

Chapter 1 : Israel, a Light to the Nations | ICEJ International

First published in , Israel and the Nations has achieved wide recognition as an excellent introduction to the history of Israel. This new edition, carefully revised by David F. Payne, includes some new material and a revised bibliography.

Sign up for Take Action Now and get three actions in your inbox every week. You can read our Privacy Policy here. Thank you for signing up. For more from The Nation, check out our latest issue. Support Progressive Journalism The Nation is reader supported: Travel With The Nation Be the first to hear about Nation Travels destinations, and explore the world with kindred spirits. Sign up for our Wine Club today. Did you know you can support The Nation by drinking wine? Israel is, in many ways, an anomaly among nations. While it considers itself a democracy, it is actually a national-security state. Its military-intelligence apparatus is ubiquitous in the everyday affairs of its citizens. These sacrifices of privacy and civil liberties are prices most Israelis are willing, even happy, to pay in return for security. The cyber-surveillance technologies developed by Unit and the other intelligence agencies are a key component in maintaining Israeli control over the Palestinian people. But in the past two decades or so, Israel has greatly expanded use of these technologies. Veterans of these spy shops have transferred their knowledge into the commercial sphere and marketed themselves as agents of repression for clients around the globe. Black Cube at first refused to confirm or deny working for the disgraced Weinstein later, it apologized. Boies admitted signing a contract with the company, but insisted he had no role in determining the activities it would carry out for Weinstein. Black Cube represents not only individuals like Weinstein; it also contracts with companies involved in litigation against competitors and, perhaps most momentous of all, it fulfills the goals of foreign intelligence services and political leaders by sabotaging those they consider to be enemies. Fortunately, Kahl and her husband were savvy enough not to take the bait. He sought to get Parsi to say that Kahl and another Obama administration official, Ben Rhodes, expected to exploit the nuclear deal for personal financial gain. Like the Kahls, Parsi smelled a rat. It should be troubling to Americans that an Israeli dirty-ops firm may have been working to sabotage US foreign policy. Israel is ostensibly an ally of this country. This would shield Israel from embarrassment should such operations ever be exposed. Soros, who was a child survivor of the Holocaust, established a network of civil-society NGOs under the umbrella of the Open Society Foundations. They cast him as a foreign agent intending to subvert the interests of the nation, a wealthy plutocrat advancing his own financial interests rather than the idealistic ones he actually espouses. But the prospect of financial support never materialized, and after the meetings, the individuals disappeared. Their phone numbers went dead and their company websites and LinkedIn accounts were deleted. The Intercept published a full account of the election smears. Neither the Post nor the Hungarian paper revealed who offered them the information. Neither speculated as to why the material was leaked to them. And neither noted the convenient timing of the leak. I contacted the co-authors of the Post story asking for information about who their sources were and whether they performed any due diligence to verify the information they gave her. Neither they nor their editor responded. If these outlets were responsible journalistic enterprises, they would ask themselves these questions. They would ponder how they were hoaxed, used by their sources in a scheme to smear the reputation of a prominent philanthropist along with Hungarian civil-society groups that were drawn into the tawdry operation. Over the past year, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has engaged in a campaign to cultivate right-wing governments in Poland, Hungary, and elsewhere. There he made the customary pilgrimage of visiting national leaders to Yad Vashem, the national Holocaust memorial. Israeli Holocaust survivors and human-rights activists were outraged and blocked his car from leaving the museum. To them, the Hungarian leader is irredeemable. I wonder how Yad Vashem can justify permitting such a figure to set foot on its sacred altar to the memory of the 6 million. I asked an Israeli security source whether his agency had any concerns about the activities of Black Cube, and whether the company might be viewed as compromising the security or political interests of Israel. He replied that the activities of the company were a political rather than a security issue. A future scandal could envelop not just the company itself but the nation that produced it. Once the tool is downloaded, Pegasus essentially takes control of the device, permitting the

attacker to intercept e-mail, download documents, listen to any conversations the user might have, and intercept video recordings. It also offers the attacker GPS positions so he knows where the target is at all times. The only reason we know all this is that victims whose phones had begun to behave strangely sought help; some consulted Citizen Lab , a forensic outfit affiliated with the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto dedicated to promoting human rights via the web. Citizen Lab first discovered Pegasus after being contacted by a human-rights activist in the United Arab Emirates, Ahmed Mansoor, who suspected a malware attack; that was when Citizen Lab technicians detected the NSO spyware. NSO claims that its licensing agreement specifies that its products may be used by governments only to fight crime and terrorism, and that clients are precluded from using them to attack citizens for their activism. When journalists have pointed out that clients have used the technology in ways not allowed by the contract, the company claims it is not responsible for how its technology is used and does not maintain any record of such usage. This raises the possibility that NSO could engineer a feature permitting it to track the usage of Pegasus. Such a feature would enable the company to consult with clients to ensure that its tool is not misused. But it seems NSO prefers the ease of shipping the product, taking payment, and washing its hands of what might happen afterward. As Citizen Lab indicated in a recently released statement, the entire field of cyber-hacking is barely regulated the Israeli defense ministry must license all exports of Pegasus, but it is not known to prohibit or interfere with such sales. This only encourages abuse by both coders and clients. Nationsâ€™ and Israel is not the only state with companies engaged in such hackingâ€™ must step forward and set both ethical and political standards that determine how these tools may be used and which uses are prohibited. I would also think that the companies themselves, if they value their business models, would attempt to negotiate some form of regulation that both permits them to pursue their business objectives while also adhering to a common set of standards. But so far they seem oblivious to the consequences of their actions. One way of pressuring both governmental authorities and the companies themselves is by targeting them in the financial markets. NSO, as a tech start-up, is part of the Silicon Valley economy. Francisco later sought to sell its controlling interest to other venture-capital firms. These plans were derailed by several developments. First, in the midst of the purchase negotiations, NSO discovered that a disgruntled employee, who was eventually fired, had stolen a hard drive containing both Pegasus and other secret company documents. Though the customer reported the approach to executives at the firm, the damage had been done. The employee had the hard drive for three weeks, and while NSO claims he did not compromise any corporate secrets, it has no way of knowing this for sure. Israeli media reporting on this incident offer some tantalizing information not reported elsewhere: First, the employee theft was placed under a gag order, presumably sought by NSO, which would have wanted to keep bad news under wraps so as not to sabotage sale negotiations. Second, an article in the Israeli business publication Globes notes several times in the Hebrew edition that the NSO theft was considered by authorities to be one of the most serious compromises of national security on record. That may mean several things: It may mean that Pegasus, or at least substantial elements of it, was developed not by NSO but by Unit 8200. Its veterans could have taken the code they developed during military service and further developed it into the commercial product. If this is true, it would strengthen arguments that Israeli cyber-hackers serving in military intelligence are using tools like Pegasus to infiltrate foreign governments, target BDS and other human-rights activists, or even target victims for Israeli assassination operations. Should a rival intelligence service gain access to the Pegasus code, it could develop ways to counter or disable it. That is why this theft is considered more than just a mishap for a single business, but rather a potential national-security crisis. With the exploding corporate valuations indicated above, other Israeli start-ups are getting in on the action. Any home-electronics, thermostat, alarm, or home speaker system communicating with Internet servers would be vulnerable. This is essentially a replication of the NSO business model, transferred to the home environment. The very place where people expect the most privacy and security could be transformed into a peephole for snooping companies or individuals. To submit a correction for our consideration, [click here](#). For Reprints and Permissions, [click here](#).

Chapter 2 : Isaiah 49 GNT - Israel, A Light to the Nations - Listen - Bible Gateway

The nation's canonical folk songs, known as "Songs of the Land of Israel," deal with the experiences of the pioneers in building the Jewish homeland. [] Cinema and theatre.

Christian Zionist tourists Nevertheless, traditional business models are no longer sustainable and high-quality publications, like ours, are being forced to look for new ways to keep going. Unlike many other news organizations, we have not put up a paywall. We want to keep our journalism open and accessible and be able to keep providing you with news and analyses from the frontlines of Israel, the Middle East and the Jewish World. As one of our loyal readers, we ask you to be our partner. The lively event on the Haas Promenade overlooking the Old City and Temple Mount was attended by hundreds of Christian Zionists from around the world, along with a kosher catered reception for their Jewish friends. I was one of those friends. Be the first to know - Join our Facebook page. I was initially amused, so I live-streamed this unusual scene for my friends on Facebook. A bit of background is in order. The words of the Mashiach song were written by the Medieval sage Maimonides and are taken from the 12th of his 13 principles of faith: And even if he tarries, nevertheless, I will await him every day. Indeed, there are many important differences between Christianity and Judaism. The question is, how significant a difference is this? Evangelical leader Pastor John Hagee has seemed to minimize this distinction with a joke he is fond of saying. We will simply ask him, is this your first or second time here? While, according to Jewish tradition, Jews are required to believe in certain tenets of faith, nonJews are not. Judaism does have several laws guiding non-Jews which are known as the seven Noahide commandments. The seven Noahide commandments address actions, not beliefs. While Jews are required to observe and believe, non-Jews are only required to observe. When Jews dismiss Christians who sing about belief in their Messiah, are we in fact holding them up to an unfair standard? Do we ask our fellow Jews how many of us wait for the Mashiach every day? Through my work at Israel in strengthening relationships between Christian Zionists and Israel, I am often attacked by fellow Jews who think they know exactly what Christians believe. Maimonides established his principles of faith for us, not them. Furthermore, Maimonides himself addressed the notion of Christians believing in their Messiah with a shocking comment that would surprise many Jewish critics. Hundreds of Christians bought plane tickets and flew across the world at their own expense to pray for the peace of Jerusalem in the Jewish capital. Rabbi Tuly Weisz is the director of Israel

Chapter 3 : Milestones: “ - Office of the Historian

Israel And The Nations Article contributed by www.nxgvision.com It may be compared to the creation of Adam and Eve following the prehistoric fall of some of the holy angels led by Satan, and was similar to the new beginning with Noah after the destruction of the rest of humanity by the flood.

Premillennialism, and its theological sister, dispensationalism, argue that in connection with the second coming of Christ, God intends to reestablish a Jewish kingdom in Palestine. The doctrine contends that there is yet a purpose to be served by physical Israel. The same prophets who predicted the world-wide exile and persecution of the Jews also predicted their restoration as a nation. This restoration was to come about in the general time of the climactic seven-year countdown and its finale—the personal appearance of the Messiah to deliver the new state from destruction. Lindsey, The foregoing theory is quite erroneous in that it repudiates numerous fundamental Bible truths. Further, it is exceedingly dangerous in that it offers a false hope to Jews. Walvoord, a millennialist, says that: Israel in the Divine plan A balanced study of the nation of Israel must include at least four elements: Selection Almost two thousand years before the birth of Christ, Jehovah selected Abraham to be the founder of a new nation. It was declared that through him a seed would come by whom all peoples of the earth would be blessed cf. They were given a special law and ritualistic system of worship which were designed to separate them from the other nations of the world Ex. All of this, of course, was in view of the coming Messiah cf. Testing For some fifteen hundred years the Lord God attempted to cultivate the nation of Israel in preparation for the first advent of the Lord Jesus. It was a constant struggle to get the Hebrews to maintain a semblance of fidelity. Rejection Because of the accelerating rebellion of the nation, consummated by the murder of Jesus Christ, God rejected the Hebrew people. Inexcusably, the Jews rejected their own Messiah; accordingly, Jehovah repudiated that nation and determined to scatter them as dust Matthew Thus, in the providence of God, the Roman armies came against Palestine in A. According to Josephus, some 1. All Jewish records were lost in that holocaust. Today, there is not a single Jew who knows his tribal ancestry McClintock and Strong, The physical nation of Israel is dead. In this age, those who submit to the gospel plan of redemption—whether Jew or Gentile Rom. Errors of the Premillennial View Regarding the Nation of Israel In view of the foregoing considerations, the following factors clearly indicate that the premillennial view of the nation of Israel is erroneous, and it should be rejected by conscientious students of the Bible. God is impartial First, it is a reflection upon the benevolent character of Jehovah to suggest that he intended to perpetually favor one nation over all others. Such a notion is at variance with the multiple Bible affirmations which assert the universal love of God, and his just, impartial disposition with reference to the whole human family cf. Jehovah employed the Jewish nation as a medium for the introduction of Christ into the world. It was abrogated at the cross Col. From the divine viewpoint, old physical Israel has passed away. It has been superseded by a new Israel. And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of Jehovah thy God, to observe to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that Jehovah thy God will set thee on high above all the nations of the earth Deut. The Hebrews were constantly warned of the consequences of disobedience cf. They could be disinherited as a nation Num. The truth is, there are about as many Old Testament warnings to Israel as there are promises! Sometimes this spiritual restoration to God, through the redemptive work of Christ, is symbolically viewed in terms of the rebuilding of Jerusalem, etc. This blessing was for Jew and Gentile alike. Tragic future predicted for Israel Fifth, there are many New Testament passages which portray a tragic future for physical Israel, with no hint of a national restoration. Consider the following dark prophecies. Prophetic Pronouncements Concerning Israel When one carefully considers the testimony of the New Testament, it becomes clear that the future of physical Israel is bleak. The axe lieth at the root Like modern millennialists, there were Jews of old who felt that there was intrinsic virtue in being a physical descendant of Abraham cf. John the Baptizer informed them, however, that God was able to use stones in raising up seed to the patriarch. Now here is a vital point. When a tree is cut down, there is hope that it will sprout again, provided its stump or roots remain cf. But when the axe is laid at the root, where is the hope of restoration? There simply is none! The cursed fig tree Christ once pronounced a

curse upon a barren fig tree near Jerusalem. The tree served as an apt illustration of fruitless national Israel. Where is the hope in that? In other words, barren national Israel would be replaced by fruitful spiritual Israel, the church cf. It was prophesied that the king God would send his armies the Romans , and destroy those murderers the Jews , and burn their city Jerusalem. Is there any suggestion of restoration there? Later, in Matthew In the parable of the barren fig tree Lk. Strange indeedâ€”if millennialism is true. In another parable, uttered shortly before his death, Jesus depicted himself as a nobleman who was going into a far country heaven to receive for himself a kingdom the church. Later, he would return the second coming. However, while he was in that distant land, his citizens the Jews hated him imperfect tenseâ€”an abiding hatred and sent this message to him: Even millennialists admit that this refers to the Jewish rejection of Christ Martin , Of those stubborn Jews, he declared: This refers, of course, to the Jewish majority that refused the gospel a remnant accepted the invitationâ€”cf. Why did not the Lord give some clue that eventually there would be a massive Jewish acceptance of his invitation? It is clear that Israel is to be the recipient of divine retribution throughout the Christian era. After that time, they contend, Jerusalem will be exalted to her former glory. Premillennialists assume the term has a temporal implication in Luke But the assumption is unwarranted. The term *achri* frequently has a terminal thrust in the New Testament. Consider, for example, Revelation 2: There are several important matters that need to be noted here. But how will the Jews be saved? They will be saved by their acceptance of the gospel Rom. This passage does not affirm a nation-wide conversion of the people of Israel. The theory that Paul expected a mass conversion of Israel is flawed on several accounts: It contradicts his entire line of argument in Romans It leaves as inexplicable the throbbing anguish for his brethren in the flesh, which saturates this entire section. For instance, Paul writes: Whyâ€”if he knew that a national conversion of Israel was an ultimate reality? Conclusion The premillennial concept of the nation of Israel is clearly erroneous. There is no promise of a national conversion of Israel in the Bible.

Chapter 4 : Israel: The Little Giant Among the Nations | Arlene Bridges Samuels | The Blogs

Israel, occupying a narrow strip of land between sea and desert, was positioned on an international highway of commerce and warfare. This was a people whose future would be intertwined with the stories of nations great and small.

Es Skhul cave Between 2. The oldest evidence of early humans in the territory of modern Israel, dating to 1. Other groups include 1. The oldest fossils of anatomically modern humans found outside Africa are the Skhul and Qafzeh hominids , who lived in northern Israel , years ago. While alternative translations exist, the majority of biblical archaeologists translate a set of hieroglyphs as "Israel," representing the first instance of the name in the historical record. Dever sees this "Israel" in the central highlands as a cultural and probably political entity, more an ethnic group rather than an organized state. This evolved into the Phoenician alphabet from which all modern alphabetical writing systems are descended. The Paleo-Hebrew alphabet was one of the first to develop and evidence of its use exists from about BCE [22] see the Gezer calendar , the language spoken was probably Biblical Hebrew. Monotheism , the belief in a single all-powerful law-giving God is thought to have evolved among the Hebrew speakers gradually, over the next few centuries, from a number of separate cults, [23] leading to the first versions of the religion now known as Judaism. The Bible states that King David founded a dynasty of kings and that his son Solomon built a temple. Standard Biblical chronology suggests that around BCE, following the death of Solomon, the kingdom split into a southern Kingdom of Judah and a northern Kingdom of Israel. Jehu , son of Omri, is referenced by Assyrian records now in the British Museum. This is not included in the Bible which describes conflict between Ahab and Ben Hadad. The Assyrians sent most of the population of the northern Israelite kingdom into exile , thus creating the " Lost Tribes of Israel ". The Samaritans claim to be descended from survivors of the Assyrian conquest. Modern scholars believe that refugees from the destruction of Israel moved to Judah, massively expanding Jerusalem and leading to construction of the Siloam Tunnel during the rule of King Hezekiah ruled â€” BCE. Assyrian records say that Sennacherib levelled 46 walled cities and besieged Jerusalem , leaving after receiving extensive tribute. The Bible also refers to tribute, [31] and suggests that Hezekiah was also aided by Taharqa , king of Kush Nubia , in repulsing the Assyrians. The Book of Joshua and the accounts of the kingship of David and Solomon in the book of Kings are believed to have the same author. The books are known as Deuteronomist and considered to be a key step in the emergence of Monotheism in Judah. They emerged at a time that Assyria was weakened by the emergence of Babylon and may be a committing to text of pre-writing verbal traditions. The defeat was also recorded by the Babylonians [34] [35] see the Babylonian Chronicles. The exiled Jews may have been restricted to the elite. Jehoiachin was eventually released by the Babylonians. According to both the Bible and the Talmud, the Judean royal family the Davidic line continued as head of Babylonian Jewry, called the "Rosh Galut" head of exile. Arab and Jewish sources show that the Rosh Galut continued to exist in what is now Iraq for another 1, years, ending in the eleventh century. Cyrus issued a proclamation granting subjugated nations including the people of Judah religious freedom for the original text see the Cyrus Cylinder. According to the Hebrew Bible 50, Judeans, led by Zerubabel , returned to Judah and rebuilt the temple. Modern scholars believe that the final Hebrew versions of the Torah and Books of Kings date from this period , that the returning Israelites adopted an Aramaic script also known as the Ashuri alphabet , which they brought back from Babylon; this is the current Hebrew script. The Hebrew Calendar closely resembles the Babylonian calendar and probably dates from this period. Sometime thereafter, the first translation of the Hebrew Bible, the Septuagint , was begun in Alexandria. The Books of the Maccabees describe the uprising and the end of Greek rule. A Jewish party called the Hasideans opposed both Hellenism and the revolt, but eventually gave their support to the Maccabees. Modern interpretations see the initial stages of the uprising as a civil war between Hellenised and orthodox forms of Judaism. As part of the struggle against Hellenistic civilisation , the Pharisee leader Simeon ben Shetach established the first schools based around meeting houses. Justice was administered by the Sanhedrin , which was a Rabbinical assembly and law court whose leader was known as the Nasi. Despite its fame, it was in this period that Rabbinical Judaism , led by Hillel the Elder , began to assume popular prominence over the Temple priesthood. The Jewish Temple in

Jerusalem was granted special permission not to display an effigy of the emperor, becoming the only religious structure in the Roman Empire that did not do so. Special dispensation was granted for Jewish citizens of the Roman Empire to pay a tax to the temple. There was a small revolt against Roman taxation led by Judas of Galilee and over the next decades tensions grew between the Greco-Roman and Judean population centered on attempts to place effigies of the Emperor Caligula in Synagogues and in the Jewish temple. In the year 50 CE, the Council of Jerusalem led by Paul, decided to abandon the Jewish requirement of circumcision and the Torah, creating a form of Judaism highly accessible to non-Jews and with a more universal notion of God. Another Jewish follower, Peter is believed to have become the first Pope. Over the next few hundred years this requirement became steadily more ingrained in Jewish tradition. Josephus estimated that over a million people died in the siege of Jerusalem. The Temple and most of Jerusalem was destroyed. During the Jewish revolt, most Christians, at this time a sub-sect of Judaism, removed themselves from Judea. After the war Jews continued to be taxed in the Fiscus Judaicus, which was used to fund a temple to Jupiter. A victory arch erected in Rome can still be seen today. Tensions and attacks on Jews around the Roman Empire led to a massive Jewish uprising against Rome from 66 to 73. This conflict was accompanied by large-scale massacres of both sides. Cyprus was so severely depopulated that new settlers were imported and Jews banned from living there. Jews were banned from living in Jerusalem itself a ban that persisted until the Arab conquest, and the Roman province, until then known as Iudaea Province, was renamed Palaestina, no other revolt led to a province being renamed. From 132 to 136, the Jewish leader Simon Bar Kokhba led another major revolt against the Romans, again renaming the country "Israel" [51] see Bar Kochba Revolt coinage. The Bar-Kochba revolt probably caused more trouble for the Romans than the better documented revolt of 66-73. During the Bar Kokhba revolt a rabbinical assembly decided which books could be regarded as part of the Hebrew Bible: A rabbi of this period, Simeon bar Yochai, is regarded as the author of the Zohar, the foundational text for Kabbalistic thought. However, modern scholars believe it was written in Medieval Spain. The most famous of these was Judah haNasi who is credited with compiling the final version of the Mishnah a massive body of Jewish religious texts interpreting the Bible and with strengthening the educational demands of Judaism by requiring that illiterate Jews be treated as outcasts. As a result, many illiterate Jews may have converted to Christianity. However, persecution and the economic crisis that affected the Roman empire in the 3rd century led to further Jewish migration from Syria Palaestina to the more tolerant Persian Sassanid Empire, where a prosperous Jewish community with extensive seminaries existed in the area of Babylon. Rome adopts Christianity Early in the 4th century, the Emperor Constantine made Constantinople the capital of the East Roman Empire and made Christianity the official religion. His mother, Helena made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and led the construction of the Church of the Nativity Bethlehem, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem and other key churches that still exist. The name Jerusalem was restored to Aelia Capitolina and it became a Christian city. Jews were still banned from living in Jerusalem, but were allowed to visit, and it is in this period that the surviving Western Wall of the Temple became sacred to Judaism. He died while fighting the Persians in 338 and the project was discontinued. Byzantine period Further information: Byzantine Christianity was dominated by the Greek Eastern Orthodox Church whose massive land ownership has extended into the present. In the 5th century, the Western Roman Empire collapsed leading to Christian migration into the Roman province of Palaestina Prima and development of a Christian majority. Judaism was the only non-Christian religion tolerated, but restrictions on Jews slowly increased to include a ban on building new places of worship, holding public office or owning slaves. In 425, following the death of the last Nasi, Gamliel VI, the Sanhedrin was officially abolished and the title of Nasi banned. Several Samaritan Revolts erupted in this period, [61] resulting in the decrease of Samaritan community from about a million to a near extinction. The Jewish Menorah, which the Romans took when the temple was destroyed, was reportedly taken to Carthage by the Vandals after the sacking of Rome in 455. According to the Byzantine historian, Procopius, the Byzantine army recovered it in 527 and brought it to Constantinople. Jews briefly governed Jerusalem when the Persians took over. The Byzantine Emperor, Heraclius, promised to restore Jewish rights and received Jewish help in defeating the Persians, but reneged on the agreement after reconquering Palaestina Prima, massacring the Jews in Palestine, [63] and issuing an edict banning Judaism from the Byzantine Empire. Egyptian Coptic

Christians took responsibility for this broken pledge and fasted in penance. Jund Filastin and Jund al-Urdunn According to Muslim tradition, in Muhammed was taken on spiritual journey from Mecca to the "farthest mosque", whose location many consider to be the Temple Mount , returning the same night. Over the next few centuries, Islam replaced Christianity as the dominant religion of the region. Jews consider it to contain the Foundation Stone see also Holy of Holies , which is the holiest site in Judaism. Between the 7th and 11th centuries, Jewish scribes, called the Masoretes and located in Galilee and Jerusalem, established the Masoretic Text , the final text of the Hebrew Bible. During the conquest, both Muslims and Jews were indiscriminately massacred or sold into slavery. Maimonides was buried in Tiberias. A Crusader state centred round Acre survived in weakened form for another century. From to the area became the frontier between Mongol invaders occasional Crusader allies and the Mamluks of Egypt. The conflict impoverished the country and severely reduced the population. The fall of the last one, the Kingdom of Acre , in ended the Crusades period in the region. Mamluk period " Further information: Mamluk Sultanate Cairo Egyptian Mamluk sultan, Baibars " , conquered much of the Holy Land, ultimately leading to the end of Crusader rule in The Mamluks ruled Palestine until , regarding it as part of Syria. In Hebron , Baibars banned Jews from worshipping at the Cave of the Patriarchs the second-holiest site in Judaism ; the ban remained in place until its conquest by Israel years later. Ports were destroyed and various materials were dumped to make them inoperable. The goal was to prevent attacks from the sea, given the fear of the return of the crusaders. This had a long-term effect on those areas, which remained sparsely populated for centuries. The activity in that time concentrated more inland. Expulsions began in England and were followed by France During the Black Death , many Jews were murdered after being accused of poisoning wells. The completion of the Christian reconquest of Spain led to expulsion of the Jews of Spain in and Portugal in These were the wealthiest and most integrated Jewish communities in Europe. Many Jews converted to Christianity, however many secretly practised Judaism and prejudice against converts regardless of their sincerity persisted, leading many former Jews to move to the New World see History of the Jews in Latin America.

Chapter 5 : State of Israel proclaimed - HISTORY

God and the Nation of Israel By Wayne Jackson Premillennialism is the notion that Jesus will return to this earth before he commences a one thousand-year reign on David's throne in Jerusalem.

Portion of the Temple Scroll , one of the Dead Sea Scrolls , written during the Second Temple period With successive Persian rule , the autonomous province Yehud Medinata was gradually developing back into urban society, largely dominated by Judeans. The Greek conquests largely skipped the region without any resistance or interest. Incorporated into the Ptolemaic and finally the Seleucid empires, the southern Levant was heavily hellenized , building the tensions between Judeans and Greeks. The conflict erupted in BCE with the Maccabean Revolt , which succeeded in establishing an independent Hasmonean Kingdom in Judah, which later expanded over much of modern Israel, as the Seleucids gradually lost control in the region. The struggle between pro-Roman and pro- Parthian factions in Judea eventually led to the installation of Herod the Great and consolidation of the Herodian kingdom as a vassal Judean state of Rome. With the decline of the Herodian dynasty , Judea, transformed into a Roman province , became the site of a violent struggle of Jews against Greco-Romans, culminating in the Jewish-Roman wars , ending in wide-scale destruction, expulsions, and genocide. Jewish presence in the region significantly dwindled after the failure of the Bar Kokhba revolt against the Roman Empire in CE. Christianity was gradually evolving over Roman Paganism , when the area stood under Byzantine rule. Through the 5th and 6th centuries, the dramatic events of the repeated Samaritan revolts reshaped the land, with massive destruction to Byzantine Christian and Samaritan societies and a resulting decrease of the population. After the Persian conquest and the installation of a short-lived Jewish Commonwealth in CE, the Byzantine Empire reconquered the country in Middle Ages and modern history Further information: Control of the region transferred between the Rashidun Caliphs , Umayyads , Abbasids , Fatimids , Seljuks , Crusaders , and Ayyubids throughout the next three centuries. When the city fell, around 60, people were massacred, including 6, Jews seeking refuge in a synagogue. In , Sultan Saladin , founder of the Ayyubid dynasty , defeated the Crusaders in the Battle of Hattin and subsequently captured Jerusalem and almost all of Palestine. In time, Saladin issued a proclamation inviting Jews to return and settle in Jerusalem, [] and according to Judah al-Harizi , they did: He wrote "If the gentiles wish to make peace, we shall make peace and leave them on clear terms; but as for the land, we shall not leave it in their hands, nor in the hands of any nation, not in any generation. Jerusalem, although left without the protection of any city walls since , also saw a flurry of new construction projects centred around the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on the Temple Mount. In , the Mamluk Sultan Baybars converted the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron into an exclusive Islamic sanctuary and banned Christians and Jews from entering, who previously had been able to enter it for a fee. The ban remained in place until Israel took control of the building in Meir Latif arrived from Italy and counted Jewish families in Jerusalem. With the help of the Sephardic immigration from Spain, the Jewish population had increased to 10, by the early 16th century. In , the territory was divided between Britain and France under the mandate system , and the British-administered area which included modern day Israel was named Mandatory Palestine. Balfour Declaration and Intercommunal conflict in Mandatory Palestine Theodor Herzl , visionary of the Jewish state Since the existence of the earliest Jewish diaspora , many Jews have aspired to return to "Zion" and the "Land of Israel", [] though the amount of effort that should be spent towards such an aim was a matter of dispute. The Maccabaeans will rise again. Let me repeat once more my opening words: The Jews wish to have a State, and they shall have one. We shall live at last as free men on our own soil, and die peacefully in our own home. The world will be freed by our liberty, enriched by our wealth, magnified by our greatness. And whatever we attempt there to accomplish for our own welfare will react with beneficent force for the good of humanity.

Chapter 6 : How Israeli Tech Firms Act as Global Agents of Repression | The Nation

The March of the Nations plus Conference on May 13 - 15, will take place on a historic date: the 70 th Anniversary of the Founding of the State of Israel. Thousands of Christians from all nations will come to Jerusalem for a special conference.

After the death of King Solomon of Israel, the 12 tribes of Israel divided into two kingdoms. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, became king of the southern kingdom of Judah, which was comprised of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and much of the tribe of Levi, the tribe that served at the temple. Jeroboam, a former servant of King Solomon, became king of the northern kingdom of Israel, which was comprised of the remaining 10 tribes 1 Kings 11 and Even though all the tribes were descendants of Jacob also called Israel, Genesis The Bible reveals that Israel and Judah will eventually be reunited as one nation. Before we look at this prophecy, consider a brief history of what happened to these two groups of people. What happened to Israel and Judah? It is important to note the distinction between the peoples of these two nations: Some Israelites came from tribes other than Judah and Benjamin. Because of disobedience to His laws, God allowed the northern kingdom of Israel to be taken into captivity by the Assyrians in the eighth century B. Since this time, these people are known in history as the lost 10 tribes of Israel. Less than years later, during the sixth century B. Many Jews, including the prophet Daniel and his three friends, were taken as captives to Babylon. After 70 years, the Jews were given their freedom and allowed to return to Judah and rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the temple. They were still in their land when the Romans conquered Judea in 63 B. Israel and Judah in the first century Although there had been some mixing of the peoples of Israel and Judah 2 Kings Since he was of the tribe of Benjamin, Paul told people that he was both a Jew Acts The modern nation of Israel When the modern nation of Israel was founded in , it was established as a haven for Jews. Some have mistakenly assumed that because its founders chose the name Israel, this nation is now home for all of the descendants of ancient Israel. Several passages in the Bible make it clear that the modern nation of Israel does not represent all of the ancient Israelites. Again, the modern nation of Israel has not fulfilled these biblical prophecies. This prophecy speaks of both Israel and Judah jointly coming to God. More explicitly via the use of a visual aid, God revealed through Ezekiel His plan to unite the two nations. The descendants of the ancient Israelites who had been part of the ancient nations of Israel and Judah will be reunited. They will once again be one nation.

Chapter 7 : Why Did God Choose Israel? - Life, Hope & Truth

History of Israel: Its Selection as a Special Nation The history of Israel goes back even further than BC. In fact, the selection of Israel as a special nation was part of God's plan from the beginning of time.

Israel And The Nations Article contributed by www. It may be compared to the creation of Adam and Eve following the prehistoric fall of some of the holy angels led by Satan, and was similar to the new beginning with Noah after the destruction of the rest of humanity by the flood. The fact that Genesis itself devotes only eleven chapters to the whole history of the universe up to Abraham and then uses the remainder of almost forty chapters to trace the life of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in itself demonstrates the tremendous significance of this new development. No approach to a proper understanding of Scripture can ignore this obvious divine emphasis upon the numerically small people who descended from Jacob. The explanation is not in any peculiarity of the people of Israel, but rather in the sovereign choice of God in selecting them to fulfill His purpose. Three major areas tell the story of the relation of Israel to the nations. The Divine Purpose In Redemption Unquestionably one of the principal reasons for the selection of Abraham and his posterity was the divine purpose to fulfill the promise given to Adam and Eve that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent Genesis 3: The primary importance of Israel rests in the fact that through them God would fulfill His purpose to reveal His grace and provide redemption in Christ. Through this provision not only would God redeem the nation of Israel, but also those in all of the nations who would turn to God and Christ in faith. The spiritual seed of Abraham according to Galatians 3: Life becomes meaningless except as it is related to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and as it is related to eternity by receiving eternal life in time. This revelation came first through prophets, such as Abraham himself, through whom God spoke. Most important were the writers of Scripture such as Moses and those who succeeded him. Most if not all of the Bible was written by those who were physical descendants of Abraham. It was through Abraham that not only Christ came, but also the prophets. The final and climactic revelation was of course in the person of Jesus Christ who in the incarnation not only became man, but revealed God through human flesh. Christ was not only the way of salvation, but He was also the way of revelation. All of this was included in the purpose of God in divine revelation in selecting Abraham and his descendants. The Divine Purpose In The History Of Israel God was not only going to use Israel as a means of redemption and a means of revelation, but their very history and prophecy were to be a cameo which would reveal God in His dealings with mankind in general. The history of Israel in the Old Testament in their relationship to the Gentiles is also a spiritual analysis of human experience as the people of God seek to live in a temporal world. It was to be in the context of their relationship to the nations that Israel was to reveal their particular qualities as a people of God. In this they illustrated the timeless spiritual principles that are involved in a people of God living in a world which is basically anti-God. The history of Israel in relation to the nations prior to the times of the Gentiles and the Babylonian captivity may be divided into seven subdivisions. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, although promised the land as a perpetual possession of their seed, never actually possessed the Promised Land. Instead, as God predicted in Genesis The sojourn of the children of Israel in Egypt for years b. Their rapid increase in numbers and wealth aroused the opposition of the Egyptian kings. Israel soon became an enslaved people first under the Hyksos rulers who displaced the native Egyptian kings in the period b. During the reign of Amenhotep II b. This probably occurred in b. During the years of their growth in Egypt, God had marvelously begun the preparation of the Promised Land for their occupation. Now, however, it was necessary to temper and discipline the nation Israel for their new role as a separate people inheriting the promises of God. Israel in the wilderness wanderings. The Exodus from Egypt had been preceded by the miraculous intervention of God in the plagues inflicted upon the Egyptians. This had been supported by the great deliverance from the hosts of the Egyptians at the Red Sea when a miraculous strong wind permitted the Israelites to cross the sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians were engulfed by the returning waters when they attempted to follow. It was subsequent to this preliminary failure that Israel, after sending out spies to survey the land for forty days, accepted the unfavorable report of the ten spies that the land could not be conquered. The subsequent disciplinary judgment of God declared that all the

adults would die in the wilderness during forty years of wandering, whereas their little ones whom they said would fall prey to the enemy would inherit the promise of possession of the land Numbers During the wilderness wanderings, for the most part, Israel did not engage in fighting with existing tribes, but their few contacts with other nations were unhappy chapters in the years of their wandering. This began a history of long enmity between Israel and Edom which will continue throughout the times of the Gentiles. Another traditional enemy of Israel was Sihon of Heshbon, an Amorite, and a descendant of one of the eleven sons of Canaan who also opposed the children of Israel. His opposition, however, was used of God to destroy him as the children of Israel took all of his cities and destroyed them utterly from Aroer to Gilead, that is, most of the land east of Jordan from Galilee to the Dead Sea. Their subsequent contacts with Og King of Bashan, another division of the Amorites, resulted in a similar disaster for Og and his people. They too were exterminated, and the children of Israel occupied this territory, the land to the east of Galilee and somewhat to the north. These preliminary victories at the close of the years of wandering were the forerunner of the conquering of the land west of Jordan. Also illustrated is the spiritual conflict between a people of God and those who are anti-God as represented in their enemies. The conquering of the Promised Land. With the death of Moses, Joshua succeeded him as the leader of Israel, and the book that bears his name records the subsequent conquest of the land. Most of the territory west of Jordan was nominally under the control of Egypt whose King Amenhotep III reigned from approximately b. He had neglected Palestine to the point that its political government was largely conducted by city-states over which there was only lax supervision. They were accordingly ill-prepared to resist an aggressive, co-ordinated attack from the nation Israel. Israel crossed the Jordan through a miraculous stopping of the waters during the flood state probably in the spring of b. Their conquest of Jericho was aided by a supernatural destruction of the walls subsequently. After an initial defeat, in a second attack they conquered Ai with the result that the larger city Bethel Joshua 8 was likewise conquered. The southern portion of the land west of Jordan was possessed first by Gibeon who through trickery secured a treaty and then by the defeat of the alliance of five Amorite kings who had besieged Gibeon Their victory was aided by the supernatural long day of Joshua The conquest of other kings including Jabin, King of Hazor Joshua Joshua, now approaching old age, arranged for the division of the land even though many of the Canaanites still retained potential for opposition, and some of the land had not yet been possessed. The victory, although tremendous and allowing living space for Israel, was far short of what God had promised if they would truly possess the land by faith Joshua 1: They failed to carry out the command of Moses to exterminate completely the Canaanites. The utter immorality and false religions of the Canaanites were to prove so damaging to the people of Israel that it led to the extended period of political anarchy and moral decay which characterized the period of the judges. The period of the Judges. The early verses of Judges record some of the preliminary victories against the Canaanites. But even before the end of the first chapter the sad record is given: Nor did the children of Manasseh conquer the Canaanites that dwelt in their area, but rather put them under tribute 1: Similar failure of other tribes is recorded in verses This disobedience of the express command of Moses Deuteronomy 7: For more than three centuries Israel was ruled by judges often local in their influence and sometimes contemporary. The lesson repeatedly given, however, was that when Israel sinned, God would use the Gentiles to inflict disciplinary punishment and over-lordship upon them. When they genuinely repented, God would raise up a judge or leader to deliver them from their enemies. Their subsequent deliverance, however, was often short-lived, and they drifted back into the old sins. Israel never sank lower than in the closing chapters of Judges. Such is the clear lesson of what happens to a nation with initial spiritual power when it joins socially and religiously as well as politically with the world totally debased and devoid of moral purity. As in the later history of Israel, God used the Gentiles to inflict punishment upon the children of Israel. Among the more important enemies of Israel were the Hittites who lay to their north and the Egyptians who were to the south. Also prominent in the period were the Moabites, descendants of Lot, and Amalek, descendants of Esau Judges 3: The Canaanites led by Jabin Judges 4: In the time of Gideon, the Midianites were the instrument of oppression. Although their origin is obscure, they probably were descendants of Midian a son of Abraham by Keturah Genesis In the time of Moses they had accumulated considerable wealth as nomads Numbers They did not figure largely in history outside the Bible

and have long since disappeared. Among the other oppressors of Israel were the Philistines, an ancient people who inhabited the coastal region along the Mediterranean west of the Dead Sea. The Philistines who survived settled in southeast Palestine and eventually gave the entire area the name Palestine, the Greek form of Philistia. The name Philistine appears in the Bible over two hundred times and in more than seventy different chapters. In many respects the relationship of Israel to the Philistines was their spiritual barometer. When they were in oppression by the Philistines, it was a sign of spiritual declension. Much of the closing material of Judges relates to the Philistines. It was not until the time of Samuel that Israel was rescued from forty years of domination by the Philistines. Judges Samuel and Eli the priest were the last two of the fourteen judges which prefaced the appointment of Saul as King. It was through Samuel that the crushing defeat of Israel at Ebenezer I Samuel 4, in which Eli and his sons died, was turned into a victory in a later battle recorded in I Samuel 7. Another attempt was made by the Philistines to gain power in the battle which resulted in the death of Saul and Jonathan I Samuel. The period of the Judges was completely indecisive as far as victory for Israel is concerned, but is a record of human failure, contrasted to divine grace extended to a people when repentant. The sovereign purpose of God in the nation Israel, though obscure in Judges, emerges more clearly in the period of the kingdoms. The kingdoms of Saul, David, and Solomon. When Israel rejected the theocratic rule of God through judges and demanded that a king be appointed, God made clear that they were inviting oppressive rulers who would make slaves of their children and who would demand a large portion of their income. Their desire to be like the Gentiles was obviously born of the flesh rather than of the Spirit. The first king to be appointed was Saul, anointed privately by Samuel, then later named publicly and finally confirmed after the victory at Jabesh-Gilead I Samuel. Saul proved, however, to be an inept ruler, foolishly proud of his sovereignty and position, and jealous of David who had become a national hero by conquering Goliath. The fulfillment of the prophecy of his death in battle is recorded in the closing chapter of I Samuel and the first chapter of II Samuel. David immediately was proclaimed king over his own tribe of Judah II Samuel 2:

Chapter 8 : God and the Nation of Israel : Christian Courier

Throughout most of Israel's history, the nation did not have the revelation of God's plan and Israel mostly lived in conflict with other nations. This conflict was a result of both the sin of the nations and Israel's inability to walk in her calling.

The opinions, facts and any media content in them are presented solely by the authors, and neither The Times of Israel nor its partners assume any responsibility for them. Please contact us in case of abuse. In case of abuse, Report this post. Israel still astonishes me. This time of year, when Israel looks forward to Rosh Hashanah, the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics looks back on the previous year. Israel boasts, more citizens than in and its total population is now 8. Jewish citizens make up 6. Stacked up against the world population, Israel is a mere one thousandth in population. He triumphed against all odds as the youngest and most unlikely in his tribe. Their skill, entrepreneurial inventiveness, and dedication to detail are also cultural markers. And Jewish logistics made sure that ancient biblical texts survived so that the world would experience the blessings of the Jewish and Christian faiths. Tikkun Olam has no boundaries. Israel was not created in order to disappear- Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and the home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom. Kennedy One of my favorite go-to web sites is www. It documents as best it can the thousands of Israeli innovations pumped out by The Little Giant. I enjoyed looking over the list and while it was difficult to choose highlights, here are a few that attracted my interest. They opened their arms to resettle more than , Jews, the forgotten refugees, who were kicked out of surrounding Arab nations. Although Israel was an impoverished land with a low standard of living, they welcomed expelled Jews from Arab lands and made do with very little. Israeli physicist Harry Zvi Tabor invented the first solar water heater in . In Israel hosted the first international Bible contest. In Israel invented the first steel security door with a geometric door lock. Israeli librarians and computer analysts created the first automated library system called Aleph in . In Kibbutz Sde Eliyah began cultivating bees for pollination now on farms across the world. Embed from Getty Images The list is truly endless. The emergency bandage which stops bleeding in physical trauma was developed in . Also in the s with massive operations, Israel rescued thousands of Ethiopian Jews and brought them to their ancestral homeland. An Israeli company developed the first flash drive in . Their stem cell technology holds the potential to treat diseases like ALS. Again, The Little Giant competes against nations far bigger. Traveling to Israel since , she is now an author at the Times of Israel, The Christian Post, and a networker, consultant, and speaker. She shares her devotionals, The Eclectic Evangelical, on Facebook and is an active member of a small Anglican church. She looks forward to the Alabama Crimson Tide winning another national football championship this season!

Chapter 9 : Member States | United Nations

Since Israel was established, it has grappled with the inherent tensions between its dual aspirations of being both a Jewish and democratic state.

Its four minute episodes centered on the young and personable James Anthony Kleinfeld, British, Jewish, an Oxford graduate who speaks six languages, including Dutch and Yiddish, and is well-informed about Middle East conflicts—seemingly a natural fit for a Western foreign ministry or a major think tank. This essay continues our exclusive collaboration with Le Monde Diplomatique, monthly publishing jointly commissioned and shared articles, both in print and online. To subscribe to LMD, go to mondediplo. For five months, he mixed with them at cocktail parties, congresses, and conventions, and on training courses. He won their trust and they opened up to him, abandoning doublespeak and official lines. How, he asked, did they go about influencing the US Congress? His qualifications were genuine, but he was of course an undercover reporter, sent by Al Jazeera to investigate the pro-Israel lobby. He filmed conversations using a hidden camera and later, as part of an Al Jazeera investigations team led by executive producer Phil Rees, put together a spectacular documentary. This had led to the Israeli ambassador in London making a public apology and a high-ranking diplomat being recalled to Tel Aviv. But then the broadcast was postponed, with no official explanation. Eventually, articles in the US Jewish media revealed that it would never be shown. What better way to do this than by winning the favour of the pro-Israel lobby, known for its influence on US policy in the Middle East? Some were keen for the revelations not to sink into the quicksand of geopolitical compromise, which is why, thanks to a friend in the Gulf, I was able to watch all four episodes in their near-final version. How can that be, when support for Israel is massive in the United States, and both Republicans and Democrats unfailingly back it, no matter what its ventures? Despite this apparently favorable climate, a specter haunts the lobby: It is growing in popularity on US campuses, but David Brog, director of strategic affairs of Christians United for Israel and executive director of the Maccabee Task Force, a group fighting against BDS, questioned whether it is really a cause for alarm. More venture capital is going into Israel today than at any other time in history. So if we focus on the dollars we can feel really good about ourselves. If we focus on the fact that an effort is being made to distance us, those who love Israel, from the rising generation, I think we need to worry. Then being pro-Israel becomes less a bipartisan issue, and then every time the White House changes, the policies towards Israel change. That becomes a dangerous thing for Israel. There is actually an important battle being fought on the campuses. He said that support for Israel is now growing among Republicans and falling among Democrats: It would be hard to do it through political debate. Since the failure of the Oslo accords, Israel has been led by far-right parties that reject any diplomatic solution. There is no question of any discussion of the fate of the Palestinians, the future of the settlements, or the tragedy in Gaza. Your country basically let half of fucking Pakistan move in. So you have a different problem than we do here. A journalist with close links to the lobby said: You have names here that show up on this database. Students and professors, faculty, speakers, organizations that have ties to terrorism, outright ties to terrorism, or terrorists who have called for the destruction of the Jewish state. He explained his philosophy to Kleinfeld: We need to expose what they really are. And we need to expose the fact that they are anti everything we believe in. And we need to put them on the run. Summer Awad, who took part in a campaign for Palestinian rights in Knoxville, Tennessee, was harassed on Twitter, and information about her, some of it dating back a decade, was posted online: Somebody contacted my employer and asked for me to be fired. If they continue to employ me they will be denounced as anti-Semitic. It drives them crazy. They either shut down, or they spend time investigating [the accusations against them] instead of attacking Israel. We can bring things to the table that are quite different. Everybody out there who has anything to do with BDS should ask himself twice: Should I be on this side or do I want to be on the other side? We have others working on this. It took part in the campaign against Qatar and Al Jazeera, which was accused of being a destabilizing force in the region. Under US law, organizations and individuals working for foreign governments must register with the Department of Justice. The future seems dark to them, and even those most likely to support them are wavering. The

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documentary shows Vaknin-Gil admitting in a Knesset hearing: To submit a correction for our consideration, [click here](#). For Reprints and Permissions, [click here](#).