



Looking for the Blessed Hope

The Palestinian Problem and Terrorism



Who Are the Palestinians?

- Palestine began as a secular term for *Eretz Yisra'el* or *Terra Sancta*.
 - Concept forced upon Jews by Hadrian (135 AD)
 - Foreign and repugnant to Arabs
- During Islamic dominance (AD 638-1918) the term was never used by Muslims or Arabs.
- Arab historian Professor Philip Hitti:
 - "There is no such thing as Palestine in Arab history, absolutely not."



1960's Palestine

- 1963: formation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).
 - *Palestine* - no reference to Arab nationalist goals at that time.
 - "*Palestine*" does not appear in any foundational documents.
 - Early 1970's:
 - King Hussein: "Jordan is Palestine and Palestine is Jordan."
 - Yasser Arafat: "What you call Jordan is actually Palestine."
 - Primary goal of PLO: replacement of Jewish state with an Arab state.

 **Palestinian Claims**

- Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip claim to be descendants of ancient natives.
(Philistines, Canaanites, Jebusites)
- Claim to be indigenous inhabitants of the country since the beginning of history.

But...

- Those claims are contrary to archaeological, historical and Biblical evidence!

 **Palestinian Rise to Power**

- Leader: Yasser Arafat (until his death in 2004)
- 1963: Backed by Egypt, the Arab League created the PLO and the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA).
- Goals:
 - Wage a terror campaign against Israel
 - Give Palestinian "refugees" in Lebanon a voice.
 - Incite the Arab world to war against Israel.

 **Palestinian Authority**

- Governing entity of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Arafat ran the PA as a dictatorship, under the party name of *Fatah*.
- Fatah was opposed by Islamic Jihad and Hamas because the PA engaged in a supposed "peace process" with Israel.

 **Funding of the PA**

- PA claims to operate at a deficit, thus leaving their "refugee population" to live in desperate, poverty-stricken conditions.
- Reality:
 - Funded by at least 10 sources, including the Arab League, investments, private donations, illegal arms deals, fraud, drug trafficking and other nations.
 - \$7.7 Billion int'l support pledged in 2008-2010
 - \$400 million/year from the US
 - Currently, millions spent monthly by the PA to sponsor terrorism.

 **Who Are the Palestinian Refugees?**

- Historical definition: Palestinian Arabs who lost their homes as a result of the wars in 1948 and 1967.
- Highest non-Palestinian estimate: 649,100 (UN estimate: 472,000)
- PA estimate: 7.8 million
- Literacy rate = 90+%, life expectancy = 73
 - Hardly the "dreadful" conditions we hear about on the news!

 **Who Caused the Refugee Problem?**

- Popular opinion: Israel!
- In 1948, yes, some left out of fear.
 - 400,000 who left never saw an Israeli soldier.
 - Most left simply to live elsewhere, where money and jobs were to be found.
- Arab leaders warned citizens to evacuate before arrival of advancing Arab armies.
- Arab leaders instilled fear of Jewish terror (which was never evident).
 - Israeli forces were ordered, under harsh penalty, not to touch citizens or their property.

 **Peace Talks**

- Key attempts at peace:
 - Oslo Accords (1993, 1995) - Clinton, Arafat, Rabin
 - Camp David Summit (2000) - Clinton, Arafat, Barak
 - Road Map for Peace (2002) - Bush, Abbas, Sharon
 - Recent talks (2010-2013) - Obama/Kerry, Abbas, Netanyahu
- Virtually impossible to negotiate.
 - Palestinians want all the land...and desire to eliminate the Jewish state altogether.
 - Israel has very little land...and desires peace!
- Key truth: God promised the land to Israel!

 **This Week's Study**

- A deeper look at the Palestinian problem
- Hamas and Hezbollah
 - Similarities/differences
 - Who they are
 - The threat
- ISIS
 - Who they are
 - Their objectives
 - Precursor to the tribulation



 **Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls and prosperity within your palaces." For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, "May peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Psalm 122:6-9
