

Was Israel Founded on Stolen Arab Land?

I was a workshop speaker at a Christian conference several years ago, and the topic was the history of Israel. In my short 20-minute message, I quickly reviewed how Israel was founded and the major wars and developments up to today. Afterward, a young man—probably a college student—approached me. Scratching his head and with a puzzled look, he said, “But I thought Israel was founded on stolen Arab land?”

It’s a common accusation and misunderstanding—but a critical one to disprove because if it were true, the very founding of Israel would be illegal. How could Christians support such a thing? Let’s consider a few facts to get to the truth.

Mark Twain’s Observations

The famous travel writer and author of *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain, went to the Holy Land in 1867 and documented the empty barrenness of the land in his book *The Innocents Abroad*. Here are a few of his observations:

“There is no timber of any consequence in Palestine—none at all to waste upon fires... It is a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land. ... Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes. Over it broods the spell of a curse that has withered its fields and fettered its energies.”

Palestine had been at the heart of successive Islamic empires for almost 1,300 years. Other writings from the 19th century confirm it had been neglected and taxed into a barren wasteland. Most of the small farms had gone bankrupt and were bought out by large absentee landowners living in Damascus, Beirut or Cairo.

Jerusalem had a majority Jewish population squeezed into the

Jewish quarter of the walled Old City. In the late 1800s, Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia arrived, and farming settlements began to form, which produced jobs that drew Arabs to the area. An unskilled Arab worker in Palestine could make five times more than his relative with the same job in Cairo or Iraq.

Population Growth

Israel's population increased from 700,000 to 1.7 million from 1922 to 1945. Muslims made up the largest segment (60% in 1945). Their numbers had increased roughly 500,000, as had the smaller Jewish population. Both communities were growing at about the same rate.

Jewish Land Purchases

Most Jewish land purchases were made through organizations and involved large tracts of land belonging to absentee landowners. Much of the land was uncultivated and swampy, rocky or sandy. Nevertheless, Jewish organizations were willing to pay exorbitant prices. For example, rich black soil in Iowa sold for \$110/acre, while Jews paid \$1,000/acre for arid and semi-arid land in Palestine.

1948 Land Ownership

The state of Israel was founded in 1948 largely upon public land passed from the Ottoman Empire through the British Mandate to the newly founded Jewish state. Only 30% of the land was privately owned by Jews and Arabs. Some of those Arabs remained and became citizens of Israel. Other Arabs fled and abandoned their property thereby losing title to it.

Why Some Arabs Abandoned their Land

Arab residents fled for several reasons, but most did so voluntarily. Many followed the call to flee by neighboring Arab leaders, who claimed they were sending in armies to

destroy the Jews in a bloodbath. Though that did not happen, it was still a war—and people often flee for safety in times of war. In some instances, Jewish fighters forced them out for security reasons.

Refugees

Once the fighting was over, the approximately 500-700,000 Arab refugees who had fled Israel found themselves on the losing side. They had sided with Israel's enemies and were not allowed back in. Today, fewer than 30,000 of those refugees are still alive, but their children and grandchildren still live in refugee camps because their own Arab leaders refused to absorb them and give them a future.

Additionally, 700,000 Jewish refugees were forced to leave their homes and properties in Arab countries and make their way to Israel when the nation was born. They left behind homes, properties and businesses with nothing but the coats on their backs. The difference is that Israel absorbed them into society and made them citizens. Even though their large number strained the new state and roughly doubled the size of the Jewish community in Israel, they were cared for and became productive Israeli citizens.

Israel's founding was legal and upon public lands previously part of the Ottoman Empire. The accusation that it was founded on stolen land is based upon a small percentage of properties abandoned by fleeing Arab owners. The unnecessary loss of their homes was certainly an injustice of war as was the loss of properties abandoned by Jewish owners in Arab countries. The greater injustice in this story is Arab leaders did not, and have not, absorbed the Arab refugees into their countries.
{eoa}

Dr. Susan Michael is USA director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and host of the Out of Zion podcast. Listen to her Israel Answers series on the Out of

Zion podcast to learn more about Israel and related issues. For more on this topic, listen to this episode of Out of Zion.

Charisma Highlights: Chris Reed Unveils Prophetic Warning About the Coming 'Perfect Storm' for America

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Chris Reed Unveils Prophetic Warning About the Coming 'Perfect Storm' for America

In a recent prophetic dream, Pastor and MorningStar Ministries CEO Chris Reed says he saw that America is headed for tumultuous times in its future, perhaps to the point where many of the 50 united states will secede from the union before the country is redeemed and renewed.

"I believe we are coming upon a perfect storm as we see these events unfolding in the world," Reed says. "I don't believe America will be exempt from this. We really need to be in prayer and preparation and warn people around us. Although this will turn out to be successful, there are going to be some bumpy roads ahead. I think more than ever we need to have a prophetic perspective of current events around us.

"I had one of the most vivid, detailed dreams I've ever had that I believe is from the Lord regarding unfolding events from this point forward," he adds. "It's something we really

need to take heed as a warning to prepare.

A Prophetic Vision of Spiders Coming Out of Russia

I had a vision of spiders crawling out of Russia and into Europe. This was a startling vision. The spiders I saw were gigantic and fast moving.

As Europe moves closer and closer to the edge of war, some intercessors are growing weary while others are growing bolder. Some are just waking up.

It's only the hand of God that's holding back Russia's massive army from completely annihilating Ukraine. Although we're seeing terror unfold before our eyes, God never promised there wouldn't be lives lost if we prayed. God charged us to pray without ceasing. And many are.

Who Is Really Behind the Transgender Movement?

America's culture war grew more intense last month after Florida's governor, Ron DeSantis, signed the Parental Rights Law, which prohibits educators from teaching about gender identity or sexual orientation to kids from kindergarten to third grade. The bill has broad support from parents, who believe teachers have no business talking to grade-schoolers about sex. But some employees at the Disney company staged a walkout to protest the bill, claiming that it promotes hate.

The furor reached a boiling point when videos were leaked to the media of Disney executives discussing plans to promote the LGBTQ+ agenda in children's programming. One of those executives, Karey Burke, president of General Entertainment Content, vowed during a conference call with other employees that 50% of Disney's characters will be either LGBTQ+ or racial minorities by the end of this year, as part of something described as the "Reimagine Tomorrow" campaign.

Latoya Raveneau, executive producer of Disney Television Animation, said on the Zoom call that she assumed Disney would keep LGBTQ+ themes or characters out of children's content,

but that she was pleasantly surprised when they didn't. Raveneau admitted to having a "not-at-all secret gay agenda." Meanwhile another Disney employee, production coordinator Allen March, said in the recorded call that his team is committed to "exploring queer stories" to make sure the shows include enough "gender nonconforming characters."

Cindy Jacobs Prophecies: The Lord Says, 'Go Back to Studying the Power of the Blood'

I want to tell you about a little vision I had. Actually, I was in church last Sunday and I had this incredible vision of a container of water, but it was very cloudy. It looked very polluted.

I felt like this symbolized the problems in our lives and the frustrations we're having. In other words, there are these things in our containers within ourselves that are really disturbing us. But I saw one drop of blood from the Lord just fall in, and everything was instantly cleansed.

The Lord would say to you, "There are many things going on in your life, but haven't I shed My blood for freedom? Haven't I shed My blood so that you could appropriate my Scripture? So that you could appropriate who I am? Go back to studying the power of the blood."

Prophecy: God's Army Is Emerging Locked and Loaded

I see a spiritual army rising up, weapons of warfare in place and faces set; completely focused on Jesus and what He has asked them to do. This is an army not to be messed with and not to be taken lightly.

Satan had tactics that he used to bring division among the body of Christ over the last two and a half years, but he has not prevailed entirely. There is a remnant that has gathered, stronger than ever before. The church has awakened, and many in the body of Christ have become serious warriors where they were once sitting on the sidelines.

A Clarion Call to Reunite

The Lord says that this is a *clarion call to reunite*. Those who have been wayward from church are now being called back to find home churches again. *It is time to find your place in the war*, and if you know anything about the military, this means being submitted under authority. In the kingdom, we are only as powerful as we are submitted. This is an exhortation to find your place in the body of Christ—to once again go back to fellowshiping closely with other believers, *reunited*. {eoa}

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Charisma Highlights: How Do We Respond to the Hillsong Scandal?

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How Do We Respond to the Hillsong Scandal?

Hillsong has been the most popular name in Christian worship for more than two decades, and the Hillsong network of churches has planted congregations in 30 countries since it was founded in 1983 in Australia. Its global membership is estimated at 150,000. But a series of scandals has rocked the movement in the last two years, prompting founder Brian Houston to resign last week amid charges of sexual impropriety and an alleged coverup.

The tarnishing of the Hillsong brand began two years ago, during the height of the pandemic, when Carl Lenz, celebrity pastor of Hillsong's church in New York City, was fired in November 2020 after it came to light that he had engaged in an extramarital affair.

Then last week, a documentary called *Hillsong: A Megachurch Exposed*, was released by Discovery Plus. The three-part film claims that the church not only mishandled accusations of sexual misconduct but exploited young ministry interns for cheap labor. In the film, former members of Hillsong share stories of feeling betrayed, manipulated or abused by church leaders, and the word "cult" is sometimes thrown around to describe the Pentecostal church.

Prophecy: The Lord Says, 'You Shall See the First Major Strike in April'

Shaking the Unshakable

"I am God and there is no other. I am the Alpha and Omega. I am the Creator of what is seen and unseen. The earth is My footstool. Do you think the redemption of your nation is really too difficult for Me, My children? I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I am the God of Israel. I am the God who sent My Son, Yeshua, to the earth; and the Word became flesh because I so love the world.

"I am the God who defies the laws of nature, who defies the laws of physics. I am the God who shakes governments. I am the God who knocks down podiums of those who are speaking blasphemies against My kingdom.

"I am the God who shakes what people think is unshakable," says the Lord thy God. "And I am the God, in this hour, who is going to begin to break up and to till and to 'swell' their wicked plans. A *swell* of their own making shall come upon them in this hour—a wave of their own making that they've been making for a long time. And their cup of iniquities has become

full, and in this hour, you will see Me pour them out.

Judge Katy Perry Mocks 'American Idol' Contestant's Christian Parents

American Idol judge Katy Perry—who was raised by evangelist parents—mocked the Christian parents of a 21-year-old contestant, asking him what “Satan music” he would be singing on the show.

It started after Perry asked Israel McFarland about his “interesting” name.

Perry, 37, then jokingly urged the *Idol* contestant to rebel against his parents by following in her footsteps, referring to her song, “I Kissed a Girl and I Liked It.” She told McFarland to make a male version of the song, “I Kissed a Boy and I Liked It.”

Christian Leaders, Please Don't Publicly Celebrate Your Liberty to Drink

I do not write this article to throw stones. I write it to save lives.

That's why I make this heartfelt (and anguished) plea: If you are a pastor or ministry leader and you believe that, according to the Bible, you have the liberty to drink alcohol (without drunkenness), please don't turn that liberty into a public boast, as in, “Look at how free I am!”

You can enjoy that freedom before God, with moderation and discipline. But please don't bash those who practice total abstinence. And please don't use your liberty as a club against legalism. Or as a proof of your spiritual maturity. Or as a demonstration of the gospel of grace.

The Supernatural Continues to Break Out During War in Ukraine

According to a CBN News report, Ukrainians are telling stories of divine intervention as the Russian invasion continues.

These reports are in line with a prophetic word I released

just before war broke out in Europe, urging intercessors to pray. God said He would show up and show out.

On today's episode, we are going to report some of the miracles happening in Ukraine, and let the prophetic word I released on the eve of war encourage us to continue praying.
{eoa}

Read articles like this one and other Spirit-led content in our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

'Voice' Winner Jordan Smith Stays Faith Forward With New 'American Song Contest' Win

Jordan Smith, Lee University graduate and Season 9 winner of NBC's *The Voice*, is parlaying his vocal talents and contest experience into success on the new NBC show *American Song Contest*, hosted by Snoop Dogg and *Voice* host Kelly Clarkson. Representing his home state of Kentucky, where he and his wife are worship pastors at Near Church in Bowling Green, Smith won the jury vote on Episode 2 last night with the debut of his original song, "Sparrow."

The win puts him in the semifinals along with Rhode Island artist and Episode 1 winner Hueston.

"I'm really excited to be able to sing for America again," Smith told the *Lexington Herald-Leader* in an interview ahead

of the show. He added that "Sparrow," which he wrote for the show, "represents the values and heart of what it means to be a Kentuckian.

"It's a message that I think the world needs at the moment," he said. That message includes the following:

"You might be bending, but you're not breaking/
You are a miracle in the making/
So if you're falling, it's a change worth taking/
On the horizon, the dawn is breaking/

"Sparrow, up and fly away/
There's a brighter day/
We don't have to stay here anymore.

"Little Sparrow/
We can own the sky/
There's a better world inside/
We don't have to stay here anymore."

Watch the video above or at [this link](#) and let us know if you agree that Smith's most recent offering is a winner! {eoa}

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The Best Gift You Can Give Your Future Spouse

Today's culture praises those who lose their virginity. However, God's will is for us to live in purity, in this case, sexual purity (). Here are a few reasons why you should value your virginity and wait.

Virginity Is Part of God's Design

Satan planted in Eve's head the lie that God was withholding good things from her. God's purpose in placing restrictions on sex is to protect those involved and one day bless the marriage, not to keep something good from you. Read Psalm 84:11.

Sex Is Like Superglue

Sex creates a supernatural soul tie between two people (Mark 10:8). Although your purity can be restored through repentance and faith in Jesus, your virginity is a gift intended for your spouse.

Invest Only What You're Willing to Lose

Intimacy outside of marriage brings temporary pleasure, but leaves hurt, pain, shame and sometimes sexually transmitted diseases or unwanted pregnancies, among other consequences.

Sex cannot be undone! It will distort your view of the other person, and you will be led by infatuation instead of love. Waiting will save you from regret and guilt, especially if you do not marry that person.

Abstaining from sex will enable you to develop friendship, trust and spiritual principles for a godly marriage. Marriage is more than sex; it is a companionship where you enjoy life together.

Practical Steps to Maintain Purity

1. Treasure God's Word (Ps. 119:11).
2. Consciously decide to not commit sexual sin (Job 31:1).
3. Walk daily in the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16).
4. Flee temptations (2 Tim. 2:2).
5. Live in purity (Matt. 5:8).

Your virginity is the best gift you can bring into your

marriage, to honor God, your spouse and yourself. Surrender to the Lord and allow Him to strengthen you to live a life of purity, before and during marriage. {eoa}

Vladimir Savchuk leads HungryGen movement and pastors a multicultural church with a clear-cut, focused vision to see the salvation of souls, healing, deliverance and the raising of young leaders. He leads the annual Raised to Deliver conference, which attracts thousands from all over the globe. He leads three different internships and is a sought-after speaker at conferences and camps.

Charisma Highlights: Prophecy: Chris Reed Reveals 15 Prophecies for 2022 and Beyond

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Prophecy: Chris Reed Reveals 15 Prophecies for 2022 and Beyond
Note: These prophecies were given at MorningStar Fellowship Church Fort Mill on Jan. 2, 2022, during the 11:00 a.m. service.

The Lord has shown me some things in the Spirit that we need to pray into regarding what is likely to happen in the coming season.

I am not saying all these things will happen by the end of 2022, but I do believe they are coming, and I am asking you to pray.

Ukraine Invasion: An Eyewitness Account From Mike Evans

While the world is focused on the war in Ukraine, I look for ways to provide eyewitness reports for Charisma readers. So, when I got a text a few days ago from my longtime friend Mike Evans, who had just returned from Ukraine, I asked to interview him for a recent episode of my *Strang Report* podcast.

I was astounded by what I learned and want to share it here.

In case you don't know, Evans is a bestselling author and longtime advocate of Israel. His interesting career has had him rub elbows with world leaders like Benjamin Netanyahu and Donald Trump. I've known Evans since the 1970s, and I like to call him "a force of nature." His many accomplishments garnered him a recent nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize, the first Pentecostal I'm aware of receiving this honor.

All Things Work Together for God's Good as Canadian Pastor Brings Forth Gospel in Prison

Not many outside Canada may be aware, but Pastor Artur Pawlowski, who has been waging spiritual war against the demonic elements in the Canadian government and has been imprisoned for it, is once again behind bars and has been in solitary confinement for nearly six weeks, his son, Nathaniel, told Flashpoint last week.

Nathaniel Pawlowski says his father's stay in solitary is "unprecedented" and this "has never before happened to a pastor in what is supposed to be a free and democratic society." But, he says, his father is in great spirits, is doing the work of the Lord in prison and is continuing to fight the good fight to which he has been assigned.

The younger Pawlowski said his father was arrested and jailed

in early February for preaching to truckers in a 20-minute speech at the Alberta-Montana border of the United States. The truckers had formed a blockade similar to that of the Freedom Convoy in Quebec in February. Artur Pawlowski was charged with mischief—which carried a \$5,000 fine—as well as aiding and abetting the blockade of the critical infrastructure of Canada and breaching one of his bail conditions from a previous arrest for allegedly not keeping the peace.

Benny Hinn: 3 Women Who Were 'One With God'

Very few people have gotten to the place of total transformation, perhaps because there aren't many willing to pay the price. But before the Lord takes me home, I want to get there.

A young pastor from Nigeria once asked me a powerful question. He said, "Is it possible to become one with God, and have you known people who were one with God?" I told him that of course it's possible because that was the prayer of the Lord in John Chapter 17.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20–21, KJV).

Jonathan Cahn Unlocks Biblical Template for End-Times Shakings

New York Times bestselling author Jonathan Cahn's book *The Harbinger II: The Return* revealed the ancient template behind the turbulent events that rocked the world in 2020 and which continue to shake the institutions, governmental structures and social norms Americans took for granted.

Now, as America struggles to return back to what many consider "normal," Cahn—author of *The Harbinger*, *The Harbinger II—The Return*, *The Oracle*, *The Book of Mysteries* and other critically acclaimed books—is set to unveil *The Harbingers of Things to*

Come. This riveting feature documentary based on Jonathan Cahn's bestselling and brilliant successes with *The Harbinger* series reveals the ancient mysteries that lie behind what is happening in America and the world today—and in the future.

In the groundbreaking documentary, Cahn opens an ancient template that begins in the writings of the prophet Isaiah and is repeated throughout the Bible. The span of years revealed in the template is that of 19 years from the time of an enemy attack on the land to the coming of greater shakings. In the case of America, the enemy attack came on Sept. 11, 2001. Starting from 9/11, the mystery points to the year 2020 as the 19th year, and the year that shakings will come to America. Cahn uses the template of ancient prophecies to reveal the meaning and timing of current events as well as to provide a glimpse and warning of things yet to come. {eoa}

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