

***ISRAEL  
CELEBRATES  
SEVENTY YEARS  
AS A MODERN NATION***



**By  
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From the very beginning of her history, Israel has faced hard times, has been surrounded by enemies, has fought for her right to exist, has been in and out of the land promised by God, has obeyed God, has disobeyed God, has been persecuted by other countries and people, and has survived like no other nation on the face of the earth. Most, if not all nations that have gone through what Israel has faced from her founding until this very day, would not still be in existence or would be of very little importance. According to the record, 2018 is the Jewish year 5778 when converting from the Hebrew calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Abraham was called by God to leave Ur of the Chaldees around 2126 BC when the “*ABRAHAMIC COVENANT*” was given to him by God. Later, Moses led Israel out of Egypt around 1491 BC, and from the time the Jews were in Egypt until this very day, Israel has faced one great trial after another. The Old Testament scriptures reveal that she has faced oppression, persecution, resistance, chastisement, victories, defeats, good prophets, false prophets, good kings, bad kings, plenty of food, lack of food, much rain, little rain, in the promised land, out of the promised land, the blessing of God, the wrath of God and the list could go on and on. But, Israel still exists as a very significant nation in the world and without a doubt, is much more significant now than at any other time in her history. In 70 AD when the Romans, under Titus, destroyed Jerusalem, the Jewish people were dispersed throughout the nations of the world. But on May 14th 1948, Israel was once again recognized as a nation and was officially located in the land God promised to Moses in Genesis 12:7 around 2126 BC.

On May 15, 1948, the day after Israel was recognized as a valid State, she was attacked by armies from Arab-Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Egypt, beginning what is known as the Arab-Israeli War. This war extended Israel's battle for independence until July 20, 1949. The end result is that Israel won the victory and God blessed her with independence for the first time in 2000 years.

On May 14, 2018, Israel will celebrate the 70th anniversary of her return back to a portion of the land God promised her and it appears that she is getting stronger, more significant on the world scene and more resolute to maintain her territory permanently. Many of the world's citizens are amazed that such a tiny nation, just the size of New Jersey, is so important to the Middle East and the rest of the world. The question of why Israel still exists after facing all the challenges in her history rises in the minds of many, particularly in the thinking of those who hate her.

The answer to that question is found in the heart of Almighty God Who has a plan and a purpose for Israel that is tied to a great promise for her future that will result in the best years of her life.

To understand this, we can turn to Deuteronomy 7:6-9 where the scripture says:

*"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen you to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because you were more in number than any people; for you were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations."*

The significant promise and covenant God gave Israel goes back to the calling of Abraham, Israel's Father, as is recorded in Genesis 12:1-3. There we find these words:

*"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make*

*thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."*

Therein, is the embodiment of the "ABRAHAMIC COVENANT" that is repeated no less than four times in Genesis, specifically in chapters 13,15,17 and 22. The "ABRAHAMIC COVENANT" is the promise that out of Abraham's seed will come a great nation (Israel) that will be blessed of God, and those people or nations that bless Israel will be blessed by God, but those people or nations that curse Israel will be cursed by God. Therefore, Israel still exists after 4000 years because of the promise of God through the "ABRAHAMIC COVENANT" that is eternal and unconditional.

The land which Israel now occupies is only a small portion of the greater expanse of property God has promised to her by divine order according to Joshua 1:3,4. There has never been a time when Israel fully occupied the entire territory promised by God. However, in the Millennium, when Christ establishes His Kingdom on earth, all of the described land will belong one hundred percent to Israel. In our current time, any attempt to remove Israel from the land, or any part of the land, or to take any amount of land away from her is surely against the will of God and God will certainly judge those who attempt in any way to reduce Israel's possession. What God has promised to Israel, God will fulfill.

Israel is very special to God and He will see that His purpose for her will come into complete fruition no matter how many foreign nations may try to destroy her. In Deuteronomy 14:2, it says:

*"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth."*

Israel belongs to God and God will protect Israel forever. Other nations will fade away. But Israel will prevail.

It is believed that one of the reasons God raised up the United States is to protect and support Israel. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman, because of his understanding of scripture, was eager to recognize Israel as a nation, even though other national and international leaders around him discouraged him from doing so. But, as he referred to himself as "a light Baptist," he sought advice from theologians and Bible scholars who directed him to stand firm with Israel. And so he did! And thus, since May 14, 1948 America has been Israel's best ally for which God has blessed the USA. If America ever turns her back on Israel, America will be doomed and judged by God.

How should Christians respond to Israel's 70th anniversary back in the land as a modern nation? Please consider the following suggestions:

- By praising the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for His eternal and unconditional promise and provision for Israel.
- By rejoicing with Israel for the great milestone of now being back in the land God promised her for 70 years.
- By praying daily for the peace and prosperity of Israel as commanded in Psalm 122:6.
- By encouraging American governmental leaders to stand with and support Israel as a nation in personal and public policy.
- By prompting faithful pastors to teach the truth about God's plan for Israel to their congregations.

Isaiah 60:1 says in reference to the restoration of Israel, which her current presence back in the land is the beginning of:

*"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."*

Indeed, these are exciting days as Israel once again begins to bloom under the loving and gracious hand of Almighty God. The parable of the Fig Tree that Christ shares in Matthew 24:32-35 teaches that when the tree (Israel) begins to bloom, that His return is getting closer.

As Israel celebrates her 70th year back in the land, the United States Embassy will be officially moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which has been the recognized Capital of Israel by the Jewish people since the time of King David. This move should have taken place years ago and, in fact several US Presidents agreed that the Embassy should be in Jerusalem but did nothing to make the move happen. However, under the direction and the courageous action of President Donald J. Trump, this move is currently taking place. Praise the Lord! In the near future it is possible that other Israeli-friendly nations may move their embassy to Jerusalem and follow the example of the United States. Doing so will bring great blessing from God upon those nations, for remember, God will bless those nations that bless Israel and will curse those nations that curse Israel. Certainly, moving a national embassy to Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel, is a part of blessing Israel and honoring God at the same time. Let us pray that all nations that have embassies in Israel will locate them in Jerusalem and do so soon.

As God loves Israel, so should every Christian love Israel. As time goes on, until the return of Christ, it will be interesting to see what the various nations of the world will attempt to do to destroy Israel. According to Bible prophecy, under the direction of Satan and the Anti-christ, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Russia and other nations will come down upon Israel in an attempt to destroy her. But as they do, God will turn the tables on them and judge those wicked nations to destruction forever.

As was previously mentioned the very fact that Israel has now been back in her own land for 70 years is an indication of the imminent return of Jesus Christ in the rapture, which is the first stage of His second coming to the earth. So until we see Christ in the rapture, we are compelled to do the following:

- Pray for Israel daily.
- Stand with Israel consistently.
- Support Israel verbally.
- Encourage Israel actively.

Then, when Christ eventually sets up His Kingdom on earth, all Israel will recognize Him as their Messiah and will turn to Him at which time He will be their God and they shall be His people. Romans 11:26, 27 says:

*"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Israel): For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."*

Please take some time to reflect upon the following scriptures and then rejoice in what God is now doing in Israel and what He will do for her in the near future.

*"Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. The sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become an thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time." Isaiah 60:18-22.*

*"I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory." Isaiah 46:13*

Yes, the very best days for Israel are ahead when she will see the wonderful working of God in her midst such as never before. These are exciting times in which to live. Let's keep our eyes on the Lord and give Him the glory for all He is doing.

Pastor Gary G. Dull serves as the senior pastor of the Faith Baptist Church of Altoona, Pa, the founder and president of the Way of Truth Ministries, the executive director of the Pennsylvania Pastors Network and sits as a board member of the American Pastors Network.



This coin, celebrating the 70th anniversary of Israel's birth as a nation, features the face of President Trump as an expression of gratitude for his decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, and will be released soon by an Israeli non-profit group. Known as the "Temple Coin," Trump's image is juxtaposed alongside an image of King Cyrus, the Persian king who gave the command to rebuild the Temple. Amazing times in which we live!



# **The Faith Baptist Church of Altoona**

315 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Altoona, PA 16602

Phone: 814/944-2894 Fax: 814/944-9385

Email: [office@fbcaltoona.org](mailto:office@fbcaltoona.org)

Web: [www.fbcaltoona.org](http://www.fbcaltoona.org)