

Isaac and Ishmael Israel, Arabs and the Middle East Part 6

by John Bell, President Light to Israel

Isaac and Ishmael More Lies About the Middle East

Over the weekend I watched with amazement a special report called "Escape from Hamas." It was an interview conducted by correspondent, Jonathan Hunt, of Mosab Hassan, the son of one of the founders of Hamas. Hassan was also a leader of the radical Islamic Youth Movement, fought Israeli troops and celebrated suicide bombers. Hassan began to question his own beliefs while a prisoner in an Israeli prison. As he observed first-hand the terrorist Muslim thugs in the prison itself, he began to realize the truth about Hamas and radical Islam. He now sees this movement as a betrayal to the Palestinian cause as well as people who torture their own members and will never honor any ceasefire with Israel.

Mosab Hassan began reading the Bible and was struck to the core with Jesus' command to "love your enemies." He knew that nothing like that existed in the Koran. Ironically, he is now under an Al Qaeda death threat since becoming a Christian.

Hassan said many intelligent and fascinating things in the interview but the most fascinating statement came in response to a question as to the nature of the Koran. To paraphrase, he said that the Koran was anything that you wanted it to be. If you wanted to use it to justify killing, you could justify killing. If you wanted to use it to justify peace, you could justify peace. (Some might say that you can do that with the Bible to which I would respond that you can't find anything in the New Testament to support that claim). If what Mosab Hassan said is true, this would explain the confusion about the true nature of Islam. In fact, it is duplicitous. It is deceptive by design. I am certain that there are many kind, wonderful well-meaning Arabs who are sincere in life pursuits. But if the basis of your belief system promotes whatever convenient truth that your heart is set on, then it is not a foundation for genuine faith at all, but rather a clever cover-up for the evil machinations of selfish people. All

of us are very adept at justifying our own bad behavior. Nothing works better than a lie, especially if we believe it. As soon as I heard Hassan's statement, I thought of the words that Jesus spoke to the Jewish religious leaders of His day, "For you are the children of your father the devil and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44

Lies are the main strategy of the devil. He lied in the garden of Eden and he's been lying ever since. He had the audacity to try to deceive Jesus with lies. Our world is filled with his work especially in the Middle East, specifically in the struggle for the land of Israel.

In our last article on Isaac and Ishmael, I gave you the first three lies used to attack Israel and the real "war behind the war." In this article, I want to give you one more.

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#4 Israel is the aggressor and bears the most responsibility for the war and bloodshed against the Palestinians.

The modern history of the state of Israel is a story of Jews defending themselves from attack against their Arab neighbors. In 1947, the United Nations decided to allow for the creation of two states in the land called Palestine: a Jewish State and an Arab state. The land which the U.N. had parceled to Israel was a thin strip of land divided at its center not including Jerusalem. The Arabs were given a better and larger piece of land for their state. Yet, despite its disappointment, the leadership of the Jewish Yishuv (Return) accepted the ruling. They pleaded with the Palestinian Arabs to do the same, and so live in peace.

By May of 1948, when Israel decided to declare her statehood, the land had been cultivated by the Jewish chalutzim over the past 50 years into a country with some lush farmlands, and a land greatly to be desired. The Arab nations surrounding Israel told the Arabs dwelling within Israel's borders to reject the United Nations offer, and to leave their homes the day Israel declared statehood. The mufti of Jerusalem, who was the Islamic leader in Palestine, declared jihad (holy war) on the Zionists. (He had become a personal friend of Adolf Hitler during World War II, on the basis of their mutual desire to obliterate the Jewish people.) The Arab Powers promised to attack and "push the Jews into the sea", after which the Palestinian Arabs could return and have all the land. When statehood was declared, the Arab armies attacked.

They lost.

In their violent gamble for all the land of Israel, the Palestinian Arabs lost most of the land which the U.N. allotted to them. The surrounding Arab nations, rather than helping the Palestinian Arabs who fled and had no homes to which they could return, refused to grant them permanent asylum and kept them as homeless refugees in order to continue using

them as political pawns.

In 1967, when Gamel Abd El Nasser of Egypt made his play for control of the Middle East, Jordan joined in his attack on Israel and lost the "West Bank" of the Jordan River which had been under its control. The Israeli army took territory which included East Jerusalem and the biblical territories of Judea, Samaria, and Ephraim. Israel also took the Gaza Strip and the Sinai but gave Sinai back to Egypt in the 1980's as part of the Camp David Peace Accords.

It is crucial to note that Israel gained all of her territories back through legitimate defensive warfare. Israel has never launched a territorial expansion attack. Israel has never initiated any military action to gain land from its Arab neighbors. Never.

In 1993 at the Oslo Peace Accords, Israel turned over parts of the West Bank and Gaza to the Palestinian Authority and agreed to a complete withdrawal within five years if the P.A. would live in peace. Yassar Arafat never kept his part of the agreement. Suicide bombers continued to threaten the safety of Israel. In 2005, Israel withdrew completely from Gaza and Hamas agreed to a cease-fire. In 2006, Hamas won the Palestinian Authority legislative election. In 2007 in a bloody battle, Hamas seized control of Gaza and began rocket attacks on Israel.

In 2008, Egypt mediated a truce to help end Hamas rocket attacks on Israel. By November the truce was frayed as Hamas rockets continued to be fired. On December 27, Israel launched defensive air strikes against Hamas in an effort to halt the rocket fire. A week later Israel launched a ground offensive. Before the Israeli attacks, thousands of Palestinian civilians were warned via cell phones by Israel to flee the area of attack. Israel has no desire to take back Gaza or the West Bank. What they want is to live in peace. The blood of the Arab people is on the hands of their own leaders who conveniently lie to justify their terrorism.

In our next issue, we will examine two more lies:

#5 Muslims only want Jerusalem because it is a prominent holy site for Islam.

#6 Palestinians have suffered enormously under Israeli rule.

I want to close this article as I did my previous one. Our purpose at Light to Israel is not to vilify Arabs. We understand that just as many Arab leaders are telling lies to the world, they are also lying to their own people. These leaders have a sinister force behind them as well. He is a liar and a murderer and he is the one speaking into their souls. The Devil hates God and Jesus. He also hates the Jews because they represent a covenant relationship with God. In Ephesians we are told that there is an unseen but utterly real dimension that Paul calls the "heavenly realms." The heavenly realms represent our thought life, our attitudes, our inner life, our behavior--the place where we experience conflict, pressure, struggle, temptation, disaster and triumph. It is the place where we are exposed to the attack of the principalities and powers of Ephesians 6--those dark spirits in high places who get to us and, if successful, cause us to believe lies.

We believe that this is the war behind the war. Lies that lead to hostility are being told. The end result is death and destruction for Arabs as well as Jews. But this realm is also a place where Jesus Christ is on the throne. It is a place where He intends to conquer. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." No place on the planet is more hotly contested than the real estate called Israel. The people of Israel and the people of the Middle East urgently need the people of God to pray that the truth will be

told and that their hearts will be enlightened to hear it. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

John Bell

