



WE
ISRAEL?



**THE JEWISH STATE'S
BIBLICAL ROOTS,
MIRACULOUS REBIRTH
AND MODERN TRIALS**



CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

CUFI.ORG



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I S R A E L ?

FROM WHY SHOULD I CARE TO WHAT CAN I DO

Christians United for Israel (CUFI) has miraculously grown to become the foremost leader of the Christian pro-Israel movement. Since its birth, CUFI has been dedicated to educate and empower millions of Americans to act with one voice in defense of Israel and the Jewish people.

And our membership only keeps growing. Why?

I believe it is because the Lord is stirring the hearts of Christians everywhere to defend Israel and the Jewish people during this critical time in history. As the hour becomes more and more dangerous, it becomes more and more urgent that we take action. It is not enough to say, “Never Again!” We must recognize the harsh reality that the poison stream of antisemitism has become a tidal wave in Europe and has now reached the flood stage in America.

Israel can defend itself on the battlefield, but the Jewish people need our help to defeat the venomous plague of antisemitism that masquerades as anti-Zionism. What they need most is faithful friends who will not back down from the fight against the lies and propaganda fueling the abominable increase of hatred of Jews, Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS), and groundless political attacks from world governments. As always, CUFI is committed to confronting the dangers of indifference and combatting the viciousness of antisemitism in all its forms wherever it may be found.

It is crucial that you join us in this righteous cause!

If not now...then when? If not us...then who?

As Israel faces some of her most severe threats in her history, we must be ready to defend the Jewish state from increasingly sophisticated campaigns that are designed to delegitimize and discredit her.

To be equipped with the fundamental truths about what the Bible teaches Christians concerning Israel and her people, look no further than this booklet. Zion's inspiring journey is laid out comprehensively within these pages—from the nation's prophetic rebirth as a modern state to the dangerous threats it presently faces.

At this very hour, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is mandating His people to arise and speak out in defense of Israel. The truth in *Why Israel* will first enlighten you, and then empower you to speak out about the importance of supporting Israel.

To successfully win this battle against the forces that seek to eliminate Israel and her people, we must stand together like never before, shoulder to shoulder, united in one purpose.

I pray you will join us to lift the blazing torch of truth about Israel and help combat the growing darkness of antisemitism.

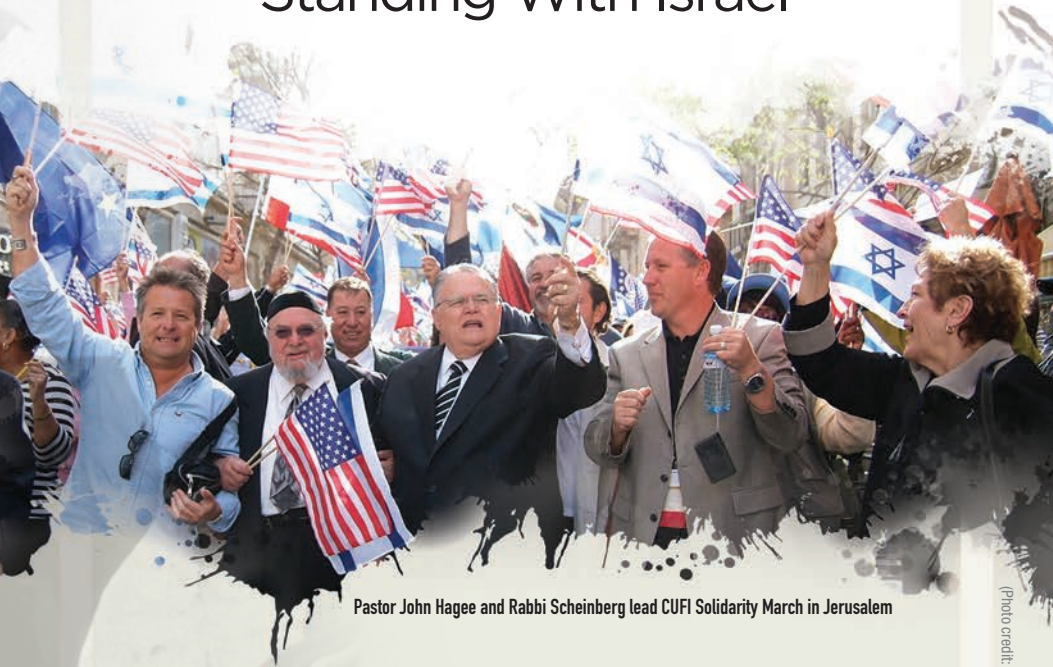
Together, we are making a difference!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hagee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.



PART I:

The Biblical Case for Standing With Israel



Pastor John Hagee and Rabbi Scheinberg lead CUFI Solidarity March in Jerusalem

(Photo credit: CUFI)

The Western Wall stood magnificent as the Jerusalem sun bathed those that worshiped there with its glory. When I first touched the sacred stones of the Prayer Wall in April of 1978, I had no idea my well-ordered life was about to dramatically change forever. I remember as if it was yesterday. As I was praying, I felt an urgency to look over my left shoulder. I saw an aged Jewish man, wearing his kippa, draped in his prayer shawl, rocking back and forth reading the Torah as tears ran down his face. I sensed the Lord say in my spirit—*this is your spiritual brother—you know nothing about him and he is afraid of you.*

I looked even closer and was captivated by this Jewish man's

devotion to his God—to my God—to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. That one experience triggered a theological earthquake in my mind that would alter the direction of my ministry. In the three years that followed, I studied every legitimate Jewish, Christian and secular source I could find on the Jewish people and their historical and Biblical relationship to the church dating back to the first century. My research launched a theological harpoon through what I had been taught about Israel and the Jewish people.

What the Bible says about Israel and what most Christians have been taught in their seminaries and churches about Israel are very different. One is the Word of God and the other is man's opinion. I came to an enlightening conclusion after my research; supporting Israel and the Jewish people is not a social issue, a political issue, or even a compassionate issue as a result of the horrors of the Holocaust. Supporting Israel and the Jewish people is a *Bible issue!*

Israel is the *only nation* in the history of the world that was created by a sovereign act of God. Israel is the *only nation* in the world that has its borders recorded in the sacred text of Scripture. And most importantly—the Jewish people are the *only nation* that have been given a specific piece of real-estate as an eternal and ever-lasting possession through a blood covenant with God Almighty. Simply stated: God gave the title deed to the land to Israel (Genesis 17:7-8).

The God of the Bible is the God of covenant. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob keeps covenant for 1,000 generations. The covenant that Abraham and his descendants received in Genesis 17 has never been altered or broken. The land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people today, tomorrow and forever.

Remember this truth—the Jewish people do not occupy the land of Israel—they own the land of Israel.

By whose authority do they own the land of covenant? By the authority of God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. As Creator, God is also the Owner for the Bible clearly states, “*The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein*” (Psalm 24:1). As the Owner of the earth, God gave Adam and Eve the opportunity to build a righteous civilization. They failed and were driven from Paradise into a world of pain and suffering after eating the forbidden fruit.

God offered to redeem man a second time in Noah’s generation. Once again, the corruption of sin and godlessness prevailed and the Lord had no option but to destroy every living thing on earth through a mighty flood sparing only Noah, his family and the chosen creatures on the Ark.

God gave mankind, through Abraham, a third opportunity to produce a righteous people. He tested Abraham’s love and loyalty by asking him to offer up Isaac—the son of promise—and Abraham obeyed. However, before Abraham sacrificed his only son on Mount Moriah, the Lord provided a substitute lamb. God instructed Abraham and his descendants to teach “their children the ways of the Lord” and they obeyed—they passed the test.

As a result of Abraham’s righteous obedience, God entered into a personal, unconditional everlasting covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12 and Genesis 17 that promised:

- ▶ To bless Abraham and make him a great nation
- ▶ To make Abraham a blessing and make his name great
- ▶ To bless those that blessed Abraham’s seed and curse those who cursed them

The land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people today, tomorrow and forever. Remember this truth—the Jewish people do not occupy the land of Israel—they own the land of Israel.

- ▶ To multiply Abraham's seed
- ▶ To make Abraham the father of many nations
- ▶ Abraham's seed would produce kings
- ▶ To give Abraham and his descendants all the land of Canaan
- ▶ That Abraham's seed would bless all the families of the earth.

These promises are true to this very day and will be so until the end of time.

Look at world history: the nations that have blessed Israel have prospered and those that oppressed the Jewish people are buried in the boneyard of human history. Where is Egypt? Where are the Assyrians? The Babylonians? Where are the Romans? Where is Hitler's Third Reich? All are footnotes of a past long gone. Where is Israel? Israel lives!

God has blessed America because she has provided refuge and aid for the Jewish people. Mark my words, the day America stops standing with Israel will be the day God stops blessing our nation.

God's promise of making the Jewish people a blessing to the nations of the earth would require a lengthy book to record. They have blessed us spiritually, medically, scientifically, artistically and beyond. Saint Paul refers to the Jewish people's contribution to our Christian faith:

It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

(ROMANS 15:27)

Look at world history: the nations that have blessed Israel have prospered and those that oppressed the Jewish people are buried in the boneyard of human history.

What “spiritual things” have the Jewish people given to Christianity?

- ▶ The Word of God—every verse inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by Jewish people
- ▶ The Jewish people gave us the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- ▶ They gave us the prophets and the apostles
- ▶ The Jewish people gave us St. Paul whose magnificent theological masterpiece titled the Book of Romans declares that God has not replaced the Jewish people—not now nor ever! (Romans 9,10, 11)
- ▶ The Jewish people gave us the first family of Christianity—Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Remove Jesus from Christianity and there is no Christianity.

Judaism does not need Christianity to explain its existence, yet Christianity cannot explain its existence without Judaism.

Remember this truth, “*Salvation is of the Jews*” (John 4:22). The fact of history is, Judaism does not need Christianity to explain its existence, yet Christianity cannot explain its existence without Judaism.

In the Book of Matthew, Jesus describes the Judgment of the Nations:

“... ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”

(MATTHEW 25:37-40)

The term “My brethren” refers to the Jewish people. Every

man and nation will be judged on how they have treated the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. When Jesus Christ rules the earth from the city of Jerusalem during the Millennial Reign—the Jewish people will be front and center.

The Messiah will not rule from Rome, London, Moscow, Paris, Berlin, Tehran, Damascus, Beirut, or Washington DC—He has chosen Jerusalem. Jerusalem—the city of God. King David commands every believer to, *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you” (Psalm 122:6).* David writes yet again in Psalm 128:5,

**The Lord bless you out of Zion,
And may you see the good of Jerusalem
All the days of your life.**

Why Israel? Because Israel is a Bible issue—yesterday, today and forevermore!

**That which has been is what will be,
That which is done is what will be done,
And there is nothing new under the sun.**

(ECCLESIASTES 1:9)

This Scripture suggests the longevity of the bright lights that God has made as signs for seasons, times, and months. The sun, moon, and stars are not going anywhere—and so it is with the Jewish people.

However, do not take my word for it. Listen to what God says through the prophet Jeremiah to His people in exile:

**Thus says the Lord,
Who gives the sun for light by day
And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,**

Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar;

The Lord of hosts is His name:

“If this fixed order departs

From before Me,” declares the Lord,

“Then the offspring of Israel also will cease

From being a nation before Me forever.”

(JEREMIAH 31:35-37)

While the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, and many other nations of the Bible have long since assimilated into the milieu of modern nations, the Jewish people remain, speaking the same language, following many of the same customs, and worshipping the same God as in the Biblical record. In fact, God's Word says that the Jewish people will only cease being a nation before Him *IF* the sun, moon and stars stop their rising and shining and setting!

Such a phenomenon begs the question: why Israel?

Why has Israel survived dispersion, oppression, and genocide? Why have the Jewish people been driven from their land so many times in the past, yet they continue to long for it and now protect it with their very lives? Why does a Jewish state, the state of Israel, exist today and thrive despite fierce opposition? Why should Israel be important to every Christian?

Should Christians support Israel and the Jewish people today? What is our Biblical mandate as it relates to His Chosen People?

Evidence of the Biblical case for supporting Israel abounds. It is confirmed repeatedly in Scripture and it all starts with a covenant as I mentioned earlier. A covenant is an agreement

made between two parties. It is similar to a contract, in that both parties agree to uphold certain stipulations to obtain certain benefits.

A blood covenant goes a step further; it requires cutting of the flesh and the shedding of blood. God commanded Abraham to undergo circumcision as part of a covenant between Him and generations of Jews to come. *“This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and thy descendants after thee, every male among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall be circumcised on the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.”* (GENESIS 17:10-11).

God’s covenant with Abraham began when He issued a simple command: “Go.” Addressing Abram, a man steeped in the pagan idolatry of the day (Joshua 24:2), God offers no introduction of Himself. He simply says,

**“Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father’s house,
To the land which I will show you;
And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”**
(GENESIS 12:1-3)

This mandate was the beginning of God’s covenant journey with the Jewish people. The Biblical narrative is clear that Abraham obeyed God’s command to leave his home and trek to

“The Departure of Abraham” by József Molnár.

Abraham obeyed God’s command to leave his home and trek to an unknown land, initiating the opportunity for God to fulfill His promise.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

an unknown land, initiating the opportunity for God to fulfill His promise. In response to Abram’s obedience, God solidifies and confirms His covenant through a covenant-cutting ceremony (see Genesis 15).

In the Ancient Near East, it was common for two people to make a covenant by cutting animals in half, splitting the halves, and then walking in between the pieces to make an oath. By walking between the split animals, each person was swearing that if they broke their part of the agreement, they would meet the same end as the sacrificed animal.

However, in Genesis 15, **only One party walks through the pieces:** God Himself, in the form of a “smoking oven and a flaming torch” (Genesis 15:17).

What does this mean? It signifies that God alone took responsibility for fulfilling the covenant. It was as if God made a contract in which He promised certain benefits to Abraham – namely, a land, blessing, and descendants – without any stipulations to be upheld by Abraham. In other words, God made an unconditional and irrevocable covenant with Himself concerning the Jewish people. The author of Hebrews puts it this way:

“For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater to swear by, he swore by himself: I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply you. And so, after waiting patiently, Abraham obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and for them a confirming oath ends every dispute. Because God wanted to show his unchangeable purpose even more clearly to the heirs of the promise, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us.” (HEBREWS 6:13-18, CSB)

It is no wonder, then, that God calls His covenant “everlasting.” When God confirms His covenant with Abraham a third time, He reiterates that His covenant includes land, specifically the land known today as Israel. God calls this land an “everlasting possession” twice, and declares His covenant to be an “everlasting” one three times (see Genesis 17:1-21).

GOD’S CHARACTER

Why is it so important that Christians believe God is faithful to His covenant with Israel?

The answer is simple: **if God is not faithful to His promise to the Jewish people, He will not be faithful to His promises to us.**

If God forsakes the Jewish people, to whom He said, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you,*” how could we trust Him when He says, “*I will be with you, even to the end of the age*” (Deuteronomy 31:6, Matthew 28:20)? God has been clear: He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:17, Numbers 23:19). Scripture says,

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, because He cannot deny Himself. (2 TIMOTHY 2:13)

What promises has God made to the Jewish people? He has promised:

-
1. **A land (Genesis 13:14-18)**
 2. **Descendants as numerous as the sand of the sea and the stars in the sky (Genesis 12:2, 15:5)**
 3. **Blessings (Genesis 12:2)**
 4. **A great nation (Genesis 12:2)**
 5. **A great name (Genesis 12:2)**
 6. **Future kings (Genesis 17:6, 16; 35:11)**
 7. **A future King to reign forever (1 Samuel 2:10, 2 Samuel 7:8-17, Psalms 132:16-18, Luke 1:68-70).**
-

The crux of the matter is clear—God’s covenant with Israel and the Jewish people is based on the absolute faithfulness of God.

After the people of Israel disobeyed God by asking for a king other than God, the prophet Samuel was sent to inform them of their misconduct. Afraid of punishment, the people begged Samuel to pray for them. Samuel reassured them:

“The Lord will not abandon His people *on account of His great*

name, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself?” (1 SAMUEL 12:22, emphasis mine)

It is because of God’s great Name – His reputation and His character – that He will never abandon His very “*own possession*” (Psalm 135:4).

But what about the State of Israel today? Does the Jewish people’s right to their ancient homeland persist to the modern age? What does the Bible say?



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

"Isaac Blessing Jacob" by Govert Flinck.

God confirms His covenant with both Isaac, Abraham’s son, and Jacob, Isaac’s son (see Genesis 26:3, 28:13). Later, He confirms His choice of Israel as His special nation multiple times (e.g., Genesis 18:19, Deuteronomy 7:6, 1 Kings 8:48, 1 Chronicles 16:13, Isaiah 41:8-9, 44:1-4).

THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL TODAY

In the Bible, over the course of many centuries, Israel is called the apple of God's eye, His elect [chosen], His servant, His child, a holy nation, and a people for God's own possession. Sadly, over the centuries some have argued that God's covenant with the Jews does not endure. They ask: isn't the church also called a "people for God's own possession" in 1 Peter 2:9? They claim: the Jews had their chance and failed and now God's chosen refers to the church.

This conclusion is not only false, it is also destructive. **The Bible is clear that God's plan for the world includes the church, yet He still is, still was, and will always be, deeply connected to Israel.** Let's examine the Apostle Paul's reasoning in Romans 9-11.



"Saint Paul" by James Tissot.

Paul expresses a deep love for the Jewish people in Romans 9. He cares fervently for his *"brethren, [his] kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen"* (vv. 4-5).

Thus, Paul identifies adoption into God's family, the Shekinah glory, the covenants in the Torah, the Temple, the promises, the patriarchs, and **even Jesus Christ** as belonging to and springing from the Jewish people! Once again, we must take Jesus' words to heart: *"salvation is of the Jews"* (John 4:22).

God, who established His covenant with the Jewish people, also sent His Messiah, Jesus, who was an observant Jew.

(Photo credit: CUFJ)



Pastor John Hagee speaks at CUFJ's annual DC Summit.

Remember, **“without Judaism, there would be no Christianity.”** Paul understood this truth, which is why he tells his Gentile audience who had converted to Christianity that their faith was based on the legacy of the Jewish people. God’s relationship with the Jewish people is the foundation and bedrock of His relationship with the church.

Paul goes on to address the question of God’s relationship with the Jewish people in his day. It seemed as if only Gentiles were coming to faith in Christ, and Jews were remaining firm in their tradition of Judaism. People wondered, what did that mean for God’s future relationship with the Jews?

“I say then,” Paul continues, “God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin” (ROMANS 11:1).

How could God have rejected the Jews? Paul himself was a Jew! He was certain that God was not done with the Jewish people, and he used himself as an example. It was not the case that God had moved on from the Jewish people to the Gentiles, replacing Israel as His special people. Instead, God was sovereignly and graciously providing Gentiles with the opportunity to be included in God’s covenants with Israel.

Paul uses the analogy of an olive tree to drive his point home. The Jewish people are like a tree, grand and magnificent, cared for by God with roots deeply embedded in the ground. Gentiles are like branches which did not originally belong to the tree but have been “grafted in” by God to become a living

part of it. Paul's warning to Gentiles is sharp and still applies to Christians today:

“Do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, ‘Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in’” (ROMANS 11:18-19).

Reminding Gentiles that they were previously “*strangers to the covenants of promise*” (Ephesians 2:12), Paul warns them against thinking that the original branches, the Jewish people, were no longer part of their own tree!

Paul distinguishes between Israel and the church in the referenced passage. He clarifies that even though the Jewish people have been judiciously blinded to the knowledge of the Gospel, “*from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*” (Romans 11:7-8; 28b-29).

Christians should never look down upon the Jewish people as inferior or insignificant to God. Instead, the Bible is clear that Christians should look upon the Jewish people with gratitude and mercy because of the legacy they have provided!

Remember, the Jewish people have given us our Holy Scriptures, written almost entirely by Jewish authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They have given us our Messiah, who was a Jewish rabbi living in the land of Israel. Therefore, Christians owe a debt of gratitude and a wealth of love to the Jewish people for their contributions to the roots of our faith!

Sadly, Christians have largely ignored the warning against the sin of arrogance given by Paul so many centuries ago. Instead

Christians owe a debt of gratitude and a wealth of love to the Jewish people for their contributions to the roots of our faith!

of appreciating the roots of their faith, Christians have shamed, oppressed, and dismissed the Jewish people as “forsaken” by God. In arrogance, Christians have reasoned that God has abandoned the Jewish people and replaced them with the church, His “new Israel.”

This dangerous doctrine is called Replacement Theology.

THE DANGERS OF REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

Replacement Theology, also called “Supersessionism,” is the view that the church has superseded or replaced Israel in the plan of God as God’s chosen people, the recipients of God’s blessings, and the heirs of the covenant promises. This caustic and deceitful teaching is almost as old as the church itself.



(photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

“The Four Doctors of the Western Church: Saint Augustine of Hippo” by Gerard Seghers.

Indeed, this evil seed seems already to have been forming when Paul wrote his letter to the Romans.

Church fathers such as Augustine, John Chrysostom, and the author of the Epistle of Barnabas taught their disciples that the Jews were responsible for killing Jesus and should be shunned at best, persecuted and killed at worst. Departing from the Apostle Paul's warning, many in the early church, as it became increasingly Gentile, adopted the belief that the Jewish people were a forsaken people because they were responsible for Jesus' death.

Is the claim that the Jews killed Jesus an accurate one?

Jesus said, "*No one takes my life from me. I lay it down of my own accord*" (John 10:18). The Bible says that it was God's own "*predetermined plan*" that brought about the death of Jesus (Acts 2:23). Christians cling to the symbol of the cross because it represents the salvific death of Jesus as a substitute for their sins, a perfect sacrifice that all people everywhere might repent and be saved.

So why would so many Christians choose to see the Jews as evil for supposedly killing Jesus? Without Jesus' death and resurrection, we would be without a Savior, without forgiveness, and without a King. Jesus had an assignment and He fulfilled it on the "third day." Jesus said, "*Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My Goal*" (Luke 13:32).

The sad reality is that when Biblical truths about God's choice of Israel are abandoned, **a vacuum is left**. If the Jews are seen as having fallen from grace, as Replacement Theology teaches, what place is left for them? It becomes abnormally rational, under this warped theology, that the Jewish people

It could be said
that Replacement
Theology is an attack
on the very character
and faithfulness
of God.

must be hated, put down, ignored, and shunned since God Himself has disowned them.

And so into this vacuum floods antisemitism, flowing straight out of the vile teachings articulated by numerous church fathers through the ages. Instead of loving the Jewish people deeply and fervently as God's very own—the church, as a whole, learned to hate them.

After Augustine's teaching that the church had replaced the

Jews as “spiritual Israel” seeped into common doctrine, prominent thinkers like Martin Luther took these ideas to the next level. Publishing a book titled, *On the Jews and their Lies* (1543), Luther advocated for the destruction of Jewish property and Jewish prayer books, and banned rabbis from teaching Torah calling them “venomous” and “possessed by all devils.”¹

In the name of Christ, Christians have persecuted His family theologically, by attacking their place in God's heart; mentally, by accusing all of the Jews of

killing a Man they never knew; and physically, by assaulting and expelling them from their homes, stripping them of dignity and eventually killing them.

In the name of Christ, one man did all he could to wipe the



Title page of *On the Jews and Their Lies* by Martin Luther, 1543.

1 Martin Luther, *The Jews and Their Lies*, from *Luther's Works*, Volume 47: The Christian in Society IV, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1971), 268-293.

Adolph Hitler driven through a crowd in Cheb, Czechoslovakia in 1938.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Jews off the face of the earth. He approved the construction of killing chambers for the mass murder of innocent people, just because they were Jewish. **And he did so in the name of Christ.**

This man was Adolf Hitler.

However, Hitler's answer to the "Jewish Question" known as the "Final Solution," did not suddenly appear because of one depraved and appallingly misguided generation. It happened because the church had soaked in the evils of Replacement Theology for centuries, spawning unprecedented antisemitism that, in some cases, persists to this day. It happened because for too many years, too many Christians had been taught the sinful and malicious doctrine of supersessionism.

In 1922, Hitler expressed his beliefs,

My feeling as a Christian points me to my Lord and Savior as a fighter. It points me to the man [Jesus] who once in loneliness, surrounded only by a few followers, recognized these Jews for what they were and summoned men to fight against them and who, God's truth! was greatest not as a sufferer but as a fighter. In boundless love as a Christian and as a man I read through the passage which tells us how the Lord at last rose in His might and seized the scourge to drive out of the Temple the brood of vipers and adders. How terrific was his fight against the Jewish poison. Today, after two thousand years, with deepest emotion I recognize more profoundly than ever before the fact that it was for this that He had to shed his blood upon the Cross. As a Christian I have no duty to allow myself to be cheated, but I have the duty to be a fighter for truth and justice. And as a man I have the duty to see to it that human society does not suffer the same catastrophic collapse as did the civilization of the ancient world some two thousand years ago—a civilization which was driven to its ruin through this same Jewish people.²

Hitler's tragic distortion of the Bible and his so-called Christian faith led to the greatest genocide ever committed—the Holocaust.

Yet one man's insane ideology, while it may have sparked horrific events, did not fuel the Holocaust alone. For the Holocaust to happen, millions of Christians had to remain silent.

And remain silent they did.

An overwhelming number of Christians looked away during the abhorrent violence, the stifling oppression, and even during the systematic murder of six million Jews now known as

2 Norman H. Baynes, ed. *The Speeches of Adolf Hitler: April 1922-August 1939* (NY: Oxford), 19-20.

the Holocaust. Some may have perhaps had stunned reactions, but **few took any action.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian who gave his life for the protection of the Jewish people during Hitler's regime, said famously,

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

The Christians who were silent in the face of great evil aided and abetted the Holocaust. While there were some “righteous Gentiles,” like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who went to great lengths to help the

Jewish people during this time, most did not. Choosing not to protect and preserve life when it is within one's power to do so is wrong in itself. Proverbs 24:11-12 says,

Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back. If you say, “See, we did not know this,” Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?

BLESSING ISRAEL

After the Holocaust, the Jewish people and the world said, “Never Again.” Yet today, there are as many people, if not more, calling for the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people as there were in Nazi Germany. Israel faces threats from terrorist groups, nations that try to delegitimize her very existence, and

(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)



Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian.

individuals who want to cripple her financially through the movement to Boycott, Divest from and Sanction (BDS) the Jewish state. At every turn, it seems, Israel encounters opposition yet emerges optimistic, resilient, and strong.

God promises to
bless those who
bless Israel and to
curse those who
curse Israel.

Over the last 70 plus years, Israel has miraculously survived war, media attacks, and threats. How? Why?

God has promised the preservation of His people, Israel. It is as sure as the sun will come up tomorrow.

If this is the case, how can Christians stand with Israel, God's chosen people?

I refer again to Genesis 12:3 where God promises to **bless** those who bless Israel and to **curse** those who curse Israel. Those who obey God's command to bless Israel will be blessed, as others were in Israel's history who were kind to the Jewish people (e.g., Genesis 30:27).

Remember this truth—those who curse Israel will be opposed by God in all His almighty fury.

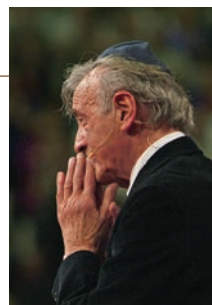
Cursing Israel does not only sound like hateful words or look like pogroms, ghettos, replacement theology, or extermination camps. Cursing Israel also includes remaining apathetic to God's chosen people and what they are enduring.

Ellie Wiesel said of the Holocaust in an interview with U.S. Media in 1986:

At best, America was indifferent.

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.

The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's indifference.



(Photo credit: CJFF)

Elie Wiesel delivers keynote address at 28th annual *Night to Honor Israel* at Cornerstone Church.

The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.

And the opposite of life is not death, but indifference between life and death.³

Supporting Israel and the Jewish people today is part of being a Christian.

Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives for each other and washing each other's feet in an expression of humility and service (John 13:35). As Christians, we are called to care.

To care when the State of Israel is demonized in the media. To care when Jewish students are singled out on college campuses as unwelcome through graffiti and vandalism. To care when the BDS movement spreads across America. To care when 11 Jewish people worshipping God in their synagogue are brutally murdered. To care when four are killed and many more wounded as a result of a barrage of hundreds of deadly rockets falling in their own back yards. To care when some of our own government leaders make antisemitic comments.

God promised to be faithful to His covenant with Israel and He calls us to care for the Jewish nation and her people especially when they are unjustly attacked.

In the book *The Anguish of the Jews*, Father Edward H. Flannery wrote:



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Father Edward Flannery, 1965.

“The sin of antisemitism contains many sins, but in the end it is a denial of Christian faith, a failure of Christian hope, and a malady of Christian love.”⁴

Supporting Israel and the Jewish people today is part

3. Elie Wiesel, Interview with U.S. Media, 1986

4. Edward Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1999), 295.

of being a Christian. It is following the example of Rahab who, after recognizing that the God of Israel was the One True God, was blessed because she protected two Jewish men from death.

It is recognizing that Mordecai was right when he told Esther that if she did not act on behalf of her own people, deliverance would come for God's people from some other source (Esther 4:14). **Why?** Because God is *that* committed to His people.

Today, Christians can bless Israel by believing the truth about the Jewish people spelled out so clearly in the Bible: the Jewish people are still chosen, still loved, and still precious in God's sight. Because they are important to God, Christians should refuse to remain silent when other countries and individuals attempt to demonize and delegitimize Israel and her people.

We are mandated to stand with Israel in steadfastness, seeking her security and supporting her because God's commitment to the people of Israel is like His commitment to the sun, moon, and stars. It is based on His unconditional, irrevocable covenant.

Even in the darkest night, the moon and stars will give forth their light. And even in Israel's darkest hour, God is still holding onto His people. May Christians be as fiercely dedicated to maintaining a bond with Israel as is our covenant-keeping God!

I rest my case.

PART II:

Before 1948



After the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and attacked the people of Judea, the vast majority of Jewish survivors were scattered throughout the nations of the world in what was known as the Jewish Diaspora – those living outside their biblical homeland. Most people think primarily of Jewish communities that settled in Europe during this time period, yet many Jewish communities never left the Middle East.

CONTINUOUS PRESENCE IN THE LAND

One of the biggest myths still believed about Israel by the majority of people today is the false idea that, between the first

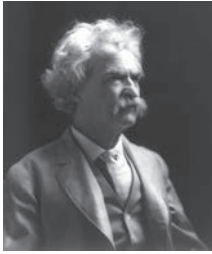
century A.D. and the return of scattered Jews to the Land that would become the modern state of Israel in 1948, there were no surviving Jewish communities in the area that had historically been known as Judea until vengeful Roman conquerors renamed the area Palestine.

Yet even after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and massacred over one million of its inhabitants and sent hundreds of thousands more into exile, there was still a small remnant of the Jewish people who never left their Biblical homeland.

While many of their brothers and sisters suffered in the global diaspora, this remnant remained in Israel since Joshua led them into their inheritance nearly 4,000 years ago. The Jewish people of Israel were oppressed by a succession of brutal and merciless overlords but still remained as caretakers of their ancestral homeland.

History records large Jewish communities in Jerusalem and Tiberias by the 9th century, and significant Jewish communities in Ashkelon, Gaza, and Caesarea by the 11th century. In between times of persecution by Arab invaders and violent European Crusaders, the local Jewish communities in historic Judea attempted to rebuild and sustain their connection to the Land with the help of occasional influxes of returning Jewish families from the diaspora. By the beginning of the 19th century, there were at least 10,000 Jews living in their ancient homeland under the rule of the Ottoman Turks.⁵

5 Mitchell Bard, "Pre-State Israel: Jewish Claim To The Land Of Israel," *Jewish Virtual Library*, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-claim-to-the-land-of-israel>.



Portrait of Mark Twain.

“The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they were gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, and have vanished.

The Jew saw them all, survived them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities, of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert but aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jews; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

—Mark Twain, September 1897

ZIONISM IN THE 19TH CENTURY

After nearly two millennia in exile, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a new movement for Jewish sovereignty began to gain worldwide traction. In 1896, Theodor Herzl’s Zionist pamphlet, *The Jewish State*, laid out a vision that would eventually culminate in the re-birth of the State of Israel. Herzl believed he had an answer to the never-ending problem of antisemitism and persecution faced by Jewish people wherever they went throughout history:



Portrait of Theodor Herzl.

I believe that I understand antisemitism, which is really a highly complex movement. I consider it from a Jewish standpoint, yet without fear or hatred...I think the Jewish question is no more a social than a religious one... It is a national question, which can only be solved by making it a political world-question to be

discussed and settled by the civilized nations of the world in council.

We are a people—one people. We want to lay the foundation stone, for the house which will become the refuge of the Jewish nation. Zionism is the return to Judaism even before the return to the land of Israel.⁶



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Reverend William Henry Hechler with his family.

Herzl's friend, a Christian pastor named Reverend William Henry Hechler, played an influential role in supporting the vision of a modern Jewish nation-state in the land of Israel. Hechler wrote a pamphlet advocating for the establishment of the state of Israel as the place promised by God to belong to the Jewish people forever as their rightful homeland. He used his social connections to introduce Herzl to members of German royal society and the sultan of Turkey during the late 1800s, and helped lift Herzl's idea of a Jewish national

homeland from obscurity into the political discourse among world leaders.⁷

The ideal of Zionism, the belief that the Jewish people had a right to national independence and sovereignty as natives of their ancestral homeland, began to flourish. Jewish immigrants began to flood into then-Palestine, and purchase land from wealthy Arab landholders at exorbitant costs. The land had been mostly barren and sparsely populated for centuries and to most it seemed worthless except to the Jews who dreamt of coming home.

6 Der Judenstaat Theodor Herzl 1896 Translated The Jewish State p.5

7 Jonny Paul, "Christian Leader Pivotal to Herzl's Work Recognized," *The Jerusalem Post* (2 February 2011), <https://www.jpost.com/International/Christian-leader-pivotal-to-Herzls-work-recognized>.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Jewish immigrants walk to Palestine in 1930.

Palestine began to prosper as Jewish returnees cultivated the land, eliminated disease-infested swamps, and brought a higher standard of living and more economic opportunity to the area.⁸ A beautiful thing was taking place—the Arab population grew and flourished alongside their Jewish neighbors, and for a time the two groups co-existed peacefully.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel, a close friend and supporter of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights era, was an influential American Jewish leader who advocated for the unbroken rights of the Jewish people to their Biblical homeland:

“The Jewish people has never ceased to assert its right, its title, to the land of Israel. This continuous, uninterrupted insistence, an intimate ingredient of Jewish consciousness, is at the core of Jewish history, a vital element of Jewish faith.”⁹



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

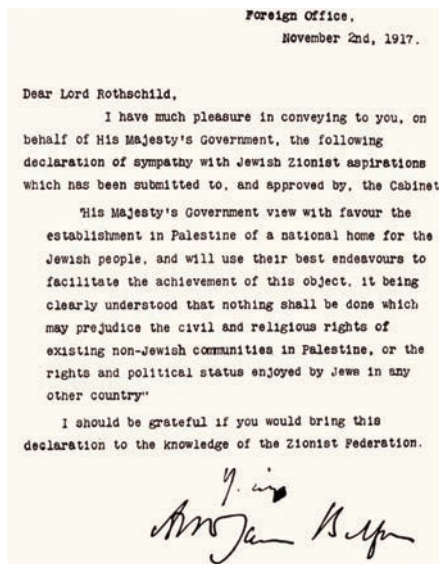
Rabbi Joshua Heschel presents the Judaism and World Peace award to Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1965.

⁸ David Brog, *Reclaiming Israel's History: Roots, Rights and the Struggle for Peace* (Regnery Publishing: 2017), 61-81.

⁹ “Israel,” *The Heschel School*, <https://www.heschel.org/the-heschel-experience/israel>

1917 BALFOUR DECLARATION

Since the Roman destruction of Jerusalem, Jews had been dominated by foreign rulers and treated as second-class citizens for nearly 2,000 years. Then in 1917, as World War I changed the balance of power in the Middle East, the Jewish people received a miracle.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

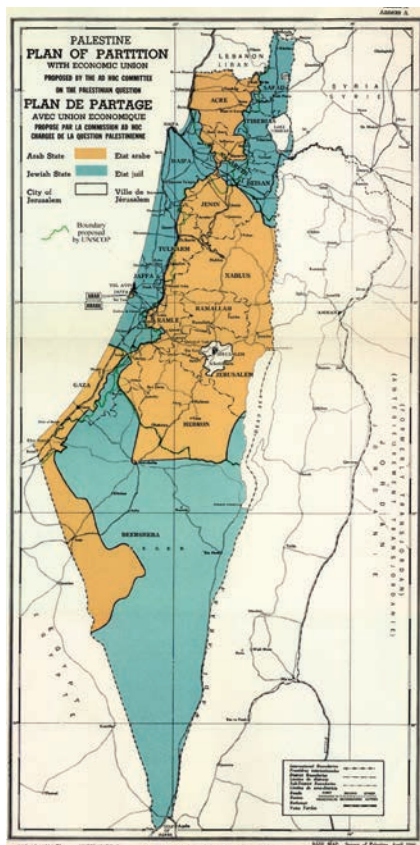
Balfour Declaration.

As Britain fought to win control of the Holy Land away from the oppressive Ottoman Empire, Jewish leaders asked Britain to support the re-establishment of a national Jewish homeland. Christian Zionists within the government, including the Prime Minister and his Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, helped rally support for the Zionist cause. Finally, in 1917, Lord Arthur Balfour sent a letter to Jewish leaders pledging Britain's commitment to establishing the Jewish state.

The Balfour Declaration was Israel's first modern miracle on the path to independence and rebirth.

1947 UN PARTITION PLAN

By 1921, the British had partitioned the land set aside for a Jewish national home by the Mandate for Palestine into two prospective states. The partition gave 77% of the land to an Arab



1956 Map of UN Partition Plan for Palestine, adopted in 1947.

state called Transjordan, and 23% for the Jewish people.¹⁰

However, the Arab riots of the 1920s and 1930s prompted Britain in 1937 to once again partition the land with 80% going to an Arab state and 20% to a Jewish state. Palestinian Arab leaders refused to accept this partition, and neither materialized.¹¹

Wary of the problem posed by Arab rejectionism, and in the shadow of the horrors committed against the Jews during the Holocaust, Britain handed over responsibility for determining what to do with Palestine to the newly-formed United Nations. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted in favor of Resolution 181 and adopted a partition plan for Palestine that divided the land west of the Jordan River into two states roughly equal in size but distinctly unequal in value.

The disjointed pieces of land reserved for the Jewish people consisted of mostly arid desert without defensible borders, and did not include Jerusalem, which was designated an international zone. Jewish leaders, desperate to build a national home

10 "British Palestine Mandate: History and Overview (1922-1948)," *Jewish Virtual Library*, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-peel-commission>.

11 "British Palestine Mandate: The Peel Commission (July 1937)," *Jewish Virtual Library*, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-peel-commission>.

and provide a refuge for the displaced Jews who had survived the Holocaust, accepted the plan.

Arab leaders had already made clear they would not accept any plan that included a Jewish state, and almost immediately made good on their threat to launch large-scale attacks on Jewish communities. Hundreds of Jews were killed in riots and other terror attacks between November 29, 1947 and the date Israel officially declared its independence on May 14, 1948.¹²

12 “Israeli War of Independence: Background & Overview,” *Jewish Virtual Library*, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/israeli-war-of-independence>.

PART III:

Modern Israel



Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declares independence beneath a portrait of Theodor Herzl.

DECLARING ISRAEL A STATE IN 1948

After winning World War I, the Allied Powers assigned Great Britain the legal responsibility of establishing a national home for the Jewish people under the Mandate for Palestine. Ratified by the League of Nations and binding under international law, the 1920 Mandate gave Jews the right to over 46,000 square miles for their national home. But between 1920 and 1948, Britain reduced the size of the land allotted to the Jews again and again, until only a tiny fragment remained.

(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

The former Ottoman Empire and many parts of Europe were carved up by the Allied Powers after World War I, and Israel was not the only new nation-state formed during that period of rapid political upheaval. The concept of independent, democratic nation-states was just beginning to replace the ancient systems of monarchies, empires, and dictatorships at this stage of the 20th century.

The Jewish desire for an independent homeland in their own country was finally realized in 1948, after nearly 2,000 years of exile and foreign domination. As a nation-state for the Jewish people, modern Israel became a country specifically dedicated to preserving the Jewish culture, language, and religion of Jews from throughout the Diaspora. As a unique ethnic group with strong ties to the Land of Israel, the Jews finally were able to come home.

After 30 years of promises from the British and other world leaders, in 1947 the Jewish people finally received formal approval from the United Nations General Assembly for the creation of an independent Jewish state in the land of Israel. UN Resolution 181 passed on November 29, 1947.

On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed Israel's official independence. Eleven minutes later, the president of the United States was the first world leader to officially recognize the new-born state of Israel. In that historic moment, God miraculously restored the Land of Israel to the People of Israel and the ancient prophecy was fulfilled:

The Jewish desire for an independent homeland in their own country was finally realized in 1948, after nearly 2,000 years of exile and foreign domination.

Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. Isaiah 66:8

MIZRAHI COMMUNITY

When the modern State of Israel was formed, the Mizrahi Jewish communities of the Middle East and North Africa were evicted from their homes.

For nearly 70 years, the stories of 850,000 Jewish refugees have not been told. Evicted from their homes in communities across the Middle East and North Africa where Jews had lived for over 2,000 years, these families lost everything. Their homes, their possessions, their ancestral heritage, and their religious artifacts – everything had to be left behind.

Yemenite Jews en route from Aden to Israel.

Beginning in 1948, hundreds of thousands of these refugees fled to the newly formed State of Israel.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Beginning in 1948, hundreds of thousands of these refugees fled to the newly formed State of Israel. Some went to the United States or Europe, but it was Israel that opened its doors without hesitation to welcome home the Jewish refugees. Families poured in from Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen.

Over 50% of Israeli Jews trace their roots back to these refugees from the Mizrahi Jewish community. This Jewish community is often referred to as the “forgotten refugees.”

The Jewish community in Algeria traced its roots back 2,600 years to the destruction of the First Temple. Before World War II, over 120,000 Jews lived in Algeria. Today, not a single Jew remains in the country.

In Iraq, the Jewish community had remained in the land since their exile from Israel at the hands of ancient Babylon’s King Nebuchadnezzar. Prior to World War II, there were 130,000 Jews living in Iraq. But when Iraq attacked Israel in 1948 and was humiliated by the Jewish State’s victory, Zionism became a crime punishable by death and Jews were forced to flee for their lives. Today there are less than 10 Jews in the entire country.

Over 50% of Israeli Jews trace their roots back to these refugees from the Mizrahi Jewish community. This Jewish community is often referred to as the “forgotten refugees.”

ISRAEL’S DEFENSIVE WARS

1948 War of Independence

Celebration was short-lived. The next day, five Arab armies attacked Israel. Short on manpower, resources, and with almost no international assistance, Israel miraculously survived and even gained ground. But independence came at a great cost.



Israeli soldiers in Nirim during 1948 War of Independence.

Israel lost 6,373 people in the war, nearly one percent of its entire population.

When the war ended in 1949, Israel's borders were redrawn along the armistice lines where Egypt, Jordan, and Syria ended their military campaign to wipe out the new Jewish state. These borders became known as the Green Line, but were never formalized into permanent borders and were never recognized by the United Nations as binding international law. The Green Line simply represented the facts on the ground between 1949 and 1967.

1967 Six Day War

In 1967, Israel faced an invasion of nearly half a million Arab troops positioned along every border. Increasing terrorism and attacks along the borders had plagued Israelis for years. Arab leaders spoke openly of their desire to wipe Israel off the map, and to massacre every Jewish man, woman, and



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Map of land captured by Israel at the conclusion of the Six Day War.

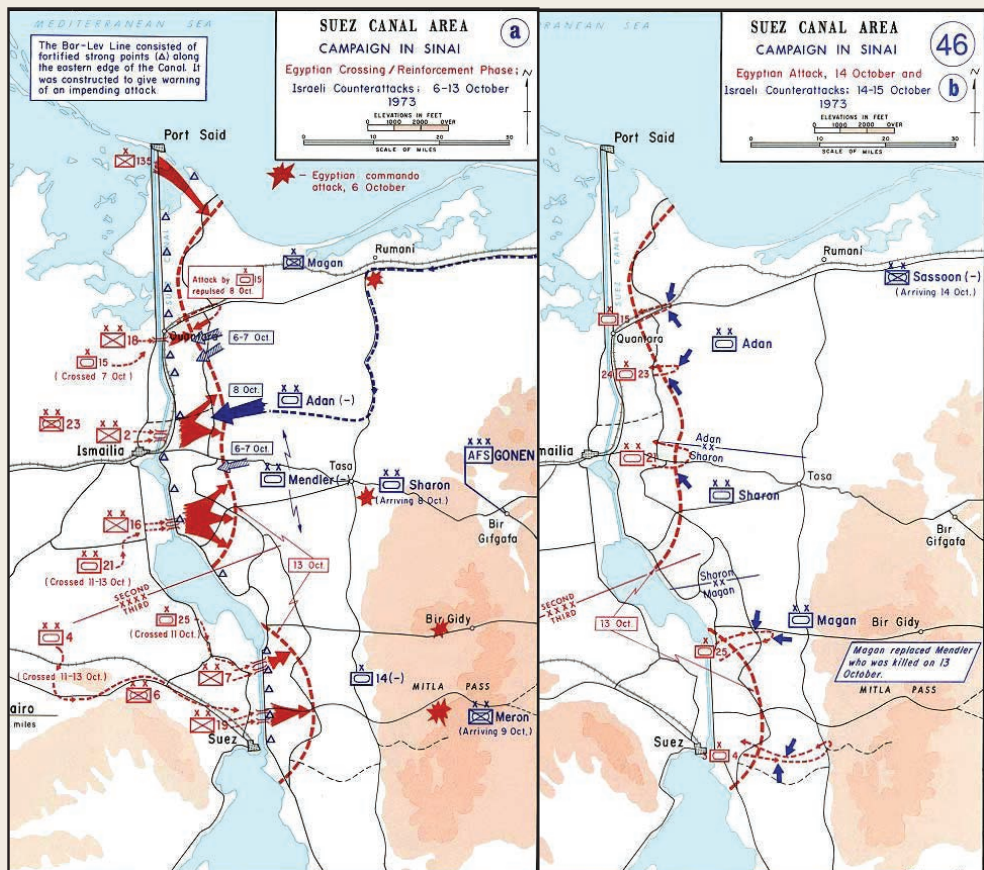
child. Israel's allies in Europe and the United States refused to intervene, and warned Israel not to start a war.

But by June 1st, it was clear that if Israel did nothing, the Arab armies on its borders would wipe out the Jewish state. Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq joined Syria and Egypt in preparations to fight Israel. Then in the early morning of June 5th, Israel's air force launched a surprise attack on Egypt's planes while they were still on the ground. Israel would continue to fight and win miraculous victories over the enemy armies for five more days.

By the end of the Six Day War, Israel had captured enough land to triple in size. The land Israel captured during the Six Day War included the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, the Gaza strip, the ancient biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria. And finally, after thousands of years of waiting, they liberated the Old City of Jerusalem. Most of the land Israel would eventually willingly exchange for peace agreements, but Jerusalem was too precious to give up. After 19 years of painful separation, the Jewish people again had access to their holiest sites. Under Israeli authority, Jerusalem was made safe for people of all religions to live in and freely worship according to their own traditions.

1973 Yom Kippur War

On Saturday, October 6, 1973, the entire nation of Israel was quietly observing its holiest day of the year, including most of its soldiers. Catching the IDF unaware, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel simultaneously on two fronts. Less than 500 Israeli soldiers faced an overwhelming force of 600,000 Egyptians in the south, while in the North 180 Israeli tanks defended against 1,400 Syrian tanks.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Map of Yom Kippur campaigns in the Sinai.

Motivated by fears of an Arab victory backed by the Soviet Union, on October 12th US President Richard Nixon authorized a massive emergency airlift of weapons to Israel. Though vastly outnumbered, Israel shocked the world by surviving the initial attacks and rallying to push the invaders back across the borders. Eighteen days after Egypt and Syria first attacked Israel, the Arab leaders agreed to a cease fire rather than suffer further losses.

Israel won the Yom Kippur War, but 2,688 Israeli soldiers sacrificed their lives to protect the Jewish homeland.

1982-1985 First Lebanon War

During the 1970s and 80s, the violent terrorist group known as the Palestinian Liberation Organization, led by Yasser Arafat, used their position within the villages of southern Lebanon



Israeli armored vehicles engaging in amphibious landing.

(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

to launch multiple deadly attacks on Israel's northern towns. After several years, Israel could no longer tolerate these endless attacks on its civilian population.

Yasser Arafat's terrorist army was growing larger and more dangerous inside Lebanon as the death toll from the PLO's terrorism steadily rose. The situation reached a crisis when a Palestinian terrorist cell tried to assassinate Israel's Ambassador to Great Britain. On June 6, 1982, Israel sent the IDF into southern Lebanon to drive the PLO out of its hiding place and destroy the threat against Israeli citizens in "Operation Peace for Galilee."

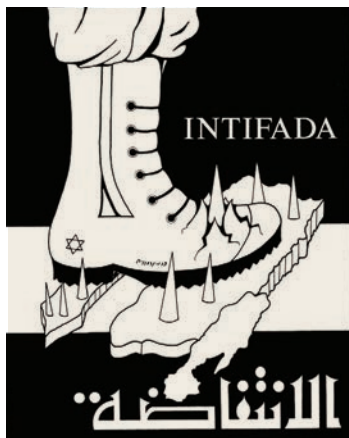
American officials supported Israel's war against the PLO in Lebanon. President Ronald Reagan publicly supported Israel's right to defend its citizens from the intolerable threat of ongoing terrorism that violated Israel's sovereignty.

The war was difficult. The Palestinian terrorists were deeply entrenched in southern Lebanon's villages, and just like today, the terrorists hid behind civilian human shields. For three years, Israel was forced to keep the IDF in Lebanon to prevent the PLO from regaining control of the area along Israel's northern border. Ultimately, Israel lost 1,216 soldiers in Lebanon before withdrawing in 1985 and leaving behind a small buffer force to maintain order along the border. Israel did not fully withdraw from southern Lebanon until May 24, 2000.

1987-1993 First Palestinian Intifada

A four-year period of violence and terrorism broke out in December 1987 after rumors spread in Gaza that Israel had killed four Palestinians in retaliation for an Israeli who had been stabbed to death. Huge riots soon broke out among the

Ultimately, Israel lost 1,216 soldiers in Lebanon before withdrawing in 1985 and leaving behind a small buffer force to maintain order along the border.



Poster by Ayman Bardaweel in 1990 portraying Israel as an oppressor.

Thousands of people were injured or killed over the next four years. What had started as spontaneous mob violence was soon orchestrated and encouraged by the PLO, led by Yasser Arafat.

Palestinians, and each additional death added fuel to the fire. In the eyes of the international community, Israel deserved all the blame and was harshly condemned for the force it used to try to quell the terrorism.

Rumors circulated that Israel was murdering Palestinians. The UN investigated and determined the stories were false, but the damage had been done. The uprising continued to grow, and the IDF reported thousands of Molotov cocktail

and grenade attacks along with shootings. The terrorism targeted both Israeli soldiers and civilians. Thousands of people were injured or killed over the next four years. What had started as spontaneous mob violence was soon orchestrated and encouraged by the PLO, led by Yasser Arafat.

Many of the Palestinian victims were targeted by their own people based on accusations of collaborating with Israel. The murder among their own people grew so out of control that Palestinian leadership in the PLO began to try to put out the fire it had helped spread.

2000-2005 Second Palestinian Intifada

This intifada was more deadly than the first one. Suicide bombings became a regular occurrence in Israel. No one was safe from the terrorists, not even innocent Arab bystanders. Over 1,000 Israelis were murdered in terrorist attacks during this period.

In one deadly episode, two IDF soldiers accidentally entered



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

The wreckage after a 2003 bus bombing in Haifa.

This intifada was more deadly than the first one. Over 1,000 Israelis were murdered in terrorist attacks during this period.

the Palestinian town of Ramallah, where they were arrested by Palestinian police and attacked by an angry mob that stormed the Palestinian police station in Ramallah. On October 12, 2000, First Corporal Yosef Avrahami and First Sergeant Vadim Norzhich—both 33-year-old reservists—were severely beaten, mutilated, and ultimately lynched.

As a response to Palestinian terrorism, the Israeli government made the decision to erect a security barrier to protect all Israeli citizens—Jewish and non-Jewish alike—from the violence.

The security barrier was built largely along the Green Line and natural landscapes that were conducive to security. The

security barrier is 440 miles. Ninety-five percent of it is made of a multi-fence system, which incorporates ditches, barbed wire, patrol roads, and observation systems. There's also a smooth strip of sand to keep track of intrusions. While the barrier was being built, it was rerouted several times due to Israeli court rulings that it might infringe on Palestinian rights. It was built to cause the LEAST inconvenience to Palestinians.

Of course there are some inconveniences. Israelis and Palestinians living on the Eastern side of the Green Line did not love the idea of the barrier. Most of the security barrier is wired fence, as mentioned previously. Five percent of it is a concrete wall that protects civilian homes and roads. The security barrier along with other security routines slows down traffic, especially in times of rush hour in the morning and afternoon.

However, it was NOT built to inconvenience, separate or shut out anyone – except terrorists. It was built because Israel has an obligation to keep its citizens safe. The effectiveness of the security barrier is tangible. In the future, when peace is achieved, the fence can be taken down. It is reversible. What is not reversible is the murder of innocent people.

Each year the barrier was being built, the number of attacks and casualties dropped by nearly fifty percent! The results were immediate. In 2002, the climax of the Second Intifada, there were more than 45 suicide bombings. By 2003, the very next year, that number dropped to about 23. Suicide bombings continued to be less and less of an imminent danger in Israel with the construction of the security barrier and today they're far less common.

Another consequence of the Second Intifada was the establishment of checkpoints as a security measure against the daily threat of terrorism.

Each year the barrier was being built, the number of attacks and casualties dropped by nearly fifty percent!

Since the beginning of the modern concept of national borders, every country in the world has imposed restrictions and screening who is allowed in and out of their country. Israel is no different.

A common misconception is that Israeli checkpoints are designed to punish the Palestinian people and make their transit between areas controlled by Israelis and Palestinians more difficult. In fact, Israel's military and border police follow strict codes of conduct in order to be as respectful as possible while keeping the process as efficient and smooth as can safely be allowed. IDF commanders work hard to emphasize to their soldiers stationed at the checkpoints that soldiers are not to demonize or stereotype all Palestinians as terrorists, and do their best to emphasize that the vast majority of Palestinians their soldiers will encounter are peaceful.

Israel also goes out of its way to be as respectful as possible to the Islamic customs of Palestinians. For example, they keep bomb sniffing dogs as far away as possible. Israeli soldiers have been asked not to eat, smoke, or drink in front of Palestinians during the holy fast of Ramadan.

Unfortunately, Israel routinely discovers Palestinians attempting to smuggle weapons through checkpoints, hidden in things as seemingly innocuous as a can of potato chips. Many times, soldiers or police officers manning the check points find themselves attacked with knives, rocks, or motor vehicles. Yet they are under strict instructions not to respond with lethal force unless absolutely necessary.

In recent years, Israel reduced the number of checkpoints and tried to streamline the process even more to accommodate the large numbers of Palestinians who enter Israel every day for work or medical care. On average, 60,000 Palestinians enter Israel through border crossings every day. In 2020, 10 million Palestinians crossed into Israel. Contrary to popular misconception, Israel is not keeping the Palestinian people trapped, and border crossings are only closed temporarily during times of heightened risk.

For most Palestinians, the process of going through a checkpoint is less invasive than for an average American citizen to go through airport security screening. Since the beginning of the modern concept of national borders, every country in the world has imposed restrictions and screened who is allowed in and out of their country. Israel is no different.

2006 Second Lebanon War

Rambam Hospital's
helipad admitting
casualties during 2nd
Lebanon War.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border and ambushed an IDF patrol. They killed eight soldiers, and kidnapped two others. In the ensuing conflict, Israel bombed known Hezbollah strongholds while the terrorists launched rockets at Israel's northern population centers. For nearly five weeks, Hezbollah launched more than 100 rockets per day into Israel. Families slept in their bomb shelters.

To make matters more complicated, the IDF faced an enemy that purposely hid among the civilian population in

The IDF faced an enemy that purposely hid among the civilian population in Lebanon. The terrorists stored their weapons in private homes and fired their rockets from neighborhoods filled with women and children.

Lebanon. The terrorists stored their weapons in private homes and fired their rockets from neighborhoods filled with women and children. Knowing that Israel values human life, Hezbollah used the Arab people as human shields. Israel was under intense international pressure and criticism for the unavoidable civilian deaths.

The war ended with a ceasefire on August 11, 2006. Israel withdrew without destroying Hezbollah, but the IDF was able to severely cripple their operations in Lebanon. Two years later, Hezbollah released the bodies of the two kidnapped IDF soldiers.

2008 Operation Cast Lead

After three years of sustained rocket fire from Gaza, Israel's people could take no more. The IDF entered Gaza on December 27, 2008.

Hindered by Gaza's population density and the fact that Hamas terrorists hid among the civilians, the IDF faced a huge challenge. Hamas launched many of its rockets from schools, hospitals, and buildings owned by the United Nations. When

Rocket fired from a civilian area in Gaza towards civilian areas in Southern Israel.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Israel retaliated, the international media focused on stories about Israel bombing schools instead of blaming the terrorists for using human shields.

To save as many innocent lives as possible, Israel voluntarily gave up the strategic advantage of surprise. The IDF sent voice-mail messages in Arabic to thousands of Gazan residents before sending in an airstrike. This gave civilians time to evacuate, but also warned the terrorists to escape.

2014 Operation Protective Edge

For eight years, Israelis along the border with Gaza had endured daily rocket fire from Hamas. But in the summer of 2014, while Israel was searching for three kidnapped teenagers, the rocket attacks suddenly escalated. For weeks, Israel's government sought to negotiate a cease-fire with Hamas without success. Then on July 7th, Hamas fired over 100 rockets into Israeli neighborhoods in one day. This situation had become untenable. Israel had to act.

The next day, Israel responded with a ground invasion of Gaza. Sending in soldiers to fight in the cramped streets and booby-trapped buildings of the Gaza strip was not an easy decision. It put Israeli soldiers in extreme danger, but it also minimized the chances of accidental civilian casualties.

As Israel entered Gaza, they discovered an even more dangerous threat. Hamas had secretly built a network of underground tunnels beneath the border with Israel. The terrorists intended to use these tunnels to infiltrate Israel's towns and kidnap and murder Israeli citizens. Several times during the war, Hamas sent groups of terrorists into Israel through these tunnels, sometimes disguised in IDF uniforms. Thankfully,

On July 7, 2014, Hamas fired over 100 rockets into Israeli neighborhoods in one day. The next day, Israel responded with a ground invasion of Gaza.



Factory in Sderot on fire after a rocket attack from Gaza.

none of their planned massacres succeeded, but the discovery of this new threat alarmed Israel. The tunnels had to be destroyed.

Hamas finally accepted a cease-fire agreement. Israel had successfully destroyed the tunnels beneath the border and dealt a crippling blow to the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza. Israel's actions during the war were exonerated and praised by an independent assessment of NATO's military leaders, who stated in their 2015 report that the IDF had conducted itself by the highest possible moral standards.

2021 Operation Guardian of the Walls

After Palestinian elections, which had been scheduled to take place for the first time in 16 years, were cancelled by the Palestinian Authority, beginning on May 10, Hamas terrorists launched a flood of thousands of rockets at Israeli civilian-populated centers. Five million Israelis were under bomb threat for days. As the conflict escalated, Hamas and Iranian leaders called for further violence and uprising.

As the Iron Dome was deployed to intercept the rockets raining down on the Jewish state, Israel responded by striking military targets, including terror tunnels, underground rocket launchers, and military commanders in Gaza.

During the course of the conflict, 13 innocent Israelis lost their lives, and hundreds more were wounded in the attacks. By the time it was over, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad had fired over 4,300 rockets at Israel. Of those, 1 in 7 (over 650) misfired, landing in Gaza, and harmed innocent Palestinians as well.

After Israel destroyed huge chunks of Hamas's terrorist infrastructure, a cease-fire was reached.

ISRAEL'S QUEST FOR PEACE

The tragic results of Arab rejectionism of Israel's basic right to exist as an independent Jewish nation-state, regardless of its size or borders, has spawned a century of terror. Six times, Israel has offered a state for the Palestinian people alongside the Jewish state, and each time the Palestinians have rejected the offer.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly shown their willingness to make painful concessions for peace, but Palestinian leaders have walked away from every offer.

In 1937, the Peel Commission offered the Jews just 10 percent of the original land they had been promised under the Mandate, and the desperate Jewish leaders accepted the offer. The rest of the land would have been given to the Arabs, but Arab leaders said no.

In 1947, the United Nations tried again to partition the land, and offered to give the Jews a state that would be one-eighth of the size originally included in the Mandate. Again, Jewish leaders accepted the plan but Arab leaders said no.

After five Arab armies failed to destroy Israel in 1967, the Israeli government immediately offered to return most of the land it had won in the Six Day War in exchange for peace agreements with Egypt and Syria. The Arab leaders said no.

Then in 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered the Palestinians almost all the land they claimed to want, but the Palestinians walked away and responded with a wave of suicide bombings that killed over one thousand Israelis.

Finally, in 2008 Israeli Prime Minister Olmert offered Palestinian President Abbas an even more generous deal, and made painful compromises on Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees. But Abbas said no.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly shown their willingness to make painful concessions for peace, but Palestinian leaders have walked away from every offer, and continue to reject Israel's basic right to exist as a Jewish state. Thus, the Palestinian leadership continue to reject their own people's independence.

TIMELINE OF CONFLICT

1967 – SIX DAY WAR

Israel survives 5 invading armies and recovers the Old City of Jerusalem

1973 – YOM KIPPUR WAR

Israel miraculously survives a surprise attack by Egypt and Syria against overwhelming numbers

1982 – 1985 FIRST LEBANON WAR

Israel takes action to defend its citizens from Yasser Arafat's growing terrorist army

1987-1993 – FIRST PALESTINIAN INTIFADA

False rumors fuel a popular uprising of Palestinian violence and murder against both Israelis and Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel

2000-2005 – SECOND PALESTINIAN INTIFADA

Suicide bombings and other terror attacks kill over 1,000 Israelis

2006 – SECOND LEBANON WAR

Hezbollah invades Israel's northern border in an ambush and launches thousands of rockets into Israel

2008 – OPERATION CAST LEAD

Israel enters Gaza to fight Hamas after three years of ongoing rocket attacks launched toward Israeli citizens

2014 – OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE

Israel enters Gaza after Hamas launches more than 100 rockets in one day and discovers a network of terror tunnels breaching the border

2021 - OPERATION GUARDIAN OF THE WALLS

Israel destroys Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad military targets in Gaza after Hamas fires thousands of rockets into Israel in less than two days

PART IV:

Current Threats



“RIGHT OF RETURN”

The Palestinian people have suffered far too long at the hands of their own selfish leaders, who prioritize their vendetta against Israel over the wellbeing of the Palestinian people. As pro-Israel Christians, we also desire the safety and prosperity of the Palestinians and long for the day they will live peaceful, normal lives. Just like everyone else on earth, the Palestinians are created in the image of our loving God, Whose desire is to give them a better future, if only they would just choose that for themselves.

Prior to 1948, the people group known as “Palestinians”

today did not exist. During the British Mandate period, both Jews and Arabs living in the land were referred to as Palestinians. The land was sparsely populated, and the Arabs who lived there did not identify themselves as separate from their Arab brothers and sisters throughout the Middle East. Even after 1948, when many Arabs fled their homes during the war and did not return due to the urging of the surrounding Arab nations, the Arab refugees did not identify themselves as Palestinian until the 1960s.¹³

For more than 70 years, the Arab nations have refused to allow the refugees of the 1948 war to find new homes and be given citizenship in any Arab state. For this reason, there are now millions of Palestinian Arabs living in refugee camps, and they rightly are angry about their situation. However, it is not Israel that has imprisoned them and held them back.

The “Right of Return” has become a stumbling block on the quest for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, as Arab leaders insist that all of the original refugees of the 1948 war plus all of their descendants be given citizenship in Israel. This right of return has never applied to any other displaced people group on earth in history, and it certainly has never applied to the descendants of refugees born after the initial displacement. Because Israel is a democratic country and its Arab citizens have full and equal rights and participation in government, to allow millions of Palestinians to become Israeli citizens would effectively destroy Israel’s identity as a Jewish state. It is important to note that the Right of Return is demanded *in addition to* the creation of a Palestinian state, which would mean both Israel and a newly-created Palestine would be Arab-majority countries.

The “Right of Return” has become a stumbling block on the quest for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, as Arab leaders insist that all of the original refugees of the 1948 war plus all of their descendants be given citizenship in Israel.

13 “When Was the ‘Palestinian People’ Created? Google Has the Answer,” Gatestone Institute, <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/11401/palestinian-people>.

INCITEMENT

The single-minded obsession with destroying Israel among Palestinian leaders has created a culture of hate and indoctrinated antisemitism that prevents peace and traps the Palestinian people in an endless cycle of poverty, oppression, and anger that fuels terrorism.

Members of an Israeli community in Gaza are evacuated during Gaza Disengagement in 2005.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

When Israel decided to pull out of the Gaza strip as an experiment to see if giving land for peace would work, immediately Hamas tore down some of the best greenhouses in the world – which would have provided jobs to thousands of Palestinians - and replaced them with terror tunnels, mortars, and rocket launchers all aimed at Israel. Hamas also uses human shields for protection and brainwashes children from a very young age by forcing them to go to military training programs to become terrorists.¹⁴

14 “No Way to Treat a Child,” *Stand With Us*, <https://www.standwithus.com/booklets/NoWaytoTreatAChild/files/no-way-to-treat-a-child.pdf>.

It has been said that in both “the Palestinian territories, there currently exists a ‘cult of martyrdom.’ From a very young age children are socialized into a group consciousness that honors ‘martyrs,’ including human bombers. ... Young children are told stories of ‘martyrs.’ Many young people wear necklaces venerating particular ‘martyrs,’ posters decorate the walls of towns, and rock and music videos extol the virtues of bombers.”

This brainwashing even permeated children’s television programming, such as the weekly children’s television show which featured a Mickey Mouse-like character named Farfour who taught Palestinian children to fight Israelis with violence. Farfour was eventually killed off by an actor portraying an Israeli official, a “terrorist,” according to Farfour. The audience was told Farfour was “martyred” and killed “by the killers of children.”¹⁵

Farfour, a character on *Tomorrow’s Pioneers*, a TV show produced by Hamas.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

This “Saturday Morning Indoctrination” is funded and officially sanctioned by both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority’s ruling party, Fatah. With children as young as two

¹⁵ Ibid.

being brainwashed with images of terrorists as heroes, taught to hate and fear Jews, and trained in actual tactics for murder – the Palestinian leaders of today are doing everything possible to ensure the conflict continues for generations.

The Palestinian Authority continues to offer a “Pay for Slay” pension fund program for anyone killed or captured by the IDF for terrorism that results in the murder of Israeli citizens.

The Palestinian Authority continues to offer a “Pay for Slay” pension fund program for anyone killed or captured by the IDF for terrorism that results in the murder of Israeli citizens. The life-long salary is paid to the terrorist if he or she goes to prison, or to their surviving family if the terrorist is killed. This monthly stipend far exceeds the amount of money an average Palestinian could hope to earn with a legitimate job, and thus creates a highly appealing incentive for murder.

From this culture we have seen a dramatic rise in random, spontaneous attacks against Israelis by Palestinians with no formal affiliation with a known terror cell. Beginning with Rosh Hashanah in September 2015, Israel began experiencing what has become known as the “Stabbing Intifada” in which average Palestinians – around 50% of them teenagers and even some pre-adolescent children – have launched kamikaze attacks on nearby Israelis with whatever weapon is at hand.

One of the victims was Taylor Force, a young American citizen on a study abroad trip in Israel. Taylor, who had served his country in Iraq and Afghanistan, was stabbed and killed by a Palestinian terrorist near Tel Aviv on March 8, 2016.

His death led to the Taylor Force Act in the United States, a piece of legislation designed to cut off the flow of American



(Photo credit: Eventedia)

US Army Veteran and West Point Graduate Taylor Force.

tax dollars to the Palestinian Authority until the PA stopped all payments to terrorists. This incentive to commit terror was funded by international foreign aid, and when Americans discovered their tax dollars were being used to reward terrorism they were outraged.

ANTISEMITISM REBRANDED: BDS

Having failed to destroy Israel by traditional methods of war and terrorism, Israel's enemies devised a new plan. They would target Israel's political and economic stability with boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (BDS). The BDS movement is insidious because it manipulates world opinion of Israel through thinly veiled antisemitic rhetoric.

This movement is especially active on college campuses, where young people are presented with a false narrative by individuals appropriating the lexicon of the civil rights and social



BDS protest in Melbourne, Australia.

(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

justice movements. They claim Israel's government oppresses Palestinians with the same kind of racial discrimination that white South Africans once used against black South Africans under apartheid. This vicious lie has spread throughout academia and infected the United Nations. The old antisemitism of blatant hatred of Jews has been repackaged as anti-Zionism and hatred of Israel.

DEFINITION OF APARTHEID: specifically: a former policy of segregation and political and economic discrimination against non-European groups in the Republic of South Africa.

Apartheid	South Africa	Israel	Israel
Minority Rule – a white minority oppressed a Black majority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full democracy with right to vote for everyone over 18
Race based system of oppression with notion of racial superiority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full rights to all races, cultures & religions protected by Supreme Court
No Right to Vote for Black people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full Democracy to all Israeli citizens
Bantu Education Act - Inferior education with quotas on higher education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full access to all education
The Group Areas Act - Separate Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anyone can live wherever they want
Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act– restrictions on cross colour sexual relationships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No restrictions
Censorship & Suppression of Communism Act	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Free Press & Communists represented in Parliament

16

BDS places responsibility for the political actions of Israel's government on not only innocent Israeli civilians simply trying to provide a living for their families, but it also demonizes any Jewish or non-Jewish person seen as supporting Israel. In many cases, Jews on college campuses are singled out for harassment

16 Image by Naveen Anjum, "Israel versus South African apartheid," *Israel is Legitimate*, <https://israelislegitimate.org/israelvssouthafrica/>.

simply because they are Jewish, even if they have nothing to do with Israel. This is antisemitism, pure and simple.

We see it in college campuses, but also in churches. Some major mainline denominations such as the PCUSA and the Methodists have included BDS in their official policy. On college campuses, swastikas show up on dorm room doors and the offices of Jewish professors. This happened at UC Davis and at Columbia University, for example.

BDS is especially popular in Europe, where the European Union has refused to condemn BDS as discrimination. Large anti-Israel rallies often combine BDS messages with the support and rhetoric of neo-Nazi type groups.

UN BIAS

One of Israel's harshest critics is the United Nations. When Israel is attacked and forced to defend itself, the United Nations is quick to condemn Israel, and almost always ignores the role of Hamas or other terrorists in the violence.



United Nations' logo.

Examples of anti-Israel bias at the United Nations

In 1975, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution stating that “Zionism is racism” and explicitly equated the State of Israel with the apartheid regime of South Africa. This resolution was not rescinded until 1991, and even then 25 countries opposed rescinding the resolution and 13 countries abstained.¹⁷

¹⁷ Morris B. Abram, “United Nations: antisemitism in the UN,” *Jewish Virtual Library*, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/antisemitism-in-the-united-nations>

When the UN General Assembly held the World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, the conference quickly focused its attention on bashing Israel and reviving the “Zionism is racism” charge. Anti-Semitic propaganda such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* were sold and distributed on the conference grounds, and after four days of attempting to change the focus of the conference the United States and Israel withdrew their delegations in protest.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell stated:

(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)



Official portrait of US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

“I know that you do not combat racism by conferences that produce declarations containing hateful language, some of which is a throwback to the days of “Zionism equals racism;” or supports the idea that we have made too much of the Holocaust; or suggests that apartheid exists in Israel; or that singles out only one country in the world--Israel--for censure and abuse.”¹⁸

In just the 73rd session of the UNGA in November 2018, the United Nations General Assembly held 21 votes on resolutions specifically condemning Israel for various accusations. During the same period, the UN General Assembly voted on only six resolutions condemning any other country in the world: North Korea, Iran, Syria, Crimea, Myanmar, and the United States.¹⁹

18 Elihai Braun, “UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance - Durban, South Africa,” *Jewish Virtual Library*, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/durban-i-un-conference-against-racism-2001>.

19 “2018 UN General Assembly Resolutions Singling Out Israel – Texts, Votes, Analysis” (15 November 2018), *UN Watch*, <https://unwatch.org/2018-un-general-assembly-resolutions-singling-israel-texts-votes-analysis/>.

TERRORISM

The Arab extremists bent on destroying Israel learned the power of terrorism during the British Mandate period. Terrorism was not only an effective political tool against the Jewish state which weakened it internally; it produced external pressure against the nation from the international community.

The desire to eradicate Israel in the 20th century fueled the rise of several Islamic extremist factions. Fundamental to each of these terrorist groups was an anti-Semitic interpretation of Islamic theology that left no room for acceptance of the state of Israel, the Jewish people and consequently the possibility for peace.

IRAN

Kindergarten classroom in Beer Sheva, Israel after being hit by a rocket from Gaza.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Iran's obsession with destroying Israel began in 1979 after the violent Islamic Revolution empowered radical fundamentalists committed to dominating the Middle East. Iran's

hatred of Israel and America has been the foundation of its foreign policy ever since. The State Department recognizes Iran as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. For decades the world sought to isolate Iran and curb its terrorist activities and nuclear weapons ambitions through economic sanctions. But while President Obama

was in office, world leaders decided to lift those sanctions in exchange for promises that Iran would halt its nuclear development. When the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran Deal, was signed and implemented, Iran's aggression against Israel and America only increased. Under the Trump Administration, the United States withdrew from the Iran Deal and began a "maximum pressure"

campaign against Iran by imposing harsh sanctions on that regime. Iran responded with resistance, ramping up its aggression against the West and Israel, as well as its support for terror.

President Biden entered office in 2021 in a position of strength, should he choose to leverage it in negotiations with Tehran. The Biden administration claims

(Credit: Wikimedia Commons)



Cartoon by Barry Hunau.

(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)



The ministers of foreign affairs of several countries announcing the framework for the Iran Deal in April 2015.

(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)



Two armed men during the Iranian Revolution.

it wants a “longer and stronger” deal. However, reports indicate that they may capitulate to Iran’s demands and uphold a misguided “diplomacy first” approach which has only failed in the past.

CUFI’s position remains the same as it has always been: Iran repeatedly demonstrates that it is the preeminent force for evil in the Middle East, and we must ensure that any agreement with Tehran is made in consultation with American allies, including Israel, and Arab states in the region as well as addresses Iran’s rampant human rights violations and support for terror.

HEZBOLLAH

Hezbollah is one of the deadliest terror groups in the world. They are responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Americans since the 1980s. They were founded, trained, and armed by Iran’s government and are commissioned with the destruction of Israel. Based in Lebanon along Israel’s northern border, Hezbollah has become the dominant political force in Lebanon and launches attacks against Israel from deep within civilian population centers. The terrorist organization has grown in size and sophistication, gaining experience in warfare through its involvement in the Syrian civil war, and is now more threatening to Israel than it has ever been in the past.

Smoke from American barracks at Beirut International Airport bombed by Hezbollah in 1983. 241 American servicemen and women were killed in the attack.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

PART V:

Light Unto the Nations



Freedoms in Israel that do not exist in other Middle Eastern countries.

Civil Rights	Minorities & Women
Freedom of speech	Vote
Freedom of the press	Serve in the government
Freedom of assembly	Serve in the military
Freedom of worship	Have full citizenship
Freedom of petition	Own property
Equal protection under the law	Run businesses
	Live in peace

Israel is a beacon of freedom in the Middle East especially when it comes to women's rights. And while it is very true that some progress in the area of women's rights has been made in

(Photo credit: Shutterstock)



Little girl in front of Galil school, an Arab-Jewish primary school in Israel.

the rest of the Middle East this progress has stayed largely within urban areas and has not gained much traction.

While Israel provides all of its citizens - Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Druze, etc.- with full and equal rights and protections under the law, the Palestinian people are exploited and endangered by their own leaders. Hamas openly boasts of using innocent civilians – very often women and children – as human shields.

In contrast, Israel is a light unto the nations.

TIKKUN OLAM

The Talmud, a central text of Rabbinical Judaism, says “If you save one life, it is as if you have saved the world.” *Tikkun Olam* is a concept in Judaism to behave and act constructively and beneficially. In the modern era, it is the idea that Jews bear responsibility not only for their own moral, spiritual, and material welfare, but also for the welfare of society at large. Contemporary Rabbis view the term as meaning “the establishment of Godly qualities throughout the world.”

THIS is the heart of Israel. For such a small country, Israel does a lot of good in the world. From being one of the first responders whenever a natural disaster strikes across the globe, to giving asylum to refugees, to sharing life-saving medical technologies with communities all over the world, the Jewish principle of Tikkun Olam has instilled in Israel a heart

for life that no other country in the Middle East comes close to emulating.

*“I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness,
And will hold Your hand;
I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people,
As a light to the Gentile.”*

ISAIAH 42:6

Israel is uniquely equipped to aid developing countries with agriculture, water management, education, medicine, and other areas of need. In 1994, Israel provided medical aid for Rwandan refugees. It gave medical aid to flood victims in Central America in 1998, and aided Turkish earthquake victims in 1999.

Israel also played a pivotal role in humanitarian aid for natural disasters in the 2000s. The devastating 2004 tsunami that hit Indonesia was recorded as the sixth-deadliest natural disaster in history. Israel was one of the first three countries to send a team of medical and logistical personnel to assist in



(photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

The IDF search and rescue team extracts a Haitian civilian trapped in the ruins of a government office in Port-au-Prince.

the recovery efforts, along with 60 tons of emergency supplies. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, Israel's first responders brought 80 tons of critically needed goods and equipment donated by Israeli companies.

Along with bringing aid to foreign countries, Israel also opened its doors to refugees from Liberia and Sudan. Hundreds of Sudanese refugees fled the civil war in Darfur and found asylum in Israel.

Being a light unto the nations does not justify Israel's existence - Israel has the right to exist. Every other sovereign nation in the world does not have to justify its existence. Yet by blessing the nations, Israel proves that its existence is a net positive for the world.

12 NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS SINCE 1966

Decades of Innovation:

- 1950s** Invents the modern solar water heater
- 1960s** Patents drip irrigation method
- 1970s** Produces first electronic milk meter for dairy farms
- 1980s** Pioneers first antivirus computer software
- 1990s** Invents instant messaging technology
- 2000s** Creates the USB flash drive stick
- 2010s** Invents robotic exoskeleton for paraplegics

A World Leader

- Highest ratio of college degrees, museums, and startup companies per capita
- Highest rate of entrepreneurship among women
- Only country that has more trees today than it did 50 years ago
- Only Middle Eastern country where Christian population is increasing
- Extended international humanitarian aid to over 140 countries since 1950s

PART VI:

US-Israel Relationship



Harry Truman receives a Hanukkah Menorah from Prime Minister of Israel David Ben-Gurion in the Oval Office.

(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

The US-Israel relationship has been special from the beginning. From the founding of our country, when the Framers decided to build a new nation on the Judeo-Christian values of the Bible, America has been a safe haven for Jews who have been violently persecuted everywhere else in the world. American Christians were among the earliest believers in Zionism, based on their belief in the Bible as the Word of God.

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a joint press conference in 2003.



(Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Our two nations have always stood shoulder-to-shoulder against the tyrants and despots of the world, our mutual love of freedom and equality for all men rooted in our Judeo-Christian heritage. In the age of terrorism, our strategic partnership has been critically important for both countries. With the military aid the US provides Israel to develop its qualitative edge over its enemies, Israel then provides the US with cutting-edge technology and the best foreign intelligence partnership in the world. In every instance, the terrorists who hate Israel and want to destroy the Jewish people also hate America and want to kill Christians. Israel's enemies are our enemies, and their fight is our fight.

Timeline of US-Israel Relationship

September 21, 1922	US Congress passes joint resolution approving the “establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people,” the day the League of Nations approves the Mandate for Palestine.
November 29, 1947	US votes for UN Resolution approving the partition plan to create a Jewish state.
May 14, 1948	President Truman is first world leader to officially recognize the State of Israel minutes after David Ben-Gurion declared independence.
1950s	US provides Israel with economic aid for food.
1960s	US sells Israel advanced defensive weaponry. US and Israel share military intelligence.

Timeline of US-Israel Relationship

October 14, 1973 – November 14, 1973	President Nixon authorizes ongoing emergency airlifts of weapons to Israel during the Yom Kippur War.
March 26, 1979	President Carter facilitates the Camp David Accords in which Egypt and Israel sign a lasting peace treaty.
1981	US Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger and Israeli Minister of Defense Ariel Sharon sign the Strategic Cooperation Agreement for national security.
1983	US and Israel form a Joint Political Military Group.
1984	US and Israel begin annual joint military exercises and the US constructs weapons caches in Israel for US military troops in the Middle East and as an emergency resource for Israel.
1989	US grants Israel “major non-NATO ally” status as a strategic partner.
September 13, 1993	President Clinton facilitates the Oslo I Accords between Israel and the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.
October 26, 1994	President Clinton facilitates the signing a lasting peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.
September 28, 1995	President Clinton facilitates the signing of the Oslo II Accords between Israel and the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Timeline of US-Israel Relationship

2003	US Congress passes an aid bill for Israel's economic and military development totaling \$9 billion over eight years.
2006	President Bush's administration maintained steady military and political support for Israel during the Second Lebanon War.
2009	President Obama authorizes the sale of bunker-busting bombs to Israel.
2010	Israeli exports to the US become its top foreign business relationship that year.
September 20, 2011	President Obama promises to veto any UN resolution granting unilateral recognition to a Palestinian state and reiterates support for the bilateral peace process with Israel.
2012	Again Israeli exports to the US become its top foreign business relationship that year.
2014	Congress passes US-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013 and elevated Israel's ally-status above its previous designation.
December 23, 2016	President Obama instructs his UN Ambassador not to veto a resolution condemning Israeli settlements in contradiction to previous US foreign policy.
January 2017	President Trump appoints the strongest ever pro-Israel Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley.

Timeline of US-Israel Relationship

March 2017	President Trump appoints a strong pro-Israel Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman.
December 6, 2017	President Trump formally announces recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and his intention to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
March 2018	Congress passes the Taylor Force Act to restrict the flow of US tax dollars to the Palestinian Authority until it ceases its Pay for Slay program.
March 2018	President Trump appoints a strong pro-Israel Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo.
May 14, 2018	Ambassador Friedman presides at the official opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem on the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence.
August 2018	President Trump cuts off all US funding for the anti-Israel agency UNRWA.
October 2018	Congress passes the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018.
December 2018	Congress passes the Stop Using Human Shields Act to target Hezbollah and Hamas and their international financiers.

Timeline of US-Israel Relationship

February 2019	The Israel Air Force Air Defense Division and the United States European Command hold a joint exercise, the largest-ever directorate exercise performed by the IDF in cooperation with the US Military, during Juniper Falcon 2019. Juniper Falcon is “biannual U.S.-Israel rapid deployment and contingency response exercise designed to enhance interoperability between the U.S. and Israeli militaries.” ²⁰
March 2019	Under the Trump Administration, the US recognizes Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights after CUFFI’s month-long lobbying campaign and just one week after CUFFI released a statement backing associated legislation.
July 2019	The IAF (Israeli Air Force) takes delivery of two additional F-35s fighter jets, reflecting the long-standing military cooperation between Israel and the United States.
October 2019	The Trump Administration intensifies sanctions against Iranian proxy and terrorist army Hezbollah to unprecedented levels.
November 2019	The Trump Administration revokes the Hansell Memorandum of 1978 that held civilian settlements in Israel were not legal under international law.

²⁰ Defense Visual Information Distribution Service, “*Juniper Falcon 2019*,” dvidshub.net/feature/juniperfalcon19.

Timeline of US-Israel Relationship

December 2019	President Trump issues an executive order adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism for the purposes of government agencies tasked with enforcing Title VI. This move, which expands upon and mirrors the antisemitism Awareness Act of 2019 fiercely supported by CUFI, will protect those among the most vulnerable in our nation: Jewish students.
January 3, 2020	General Qassem Soleimani, Iranian commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force, is assassinated in a US drone strike, approved by President Trump. Terrorist Qassem Soleimani was personally responsible for the deaths of thousands, including US troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.
January 28, 2020	Trump Administration unveils a peace proposal for the Middle East, the best set forth by any American administration to date, that ensures Israel's defensible borders, a united Jerusalem, sovereignty over biblical holy sites, and provides an opportunity for the Palestinians to choose peace.
April 2020	The <i>Never Again Education Act</i> is passed which will provide teachers around the country with federal support in their efforts to stamp out antisemitism by teaching about its abhorrent consequences.
September 2020	Israel signs agreements (called the Abraham Accords) brokered by the US, with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, establishing diplomatic relations and promising the full normalization of ties between the three countries. The ceremony takes place at the White House on September 14, 2020, with CUFI's leadership in attendance.



The US Embassy in Jerusalem.

President Trump's decision to move the US Embassy represented the fulfillment of a promise made by the American people to Israel more than 20 years earlier. This was a long-overdue correction in American foreign policy by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's rightful capital.

In October 1995, both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate passed the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act. This bipartisan legislation was supported by nearly every member of Congress, and reflected the American people's desire to see Jerusalem recognized as the legal capital of Israel. The act specifically stated that Jerusalem should remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty, and directed the State Department to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999. However, every American president from Clinton to Obama exercised their right to waive the move every six months due to security concerns.

On the 70th anniversary of Israel's declaration of independence and rebirth as a modern nation, the United States officially opened its Embassy in Jerusalem. Along with CUFi's

On the 70th anniversary of Israel's declaration of independence and rebirth as a modern nation, the United States officially opened its Embassy in Jerusalem.

Co-Executive Directors, Diana Hagee and Shari Dollinger, CUIF's Founder and Chairman John Hagee was in Israel to participate in this historic moment.

In recognition of CUIF's significant role in encouraging the President to move the Embassy, Pastor Hagee was asked to give the official benediction over the new Embassy and affirm God's blessing on Israel and America through this long-awaited recognition of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel.

Pastor John Hagee delivers the benediction at US Embassy opening ceremony on May 14, 2018.

(Photo credit: CUIF)



*Let the word go forth from Jerusalem today
—ISRAEL LIVES!*

Shout it from the housetops—ISRAEL LIVES!

*Let every Islamic terrorist group hear it
—ISRAEL LIVES!*

*Let it be heard in the halls of the U.N.
—ISRAEL LIVES!*

*Let it echo down the marble halls of the presidential
palace in Iran—ISRAEL LIVES!*

*Let it be known to all men, that ISRAEL LIVES
because, "He that keepeth Israel neither
slumbers nor sleeps."*

PART VII:

Christians United for Israel



Crowds wave US and Israeli flags at a Night to Honor Israel at CUFI's DC Summit.

(Photo credit: CUFI)

As the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States, Christians United for Israel (CUFI) is also the only Christian organization devoted to transforming millions of pro-Israel Christians into an educated, empowered, and effective force for Israel. The breadth of CUFI's diversity across generational, ethnic, cultural, and denominational lines gives us a tremendous depth of influence and power in our fight for the truth. CUFI played a leading role in efforts to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions, hinder Hezbollah and Hamas' war of terror against Israel, strengthen the Jewish state's ability to defend itself, and defend Israel against the antisemitic BDS movement. And we've only just begun.

*“I consider CUFI a vital part of
Israel’s national security.”*

– Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

FACT SHEET

GRASSROOTS

- Largest pro-Israel organization in the United States.
- Hold more than 50 events per month.
- CUFI on Campus presence at more than 330 universities nationwide.
- Educate millions of Americans through our 8 social media channels as well as our website, blog and daily briefing emails.
- Take 20 groups of Pastors, millennial influencers and students to Israel each year.
- Have taken nearly 600 millennial influencers, including leading pastors, celebrities, professional athletes, and government staffers, to Israel.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- After a 15 month lobbying campaign, including more than 1 million emails sent to elected officials by CUFI members, the Taylor Force Act became law. (March 2018)
- After more than 135,000 CUFI members emailed the White House asking the President to keep his pledge, the U.S. formally opened its Embassy in Jerusalem. (May 2018)
- Shortly after CUFI engaged in an effort to work with elected officials in Washington to introduce legislation aimed at ending UNRWA’s influence in the Middle East, President Trump cut off all US funding to the UN agency. (August 2018)

- After a month's long, behind the scenes lobbying effort, including an op-ed announcing CUFI's intention to address the problems with the 1992 Anti-Terrorism Act, the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018 passed both houses of Congress and was signed into law by the President. (October 2018)
- The Stop Using Human Shields Act, which was renamed the Sanctioning of the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act, was introduced during the 2018 CUFI Washington Summit and signed into law five months later. (December 2018)
- Just one week after CUFI released a statement backing associated legislation and after a month-long lobbying campaign, including meetings with CUFI leadership and the administration the U.S. recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. (March 2019)
- Engaged in public relations and lobbying effort to see Airbnb reverse its policy of delisting Israeli properties in the West Bank, which the company did in April of 2019.
- Worked across the country to see anti-BDS legislation advanced in a majority of states.
- The Senate advanced the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which will make law the US's prohibition on Turkey receiving F-35s—curbing the power of this terrorist-backing regime—and Congress advanced this bill, securing a significant policy victory for CUFI. (December 2019)
- The aims of the Countering Hezbollah in Lebanon's Military Act, supported at the 2019 Summit, were also advanced through the passage of the NDAA which includes a provision that requires the Defense Department to report to Congress on the state of the Lebanese Armed Forces' efforts to impede Hezbollah. (December 2019)

- For two years, CUFI worked tirelessly to advance the Antisemitism Awareness Act with allies in Washington, including at the White House and on Capitol Hill, making it our top policy priority of 2019. The bill would adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism for the purposes of enforcing Title VI—in particular on college campuses. The Trump Administration issued an executive order mandating the adoption of this definition as US policy, a bold move which will protect Jewish students in the US. (December 2019)
- On January 28, Pastor Hagee was honored to stand in the East Room as President Trump unveiled his proposal for peace in the Middle East. (January 2020)
- CUFI-backed Never Again Education Act becomes law, which will provide teachers around the country with federal support in their efforts to stamp out anti-Semitism by teaching about its abhorrent consequences. (April 2020)

INFLUENCE

- “In Jerusalem, our President said that the bond between America and Israel in his words ‘is woven together in the hearts of our people’ — and Christians United for Israel proves this statement true every single day all across this country.”
– *Vice President Mike Pence*
- “Standing up against this global pressure campaign on Israel and the Jewish people goes to the heart of our friendship and the heart of America. And the tip of the spear is Christians United for Israel.”
– *Ambassador Nikki Haley*
- “For decades, America has been the backbone of Israel’s support in the world. Well, the backbone of that backbone is the support of millions of devout Christians across this great country. More than

any other Christian organization, CUFI works year after year to make that backbone stronger and straighter than ever.”

– *Ambassador Ron Dermer*

- “As we see the mounting threats to the State of Israel, we appreciate more than ever the vital role played by friends like Christians United for Israel. It is extremely important to have you by our side.”
– *President of Israel Shimon Peres (of blessed memory)*

ABOUT CUFI

We are educating millions of people through social media every day. Every week, we host events in churches, on campus, and in communities across the nation. We take hundreds of pastors, students, donors, and millennial leaders to Israel on over a dozen trips each year. Every day, we are working to make Israel stronger and her people safer.



CUFI on Campus

CUFI on Campus is the largest pro-Israel student organization in the country. We provide students with the skills, resources, and knowledge to support Israel. Our training and mentorship gives students the confidence to defend their beliefs in the face of overwhelming opposition. CUFI on Campus develops student leaders and equips them to become effective advocates for Israel on their college campuses as they put their faith into action.

Israel Collective

The Israel Collective (IC) is revealing the truth about Israel and the Middle East to the millennial generation. The IC brings Christian leaders to Israel to experience a personal encounter with the people and the land. The IC also produces films that highlight human interest stories revealing the heart of the Israeli people.

the MIZRAHI project

The Mizrahi Project

Almost one million Jews were forced to flee their homes in North Africa and the Middle East after Israel declared its independence in 1948. From Morocco to Iran, Jewish families were chased from the communities where they'd lived for thousands of years. For nearly 70 years, no one has acknowledged these forgotten refugees or told the stories of the Mizrahi (Middle Eastern) Jewish community. CUFI has begun an ongoing effort to document these stories on film with The Mizrahi Project. The experiences of the Mizrahi community are a huge part of Israel's story, and a powerful contrast to the narrative of those who demonize Israel over the Palestinian refugees.



Daughters For Zion
FOR ZION'S SAKE WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

Daughters for Zion

A year after founding Christians United for Israel, Pastor John Hagee asked Pastor Lynne Hammond to lead a national prayer network to intercede for Israel, America, and Christians United for Israel. Daughters for Zion (DFZ) organizes prayer groups in cities across the United States.



Action Fund

The CUFIA Action Fund is the legislative arm of Christians United for Israel. The Action Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(4), bipartisan organization dedicated to ensuring the millions of Christian Zionists across the country have their voices heard in our nation's capital. The Action Fund's policy agenda includes support for a strong US-Israel relationship, standing up to antisemitism, defending Israel's right to self-defense and self-determination, and opposition to regional bad actors such as Iran and Turkey and the terrorist organizations they support.

MAKING THE US-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP STRONGER

Every day, CUFI works to make Israel stronger and its people safer. We do this because the Bible makes it clear God’s covenant with the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, established in the book of Genesis, is everlasting and unbreakable. This belief in God’s love for the Jewish people and their biblical and historical right to sovereignty in their ancient homeland crosses denominational and ethnic boundaries to unite Christians of many different backgrounds.

Since CUFI’s founding in 2006, we have played a growing role in strengthening the US-Israel relationship as our members have engaged with state and national government officials on issues relevant to Israel’s security. In the 15 years since our founding, CUFI has grown in both size and influence, swelling from only 400 ministry leaders and pastors to more than ten million members.

In 2018, with the successful passage of the Taylor Force Act and the relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem—both strongly supported by CUFI—we entered a new phase as CUFI was widely recognized in the media and by leaders in Washington DC as a political heavyweight.

Vice President Mike Pence speaks at CUFI’s 14th annual Washing Summit in 2019.



(Photo credit: CUFI)

Despite significant victories in support of Israel against those who would delegitimize and demonize her existence, many threats still loom on the horizon. It remains the goal of terrorist organizations such as Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon to wipe out the world's only Jewish state through appalling violence that showcases no value for human life. Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, continues to seek Israel's destruction, fueled by a hatred for both Israel and America that is central to the Islamic Republic's ideology.

Meanwhile, here in the U.S., our Jewish neighbors face vastly more persecution than they have in recent years. Students are victims of vandalism in universities across our nation while worshipers are targeted in their synagogues. Anti-Zionism has developed as a thin veil for antisemitism yet has been accepted by too many Americans. There has never been a more important time to refuse to be a bystander. CUFJ exists for such a time as this.

Though antisemitism is attempting to envelope the world in its darkness, this time the Jewish people are not alone. Millions of Christians stand prepared to defend our Jewish brothers and sisters. CUFJ will continue to ensure our voice is heard in support of the state of Israel in Washington's halls of power, at the UN, in universities across the nation, and in churches worldwide. CUFJ will stand, proud and strong, as watchmen on behalf of the Jewish people. For Zion's sake we will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake we will not keep quiet, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a blazing torch (Isaiah 62:1).

*“We have no better friends in the world
than the evangelical community, and
the evangelical community has no better
friend in the world than Israel.”*

—Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu

