

[SLIDE 1] INTRODUCTION: DEUTERONOMY 34

- **[SLIDE 2]** The recent attacks in the Middle East places the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict at the forefront of the news
- What people don't understand is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is over the land and who the land belongs to
- The Palestinians say the land belongs to them because they were there first (which we will prove wrong) and the Israeli's say the land belongs to them because God gave them the land in the Book of Genesis
- President Biden supports a 2 state solution (creation of a Palestinian State) in direct violation of Joel 4 (warning against dividing the land)
- The State Department is calling Israel's control over the West Bank an occupation
- The UN is suggesting Israel is guilty of war crimes for attacking the Gaza Strip and destroying the Hamas military operations
- But in Deuteronomy 34, God makes it clear the land belongs to Israel
- Today I want to look at current events in light of Biblical truth

We are at the end of the wilderness journey for the children of Israel

- Moses is about to die but before he dies, the LORD takes him to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho
- **[SLIDE 3-4]** From this peak God shows him the land He swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Deuteronomy 34:1–4 (NKJV)

34 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab (mo-ahv) to Mount Nebo (har neh-vo), to the top of Pisgah (peas-gah), which is across from Jericho (yeh-ree-cho). And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead (gee-laud) as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali (naf-tah-lee') and the land of Ephraim (ef-ra-yeem) and Manasseh (men-ah-shay), all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³ the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar (zoe-are). ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, "This *is* the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

- Notice what the LORD says in vs. 4
- This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac and Jacob saying I will give it to your descendants
- God allows Moses to see the land but not enter the land

[SLIDE 5] NOW I want you to see the land promised to Abraham

Genesis 15:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt (nehar misrayim which is another name for the Nile) to the great river (nehar gadol... I believe it refers to the “Pishon river” which is translated “the great effusion or the great river” and is now covered by the Arabian Desert but visible through satellite technology), the River Euphrates (nehar prat which exists today)

- The area outlined in RED is the area described in the scripture above
- The yellow area is the area occupied by Israel today
- You can see that Israel occupies a fraction of the land God promised
- Even though God promised so much more, the promise didn't benefit them because they didn't act on it because of unbelief

The writer of Hebrews says...

Hebrews 4:1–2 (NKJV)

4 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

- This has application for us today in that many do not benefit or profit from the promise of abundant life because of unbelief
- The promise is not mixed with faith, it's not activated by faith
- Thus, our marriages, our families, our careers, our dreams fall short of what God wants for us
- Instead of resting on the promises of God we try to make the promises of God happen in the power of the flesh... which is by our wisdom, our power, our strength

Now I want to show you something I found very interesting

- ***[SLIDE 6]*** The area outlined in GREEN is the area known as the LAND OF EDEN...
- **NOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU IS AMAZING!**
- ***[SLIDE 7]*** Look at how closely it resembles the land promised to Israel!
- What is the message? What is God's saying?

- God desires for Israel and ultimately the world to go back to the Garden, back to face to face fellowship with God
- Israel was to represent this kind of fellowship to the world
- God made a Covenant with Israel to be their God and for them to be His people
- God delivered them out of Egypt, carried them on eagle's wings, led them with the cloud by day and the fire by night, took care of them
- But they rejected the Covenant
- So God made a New Covenant through Jesus and in Jesus all who believe will have this face to face fellowship with God
- The land itself tells the story of redemption and restoration!
- ***Do you see how God works! Do you see how nothing in the scriptures is arbitrary and meaningless?***
- ***God makes Himself known through His Word!***

[SLIDE 8] This is Israel today

- The Golan Heights is under Israeli control and borders Syria
- The Gaza Strip is under the control of Hamas
- The West Bank is under the control of the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) which is also known as the Fatah
- To understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over the land you need to get perspective... both geographical and Biblical
- Israel and the Jewish people only have 1/6th of 1% of the land in the Middle East
- The Arab Muslims have 99 5/6th% of the land... but they want 100% of the land and most want the nation of Israel to be destroyed
- When the Muslim speaks of peace in the Middle East, it does not include the existence of Israel... in fact, in their view peace is only accomplished when 100% of the population is Muslim

As we are going through the Bible we are seeing Israel develop

- They develop from Abraham's family (Genesis 12)
- To the tribe of Israel (Genesis 37)
- To 12 tribes of Israel (Genesis 49)
- To a nation with Kings (Saul, David & Solomon) beginning in 1 Samuel 9
- To a nation divided into 2 Kingdoms... Israel (North) and Judah (South) in 1 Kings 11
- Then Israel is overrun by 5 world empires beginning in 2 Kings 15
- ***[SLIDE 9] This was given to Nebuchadnezzar in a vision in Daniel 2***

- The Assyrians remove Israel from the land in 722 BC and they are scattered and become known as the 10 lost tribes of Israel
- The Babylonians remove Judah from the land in 587 BC
- The Persians conquer the land in 539 BC and the Persian King Cyrus the Great allows Judah to return to the land to rebuild the temple under Nehemiah and Ezra in 538 BC.
- In 333 BC Alexander the Great (who was Greek) conquers the land and the temple is desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes by what is known historically as the abomination of desolation (Daniel 9:27)
- In 63 BC the Romans conquer the land (which brings us to the time of Jesus) and in 70 AD Titus conquers Jerusalem and destroys the Second Temple (prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24)
- It's at this time the Jewish people are exiled from the land in what is known as the Diaspora
- In 136 AD, the Roman Emperor Hadrian destroyed and plowed under the Temple Mount with a plan to rebuild a pagan worship center
- It's at this time he changed the name of the region to Palestina to humiliate the Jews and honor the Philistines who settled into the land from Greece during the time of Abraham (Genesis 21)
- Deuteronomy tells us the land was occupied by Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites
- The Bible adds Philistines from Greece, Rephaim, Hivites, Anakim and many other nations but it does not mention one ARAB in the land

What about the Muslim's claim that Jerusalem is their holy site?

- The Canaanite city of Jerusalem (Jebus) was conquered by Joshua in Joshua 10 and fully captured by King David in 1 Chronicles 11
- The first temple was built by Solomon in 950 BC as recorded by 1 Kings 6 and 2 Chronicles 3 and Jerusalem was the center of worship in Israel
- Israel controlled Jerusalem for 1500 until 70 AD
- Rome controlled Jerusalem from 70 AD until 600 AD
- The Muslims from Saudi Arabia controlled Jerusalem from 600 AD until 1100 AD (Explaining the presence of Arab Muslims in Israel)
- **NOTE:** The Dome of the Rock wasn't built until 687 AD
- **NOTE:** This is 600 years after Christianity was founded in Jerusalem
- From 1100 to 1250 AD the Christians fought to regain control from the Muslims but in 1250 AD the Muslim Turks controlled Jerusalem until 1917 (thus explaining the presence of Turkish Muslims in Israel)

- **[SLIDE 10]** In 1917 the British gained control of Jerusalem and declared the right for Israel to exist as a nation and a promise for the creation of a Jewish state in a document known as the Balfour Declaration.
- **[SLIDE 11]** This led to the formation of the nation of Israel in 1948 in **ONE DAY**

Isaiah 66:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ “Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child. ⁸ Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

- **[SLIDE 12] BUT NOT BEFORE** Nazi Germany under Hitler attempted to wipe out the Jewish race through a systematic program of genocide known as the holocaust during World War 2
- Out of Europe’s 8 million Jews, only 1.5 million survived
- This goes back to Genesis 3:15 and the hatred between Satan and the people through whom Messiah would come
- **[SLIDE 13]** By the way... antisemitism in America is on the rise
- The Palestinians are using the situation to promote their hatred of Israel as they screen in streets of America... death to Jews and free Palestine
- **[SLIDE 14]** I believed fueled and encouraged by members of congress accusing Israel of apartheid and terrorism, not self-defense in the recent rocket attacks where Hamas fired more than 4000 rockets at Israel
- AND Hamas declared victory by destroying the project of coexistence
- Don’t be deceived by what you hear in the news...
- **[SLIDE 15]** In 1964 the Palestinian Liberation Organization was formed by Yasser Arafat
- At the advice of the KGB during the Arab League Summit in Cairo in 1964 the formation of a Palestinian identity was established
- You can see through history, there is no such thing as a Palestinian
- **[SLIDE 16]** BUT don’t take my word for it... listen to this leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip
- Notice he says... we are Egyptians, we are Arabs, we are Muslims
- All of us can trace our heritage back to our Arab roots
- Zuheir Muhsin, Executive Council of the PLO, said the Palestinian people do not exist. The creation of a Palestinian state is only a means for continuing our struggle against the state of Israel for our Arab unity.

- That's a pretty clear admission
- There are no ancient claims by the Muslims or Arabs to the land

REMEMBER... you need to see events through the lens of the Bible

- God clearly gave the land to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 34
- But before that He promised the land to Abraham in Genesis 15
- And NEXT WEEK when we get into the Book of Joshua we are going to see God's faithfulness to fulfill His promise to Israel

Why is this important to us today? 2 reasons.

1. Israel did nothing to deserve God giving them the land

Deuteronomy 7:6–11 (NKJV)

⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

- God's purpose for choosing them was simply because He loved them
2. If God is faithful to keep His promises to Israel, God is faithful to keep His promises to us who believe in Jesus

Paul writing to the Thessalonians blessed them with this blessing...

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

- In these times of uncertainty with war is on the horizon, senseless violence in the streets of America, racism, unemployment, government corruption, COVID Chaos, economic crisis
- There is ONE who is certain, ONE who is faithful and that is God Himself