tubb, *Canaanites*, Norman (Oklahoma) 1998. ISBN 080613108X

## External links

- [Editorial - "The Origin of the Jewish People and the Land of Canaan"](#)
- [Canaan & Ancient Israel @ University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Explores their identities \(land-time, daily life, economy & religion\) in pre-historical times through the material remains that they have left behind](#)

## End Part 2

### **Palestine (Part 3: The Philistines and Cannan Land )**

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The historic **Philistines** (see "other uses" below) were a people who inhabited the southern coast of Canaan around the time of the arrival of the Israelites, their territory being named **Philistia** in later contexts. Their origin has been debated among scholars, but modern archaeology has suggested early cultural links with the Mycenaean world in mainland Greece. Though the Philistines adopted local Canaanite culture and language before leaving any written texts, an Indo-European origin has been suggested for a handful of known Philistine words.

## History

If the Philistines are to be identified as one of the "Sea Peoples" (see *Origins* below), then their occupation of Canaan will have taken place during the reign of Rameses III of the Twentieth Dynasty, ca. 1180 to 1150 BCE. Their maritime knowledge presumably would have made them important to the Phoenicians.

In Egypt, a people called the "*Peleset*" (or, more precisely, *prst*), generally identified with the Philistines, appear in the Medinet Habu inscription of Ramses III[1], where he describes his victory against the Sea Peoples, as well as the Onomastica of Amenope (late Twentieth Dynasty) and the Great Papyrus Harris (Papyrus Harris I), a summary of Ramses III's reign written in the reign of Ramses IV. Nineteenth-century Bible scholars identified the land of the Philistines (*Philistia*) with *Palastu* and *Pilista* in Assyrian inscriptions, according to *Easton's Bible Dictionary* (1897).

The Philistines occupied the five cities of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath, along the coastal strip of southwestern Canaan, that belonged to Egypt up to the closing days of the Nineteenth Dynasty (ended 1185 BCE). The biblical stories of Samson, Samuel, Saul and David include accounts of Philistine-Israelite conflicts. The Philistines long held a monopoly on iron smithing (a skill they possibly acquired during conquests in Anatolia), and the biblical description of Goliath's armor is consistent with this iron-smithing technology.

This powerful association of tribes made frequent incursions against the Hebrews. There was almost perpetual war between the two peoples. They sometimes held the Hebrews, especially the southern tribes, in servitude; at other times they were defeated with great slaughter. The Philistine cities were

ruled by *seranim*, "lords", who acted together for the common good, though to what extent they had a sense of a "nation" is not clear without literary sources. After their defeat by the Israelite King David, kings replaced the *seranim*, governing from various cities. Some of these kings were called Abimelech.

The Philistines lost their independence to Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria by 736 BC, and revolts in following years were all crushed. Later, Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon eventually conquered all of Syria and the land of Canaan, and the Philistine cities became part of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Subsequently the cities were under the control of Persians, Greeks, and Romans, and "Philistia" was governed as a territory.

The name of the region of Palestine comes, via Greek and Latin, from the Philistines; see History of Palestine.

## Origin of the Philistines

It has been suggested that the Philistines formed part of the great naval confederacy, the "Sea Peoples", who had wandered, at the beginning of the 12th century BCE, from their homeland in southern Greece and the Aegean islands to the shores of the Mediterranean and repeatedly attacked Egypt during the later Nineteenth Dynasty. Though eventually repulsed by Ramesses III, he was, according to the theory, apparently unable to dislodge them from their settlements in Canaan.

Papyrus Harris I details the achievements of the reign of Ramesses III. In the brief description of the outcome of the battles in year 8 is the description of the fate of the Sea Peoples. Ramesses tells us that, having brought the imprisoned Sea Peoples to Egypt, he "settled them in strongholds, bound in my name. Numerous were their classes like hundred-thousands. I taxed them all, in clothing and grain from the storehouses and granaries each year." Some scholars suggest it is likely that these "strongholds" were actually fortified towns in southern Canaan, the cities that would eventually become the five cities of the Philistines (Redford 1992, p. 289).

The connection between Mycenaean culture and Philistine culture was made clearer by finds at the excavation of Ekron, one of the five Philistine cities in Canaan, unearthed 1981-1996. Especially notable is the early Philistine pottery decorated in shades of brown and black, later developing into the distinctive black and red decorations on white slip.

Also of particular interest, a large, well constructed building covering 240 square meters was discovered at Ekron. Its walls are broad, designed to support a second story, and its wide, elaborate entrance leads to a large hall, partly covered with a roof supported on a row of columns. In the floor of the hall is a circular hearth paved with pebbles, as is typical in Mycenaean buildings; other unusual architectural features are paved benches and podiums. Among the finds are three small bronze wheels with eight spokes. Such wheels are known to have served as wheels for portable cultic stands in the Aegean region during this period, and it is therefore assumed that this building served cultic functions.

One name the Greeks used for the previous inhabitants of Greece and the Aegean was Pelasgians, but no definite connection has been established between this name and that of the Philistines. The

theory that the Sea Peoples included Greek-speaking tribes has been developed even further to postulate that the Philistines originated in either western Anatolia or the Greek peninsula.

There is some limited evidence in favour of the assumption that the Philistines did originally speak some Indo-European language. A number of Philistine-related words found in the Bible are not Semitic, and can in some cases, with reservations, be traced back to Proto-Indo-European roots. For example, the Philistine word for captain, *seren*, may be related to the Greek word *tyrannos* (which, however, has not been traced to a PIE root).

The Hebrew tradition recorded in Genesis 10:14, states that the "Philistim" (פִּילִשְׁתִּים, Standard Hebrew **Pəlišṭīm**, Tiberian Hebrew **Pəlišṭīm**) proceeded from the "Casluhim", who descended from Mizraim (Egypt), son of Ham. The Philistines settled **Philistia** (תְּשֻׁלַּת, Standard Hebrew **Pəlēšet** / **Pəlašēt**, Tiberian Hebrew **Pəlēšet** / **Pəlašēt**) along the eastern Mediterranean coast at about the time when the Israelites settled in the Judean highlands. Biblical references to Philistines living in the area before this, at the time of Abraham or Isaac (eg. Gen. 21:32-34), are generally regarded by modern scholars to be anachronisms.

They are spoken of in the *Book of Amos* as originating in Caphtor: "saith the Lord: Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor, and Aram from Kir?" (*Amos* 9:7). Later, in the 7th century BCE, *Jeremiah* makes the same association with Caphtor. Scholars variously identify the land of Caphtor with Cyprus and Crete and other locations in the eastern Mediterranean.

## Other uses of the term 'Philistine'

British writers of the 19th century and very early 20th century sometimes referred to the Arabs of Palestine as "Philistines". This was apparently not due to a belief in a strong connection with the ancient Philistines, but merely reflects the former convention that "Philistine" simply denotes "native of Palestine".

For the word *philistine* in non-historical usage, referring to a person deficient in the culture of the Liberal arts, a smug and intolerant opponent of the bohemian, who exhibits a restrictive moral code, unappreciative of artistic ideas, see Philistinism.

The term "Philistines" also refer to an elite unit of the South African Defence Force (SADF). The Pathfinder Company was the official name of this elite unit. Counter-insurgency was the primary mission assigned to these troops.

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### **End Part 3**

#### **Palestine (Part 4: Author's Conclusions: Who then are the "Palestinians?")**

**"Palestinians,"** then, from the encyclopedic information that precedes, could basically be identified as mainly Arabic-speaking people with family origins mainly in Palestine (a "territory," not ever a sovereign state, so named by the Roman Hadrian in 135 BCE, in an attempt to insult and destroy the Jews, reportedly killing 500,000 to 600,000 of them for the Bar Kokhba revolt, and he also renamed Jerusalem "Aelia Capitolina"). Today, the Palestinian Arab (Semitic people origin, not a racial "Jewish" people, simply regional people) population is largely Sunni Muslim, with Christian, Druze, Jewish, and other minorities. The 1968 Palestinian National Covenant defines Palestinians as "Arabs who had inhabited Palestine before 1947, Jews who had inhabited Palestine before the beginning of the modern Zionist immigrations, and their descendants through the male line." Most Jews in the region, however, do not define themselves as Palestinian. And further, what authority to establish an implied sovereign state citizenship status, (to a non-existent state) to anyone, does the "Palestinian National Covenant" have anywhere? The plain facts are that "Palestine" is a quasi state, originating as a territory of Roman decree in an attempt to destroy the only sovereign state that ever existed on that piece of real estate. It is the media's intended use (misuse) of the term "Palestinian," to pound a continuous brain numbing subconscious acceptance, into our minds, of a place that in legal terms does not exist as a nation state. IT NEVER HAS. Somehow, in the minds of anti-Semitic thinking, Israel can be "defined" out of existence.

Palestinians are in fact a "non-nation" people of various descents and from many different places; and they are referred to as such by confused definition and blatant political pandering by many national leaders, media, intellectuals, misinformed educators and others in an effort to undermine the proper ownership reference to the sovereign state of Israel, and these illegal and unfounded tactics have been used over hundreds of years. There simply is NO legal title in existence (nor ever was) to a place called "Palestine" to anyone. The only legal title for that piece of land is the God-Given title, and He gave it to the Israelites (not to the Zionists Jews) as a "forever" covenant. There were not any Jews in Israel until after the Joshua Conquest of Canaan land, where after they settled the area

around Jerusalem, the tribe of Judah namely, hence the name “Jews.” All “Jews,” born in Israel are Israelites, nationally; and all non-Jews born in Israel could be called national Israelites as well. NOT ALL persons borne in Israel are Jews. Everyone, according to the Bible, who left Egypt (Exodus, with Moses) was called “Israelites,” and there were NO Jews on that trip. They became known as Jews later in the land as noted above. This issue is woefully misstated by credentialed educators, writers, theologians, Rabbis, and general public opinion in mostly honest misuse from ignorance or careless use... although some intentionally try to insert “Jewish” presence where it does not belong for reasons clearly understood by them in their treacherous schemes.

However, it is the Biblical definition of ownership for Israel (Palestine) which lies at the very root of this eternal conflict for the most contested territory in the History of creation, and that is (and will continue to be) the bone-jarring truth... it is as follows: **GOD GAVE ISRAEL (Then called Canaan) TO THE ISRAELITES.**

**From the beginning Yahweh has only had ONE people with whom He made a covenant, and with whom He refers to making a new (renewed) covenant with; those people were (and are) called “Israel.” They are identified (yesterday, today and forever) as those who embrace Torah (keep His Commandments as Yeshua taught), love Yahweh (and in the “renewed covenant” receive His Son Yeshua the Messiah and His blood sacrifice for salvation), and are joined by faith to the Commonwealth of ONE PEOPLE... Israel.** This is not a “church,” “nation,” “bloodline,” or “political” people... IT IS A FAITH PEOPLE. There will be some “nation” Jews included, some “bloodline” Jews and Israelites included, and there will be some “gentiles” included, known as “companions” according to the Scriptures (Ezk 37:15-28). Most of the “Israelites,” or the scattered seed of the Northern Kingdom (Israel, 10 tribes), and “their companions,” are today, for the most part, scattered in among the Christian Churches worldwide (they are people, not “churches”)... and are being called out and back to their Hebraic roots... many have not yet discovered who they are... but the Father is clearly able to awaken them in their (His) time. It is the work of the Father’s Holy Spirit and HIS SPIRIT IS FAITHFUL.

These “Israelites” are the “Biblical” title-deed holders to the sovereign and sacred land of “Palestine/Israel.” There is a detailed abstract defined in the Bible, Numbers 34, which boundaries identify Israel the Nation... which in its fullest maturity is yet to come. Also, God specifically instructed Moses/Joshua that the Canaanite Culture be destroyed and all pagan religious practices and artifacts be literally obliterated from the midst of the people (Deut chapter 7). In fact, the book of Deuteronomy is the “how to” instructions for moving into the land and living the Covenant relationship with God and each other. The days ahead are yet to reveal the turmoil and conflict that the land of Israel will surely endure; and, the Bible says the nations will suffer greatly because of the issues over the ownership and occupation of that small place in the Middle East that has taken oceans of ink to describe in the daily news... and where rivers of blood have been spilled to claim its ground. There is a day which, in the prophetic, means the latter days (*or last days*) that is soon to come... and Jerusalem/Israel is the very key to the puzzle of God’s timetable... It is ALL about Israel and the Holy City... the apple of Yahweh’s eye... and woe to the man and nation(s) that will do evil to Israel... so says the Holy One, the Ancient of Days:

Zech 12:1-9

12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

4 In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.

5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.

6 In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.

7 The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.

8 In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. KJV

No other place in the world has ever been the problem... nor the blessing, which Israel has been and will be. There is a Scripture that says, "I will bless those that bless thee, and I will curse those that curse thee" (Gen 12:3). The promise of God to Abraham is eternal... and passes to his seed (Israelites as defined above). Be careful how you view the sacred land and the people who are the Covenant holders... it will determine your blessing if you bless them or it will surely become your curse if you curse them.

There was a certain woman journalist, who had accepted an assignment as a freelance writer for CBS and was looking into the "Palestinian problem," from the typical Western mind's indoctrinated perspective as how the Jewish state was unfairly dealing with these "homeless," refugees. During her extensive investigation, Joan Peters had to undo much of her past thinking **as the facts of history and honest research** proved an opposite view that brought forth a truth that became a profound work, her book "*From Time Immemorial*," Harper & Row, Publishers, New York (ISBN 0-06-015265-6). There is probably no better documented work on the "Palestinian problem," than her

book... It is not a religious work, but a professional documentary on a complex issue that few people ever pursue any real truth about... which is truly an unfortunate thing.

Remember, the next time you hear the term Israel's occupation of Palestinian state land... it is a fictitious place and a false charge... Who do you think is behind all this trouble? His name is haSatan... and he knows full well when Yahweh's people are returned to the land, as in Ezek chapter 37, that his gig is up... when Yeshua, the King of Kings' return will put him out of business... that, my friends, is why the enemy of mankind is trying to keep the rightful owners from taking up residence in their promised land. Be of good cheer, Yahweh is fully in control and is not worried about the culmination of the events His Prophets have spoken... His word is forever settled in Heaven and will surely come to pass. Are you ready to meet your creator? Are you sure of your eternal salvation and do you know WHO is your only way to eternal life? There is a certain Jewish Rabbi, His name is Yeshua... His Father says, "there is NO other Name under Heaven where by men must be saved," but by the Name of Yeshua. Do you know the "why" and "cause" for Yeshua's crucifixion on the execution stake at Calvary? Do you know what His Holy Scriptures (Torah) declare and command about the life of a believer and how one must live a Holy and set apart life (lifestyle) from the sinful ways of the world? Have you considered the need to repent (confess your sin and understand you are helpless to save yourself; ONLY the Blood Yeshua shed at Calvary can save you), and ask the Savior, Yeshua Ha Moshiach (Jesus Christ the Messiah), to receive you into the Commonwealth of Israel... to be "grafted" onto the Tree (Israel)... as Paul teaches in Romans Chapter 9-10-11? There is NO other way to eternal life. There are NOT two trees (the Church and the Jews), the ONLY Covenant people are Israel, and you MUST be a part of Israel by the way the Bible defines. Yeshua said, "ye are the branches, I am the vine, apart from Me ye can do nothing." He is the Tree of Life... from the beginning. Do you understand that we are at a historic place where the Middle East could erupt into a Global conflict... even WWII... with its terrible consequence? Where do you put your faith, or in WHAT do you put your faith for eternal security... your family, job, money, church... all these will pass away... only your personal relationship of faith and obedience to the living Torah (Yeshua) can be your security in the storms of life... especially in the coming tribulation (times of Jacobs trouble, according to Scripture). I pray you will not take this truth lightly... your eternal life (everlasting, forever, unending place of existence) will be either in peace and joy with Yeshua in the Kingdom of God, or in everlasting torment in the lake of fire with the Devil and his angels and sinners who refuse to bend their knee to the Son of God... Yeshua, and repent of their sins and look to Him for Salvation. I urge you to go back up the page to where the definition of an "Israelite" is noted, and please be careful that you understand that one is an Israelite by his faith AND his actions, not his mental ascent only... it is how we walk out our faith that identifies us as part of Israel... God's eternal people... it is about faith in Yeshua and doing the commandments God's way and not our own way... or our Church's way.

May His Grace and fellowship of His Holy Spirit draw your heart and mind to love Him and worship Him and walk in His ways. His ways are peace and life everlasting. And yes, it is so, that The Father would that NONE would perish, but that ALL would come to life eternal (through Yeshua)... including the Palestinians who dare to place their faith in Him... then they too shall have an eternal place of their own, equally our Brothers & Sisters in Yeshua... in the Glorious Land! Shalom.

(End of Article.)