

## **As America Has Done to Israel -- Update**

Gen 12:1 The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you.

Gen 12:2 I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, But I will curse those who curse you. And through you I will bless all the nations."

**Joel 3:1** "In those days and at that time, I will bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem Joel 3:2 I will gather all the nations. I will bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. I will judge them there. They scattered the Israelites, the people who belong to me, among the nations. They divided my land.

*The current economic meltdown that is beginning to negatively affect America and the whole world can be traced back to July 2007, when President George Bush gave a speech that marked a turning point in the relationship between Israel and the United States.*

For several months the President had little to say about Israel and his two state peace plan. Then on Monday, July 16, 2007, he gave a short but highly significant speech. This speech becomes one of the turning points in the United States of America's relationship with the holy God of Israel. It ranks with the speech that George H. W. Bush gave on October 30, 1991 in Madrid, Spain. Monumental events would soon follow this speech that would begin to shake America to its core.

He began the speech by stating he was the first American President to call for the creation of a Palestinian state.

He referred to the Israeli control of the Palestinian areas as an occupation.

He again called for two democratic states, Israel and Palestine.

The speech in part follows:

*More than five years ago, I became the first American President to call for the creation of a Palestinian state. In the Rose Garden, I said that Palestinians should not have to live in poverty and occupation. I said that the Israelis should not have to live in terror and violence. And I laid out a new vision for the future -- two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security.*

The President then continued with some statements that are directly contrary to God's prophetic word about the nation of Israel. He said that the Palestinian state needs to be contiguous. This means that Israel must be divided because 30 miles separates Gaza from the West Bank. He wants Israel cut in two so that Palestinians can have an unbroken state. He said America is prepared to lead the discussions to create such a state. Then he made the most dangerous statement: the final peace would involve Jerusalem. This means the dividing of Jerusalem and making the eastern section the capital of a Palestinian state.

The speech in part follows:

*These negotiations must resolve difficult questions and uphold clear principles. They must ensure that Israel is secure. **They must guarantee that a Palestinian state is viable and contiguous.** And they must lead to a territorial settlement, with mutually agreed borders reflecting previous lines and current realities, and mutually agreed adjustments. America is prepared to lead discussions to address these issues, but they must be resolved by Palestinians and Israelis, themselves. Resolving these issues would help show Palestinians a clear way forward. And ultimately, it could lead to a final peace in the Middle East -- a permanent end to the conflict, and an agreement on all the issues, including refugees and **Jerusalem.***

President Bush then stated that Israel has a clear path. This clear path was not to continue the occupation of the West Bank, (Judea and Samaria) but Israel's future lies in developing areas like the Negev and Galilee. For the second time, he used the terminology that Israel was occupying the West Bank. He called for removing the unauthorized outposts in the West Bank and the ending of settlement expansion.

This speech in part follows:

*Israel has a clear path. Prime Minister Olmert must continue to release Palestinian tax revenues to the government of Prime Minister Fayyad. **Prime Minister Olmert has also made clear that Israel's future lies in developing areas like the Negev and Galilee -- not in continuing occupation of the West Bank.** This is a reality that Prime Minister Sharon recognized, as well. So unauthorized outposts should be removed and settlement expansion ended. **At the same time, Israelis should find other practical ways to reduce their footprint without reducing their security** -- so they can help President Abbas improve economic and humanitarian conditions. They should be confident that the United States will never abandon its commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish state and homeland for the Jewish people.*

He then called for an international conference in the fall for advancing the two state solution. He said Secretary of State Rice would oversee the two state plan. The United States would take charge of creating a Palestinian state. He also called for the United States giving the Palestinians \$190 million in new aid.

This section of the speech follows:

*The world can do more to build the conditions for peace. So I will call together an international meeting this fall of representatives from nations that support a two-state solution, reject violence, recognize Israel's right to exist, and commit to all previous agreements between the parties. The key participants in this meeting will be the Israelis, the*

*Palestinians, and their neighbors in the region. Secretary Rice will chair the meeting. She and her counterparts will review the progress that has been made toward building Palestinian institutions. They will look for innovative and effective ways to support further reform. And they will provide diplomatic support for the parties in their bilateral discussions and negotiations, so that we can move forward on a successful path to a Palestinian state.*

In the one speech, President Bush touched every area of dividing the covenant land that God's word states will bring judgment on a nation. This speech very soon would have disastrous consequences for the United States.

While the President was giving this speech, the United States economy was rolling along without any serious setbacks. The stock market was on a four month rally, and at the time of the President's speech, it was near its all time high. The stock market surge resulted in an 8 percent gain since March 2007. On Thursday, July 19, 2007, the market closed at 14,000.41 for the first time breaking 14,000. The analysts attributed this rally to corporate buyouts, strong corporate profits and companies buying their shares. There was no talk of a recession or unmanageable debt.

The next day, Friday July 20th, the subprime mortgage debt implosion hit the stock market and the economy. On this day, the market fell 149 points. This was the start of the economic turmoil that shook America and the world. The economic instability that has rocked America can be traced directly back to the week President Bush called for a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital! On Monday, July 16, he gave the speech. On Thursday the Market reached an all time high, but then on Friday, July 20, the market and economy began to unravel.

The next week the market plunged nearly into an economic black hole. The stock market fell 311 points on one day and for the week it lost 4.23 percent. The dollar was plunging and oil prices surged. The world

economy was heading into trouble times. On July 27, the headline for the New York Times read: "*Global Stock Markets Tumble Amid Deepening Credit Fears,*" and on July 28, 2007 the headlines read: "*A Second Day of Declines Caps Worst Wall Street Week in Years.*" This occurred the week following President Bush's speech.

In August the stock market and economy reeled from the collapse of the dollar, surging oil prices, massive problems in the credit markets, and the collapse of the housing market. The entire world was shaking from what was happening to the United States economy starting July 21, 2007.

In 2005, mainly due to external pressure from the USA, Israel withdrew from the Gaza strip handing over control to the Palestinian Authority. Gaza has never been a Palestinian state. In 2006, Hamas a dedicated terrorist organization won an election to power in Gaza and became the neighbor from hell for Israel.

## **FROM WND'S JERUSALEM BUREAU**

Israeli spiritual leader: Katrina punishment for Gaza evac  
Blames disaster on Bush's support of Jewish withdrawal

"[Bush] perpetrated the expulsion [of Jews from Gaza]," Yosef said. "Now everyone is mad at him. This is his punishment for what he did to Gush Katif, and everyone else who did as he told them, their time will come, too."

One week before Katrina made landfall, Israel carried out the evacuation of 9,500 residents from Gaza's Gush Katif slate of Jewish neighborhoods and four Samaria communities. Residents were forced from their homes by Israeli troops, some dragged away kicking and screaming and placed on buses that took them from the area. The majority of former Katif residents are homeless while the Israeli government struggles to find permanent housing solutions.

The Gaza withdrawal was backed by the U.S. government. Some Middle East analysts and senior Israeli politicians entirely attributed the evacuation plan to pressure coming from the American establishment.

Yosef is no stranger to controversy. He recently declared God would strike dead "the evil one" responsible for the Gaza evacuation, referring to Sharon. He also once called on the Israeli army to "joyfully" annihilate Arabs with rockets, and prompted calls for his resignation in 2000 when he stated the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust died because they were reincarnations of sinners in previous generations.

But Yosef is not alone in highlighting what some are calling eerie similarities between Katrina and the evacuation of Gush Katif.

As WND reported, parallels in the two events' repercussions, names and numbers have started a firestorm of speculation on the Internet and even in some synagogues. Similarities pointed out include:

- Close to 10,000 Jews were expelled from their homes in the Gaza Strip and parts of northern Samaria. Katrina's death toll is now expected to reach at least 10,000.
- America's population ratio to Israel is about 50:1. Ten thousand Jews who lost their Gaza homes is the equivalent of about 500,000 Americans who are now reported to be displaced as result of Katrina.
- Gaza's Jewish communities were located in Israel's southern coastal region; America's southern coastal region now lies in ruins.
- The U.S. government called on Louisiana residents to evacuate their homes ahead of the storm. The Israeli government, backed by statements from U.S. officials, demanded Gaza residents evacuate their homes.
- Katrina, written in Hebrew, has a numerical equivalent of 374, according to a biblical numbering system upheld by all traditional Jewish authorities. Two relevant passages in the Torah share the exact numerical equivalent: "They have done you evil" (Gen. 50:17) and "The sea upon land" (Exodus 14:15).

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- Bush, from Texas, and Rice, from Alabama, were the most vocal U.S. backers of the Gaza evacuation. Hurricane Katrina hit the states in between Texas and Alabama – Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Similarity in scenes: Many residents of Jewish Gaza climbed to their rooftops to escape the threat of expulsion, while residents of the Gulf Coast climbed on their own rooftops to protect themselves from the rising waters. Jewish Gaza homes described as beautiful and charming were demolished this week by Israel's military. Once beautiful homes in New Orleans now lie in ruins.
- The day Katrina hit, Israel began carrying out what was termed the most controversial aspect of the Gaza withdrawal – the uprooting of bodies from the area's Jewish cemetery. There have been media reports of corpses floating around in flooded New Orleans regions.
- Citizens of Israel were barred from entering Gush Katif; people were only allowed to leave Jewish Gaza. As Katrina was making landfall U.S. authorities barred citizens from entering the affected areas. People were only allowed out.
- Gush Katif was an important agricultural area for Israel, providing the Jewish state with 70 percent of its produce. A New Orleans port that exported much of the Midwest's agricultural production was destroyed by Katrina.

In a Jerusalem Newswire op-ed discussing the similarities just before Katrina made landfall, writer Stan Goodenough commented, "Is this some sort of bizarre coincidence? Not for those who believe in the God of the Bible and the immutability of His Word. What America is about to experience is the lifting of God's hand of protection, the implementation of His judgment on the nation most responsible for endangering the land and people of Israel.

"While the 'disengagement' plan was purportedly the brainchild of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the U.S. has for more than a decade been the chief sponsor and propeller of a diplomatic process that has dangerously weakened Israel in the face of an overwhelming, growing

threat to annihilate her. ... Can't you see the link, America? Won't you see the link?"

Sadly, Prime Minister Sharon who was subtly but powerfully persuaded to evacuate Gaza suffered a massive stroke that has totally incapacitated him ever since. Some have linked this with

Psalms 137:5-6

5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill!

6 If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth  
If I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy. NKJV

Another Newswire piece quoted a Christian Louisiana resident in Katrina's direct path as stating, "[The hurricane is] a direct 'coming back on us' [for] what we did to Israel: a home for a home."

A blog on TheRaphi.com by Mideast pundits Paul Eidelberg and Israel Hanukoglu linking Katrina to the Gaza evacuation warned, "We urge the American people to remind their president that the evil the nations do to Israel always strikes them. Pharaoh, Haman, Hitler and all the leaders of nations that have opposed the will of God for His people have perished or ended on the ash heaps of history."

Billye Brim, a Christian prayer leader and founder of Billye Brim Ministries who had visited Gush Katif weeks before its evacuation, noted on her website: "Is there a connection between [Katrina and Gush Katif]? I believe so. Is this judgment? I believe so. And I must say it. Outright! Many won't like to hear it. Many won't agree. But I believe America is in danger and something has to be done. ... America needs to repent. From Bush, Rice and the State Department on down. America must repent for actively opposing God's plan for Israel as revealed in His Word."

WorldNetDaily the past week has received numerous letters from readers urging a Katrina-Gaza connection.

One letter stated, " I think you all are dancing around the real cause of the hurricane. Let me suggest to you that it is the wrath of God on our nation because President Bush pressured Sharon to take the homes from the Jews. ... I knew we would be punished on a large scale. I faxed letters and contacted Bush every way I could begging him not to go forward with that plan to evacuate Gaza but he did so anyway, and as a result we were hit in a week with a hurricane that will make history."

Perhaps the first to publicly connect Katrina to the Gaza evacuation was famed Israeli conspiracy theorist Barry Chamish, who sent a mass e-mail noting, "GUsh is like GULf, and KATif is like KATrina. If you take 'KAT' from KATif and KATrina, you are left with 'IF' and 'RAIN.' If you support Gush Katif evacuation, it will rain."

Chamish told WND yesterday: "Simple human beings cannot fully understand what is going on, but the events certainly must be connected. It's statistically impossible to have two such great natural disasters like the recent tsunami in Asia and Katrina right after each other. This is the hand of God. He is saying something."

Jerusalem Rabbi David Batzri also drew the parallel: "Divine retribution is meted out according to the principle of 'measure for measure,' just as the Jews were forced out of their homes as a result of U.S. pressure on Israel, so too are Americans being forced out of their homes."

## **Ottoman and British control (1517-1948)**

In 1517 Gaza fell to the Ottomans and was part of the Ottoman Empire until the First World War.

Starting in the early 19th century, Gaza was culturally dominated by neighboring Egypt. Though part of the Ottoman Empire, a large number of its residents were Egyptians (and their descendants) who had fled political turmoil.<sup>[2]</sup>

Following World War I, Gaza became part of the British Mandate of Palestine under the authority of the League of Nations.<sup>[4]</sup>

British rule of Palestine ended with the Israeli War of Independence in 1948.

## **Egyptian occupation (1948-67)**

*Main article: [Occupation of the Gaza Strip by Egypt](#)*

According to the terms of the 1947 United Nations partition plan, the Gaza area was to become part of a new Arab state. Following the dissolution of the British mandate of Palestine and 1947-1948 Civil War in Palestine, Israel declared its independence in May 1948. The Egyptian army invaded the area from the south, starting the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.<sup>[7]</sup>

Egypt never annexed the Gaza Strip, but instead treated it as a controlled territory and administered it through a military governor.<sup>[8]</sup> The refugees were never offered Egyptian citizenship.

During the Sinai campaign of November 1956, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula were overrun by Israeli troops. But International pressure soon forced Israel to withdraw.

## **Israeli occupation (1967-1994)**

Israel occupied the Gaza Strip again in June 1967 during the Six-Day War. The military occupation lasted for 27 years, until 1994. However, according to the Oslo Accords, Israel retains control of air space, territorial waters, offshore maritime access, the population registry, entry of foreigners, imports and exports as well as the tax system.<sup>[9]</sup>

The PA rule of the Gaza Strip and West Bank under leadership of Arafat suffered from serious mismanagement and corruption. Exorbitant bribes were demanded for allowing goods to pass in and out of the Gaza Strip, while heads of the Preventive Security Service apparatus profited from their involvement in the gravel import and cement and construction industries, like the Great Arab Company for Investment and Development, the al-Motawaset Company and the al-Sheik Zayid construction project.<sup>[10]</sup>

## **Palestinian Authority control (1994-2007)**

In accordance with the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority took over the administrative authority of the Gaza Strip (other than the settlement blocs and military areas) in 1994. After the complete Israeli withdrawal of Israeli settlers and military from the Gaza Strip on 12 September 2005, the Palestinian Authority had complete administrative authority in the Gaza Strip.

Since the Israeli withdrawal the Rafah Border Crossing has been supervised by EU Border Assistance Mission Rafah under an Agreement finalised in November 2005.

Israel continues to assert control over activities that rely on transit through Israel, as well as air space over and sea access to ports in Gaza. Israel approves all immigration to and emigration from Gaza via Israel, as well as entry by foreigners via Israel, imports and exports via Israel, and collection and reimbursement of value-added tax in Israel.

Prior to Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the United States considered the Gaza Strip to be an Israel-occupied territory. Following the withdrawal, no official US government statement has been made on the status of the Strip. However, the CIA World Factbook (an official U.S. government publication), which was last updated in 2007, continues to list the Gaza Strip as an Israeli-occupied territory.

Israel says that Gaza is no longer occupied as it does not exercise effective control or authority over any land or institutions in the Gaza Strip.<sup>[18][19]</sup> In the fourth section of The Hague convention of 1907, article 42 states defines occupation: 'Territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army. The occupation extends only to the territory where such authority has been established and can be exercised.' For some, it seems clear that Israel is in no such position regarding the Gaza Strip, as the IDF doesn't control any part of Gaza anymore. Israel doesn't administer any property belonging to Gazans (besides controlling all imports and exports) nor any means of transportation (except for the naval blockade). The Hague convention also implies that occupation is a condition applying between states. When the Israeli army left Gaza, an unclear legal situation was created, as Gaza does not belong to any sovereign state.

Hamas won the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections. However, when a Hamas-controlled government was formed, continuing to refuse to recognize Israel, renounce violence and agree to honour agreements previously made by the PLO, Israel, the United States, Canada, and the European Union froze all funds to the Palestinian government. They view Hamas as a terrorist organization.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In December 2006, news reports indicated that a number of Palestinians were leaving the Gaza Strip, due to political disorder and economic stagnation there.<sup>[21]</sup>

