

Israel News From David Dolan  
March 2, 2003

Shalom from Jerusalem,

Below is my promised look at ongoing world attempts to establish a Palestinian state inside the biblical Promised Land in the coming days. It is a bit long, but I believe the topic is crucial enough to receive adequate treatment. Please set aside the ten minutes or so that it will take to carefully read it when you can.

Israelis are less worried for themselves today, and more for US and British forces, in light of this weekend's news. The good news is that a "senior security official," probably Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, told reporters late Friday that while war is expected in the region by mid-March, it will not affect Israel directly. "Israel will not be involved, and will not be at war," he optimistically stated, while adding that he was concerned over potential Arab terror attacks upon Jewish targets around the globe, and over Syria's new Scud D long-range missile that can strike every part of Israel carrying non-conventional warheads.

Last night's narrow Turkish parliament rejection of the stationing of US forces to the north of Iraq is a severe blow to American war plans, say today's Israeli newspapers. In fact, the Jerusalem Post headlined the story on its front page, and it also received prominent coverage in all other Israeli papers. Still, analysts agree with the government assessment that President Bush will order his armed forces into action by the middle of the month, even if the Turkish decision is not reversed. Most say that Iraq's weekend decision to destroy its short range missiles basically insures that the US and Britain will lose any UN vote sanctioning war, probably prompting President Bush and PM Blair to go it alone during the next two weeks, before the moon becomes full on March 18.

A few readers objected to my call for special fasting and prayer for Monday, March 3. It was not based on any one group's similar call or conditions, which I was not really aware of nor necessarily endorse. I urged all to pray in a concerted way (and I knew many already are doing that) due to the fact that a major Mideast war is apparently looming. It is seemingly not going to start on the best terms desired by Western military planners due to the Turkish impasse and the deadlocked UN process. If you choose to pray every day from now on in a concentrated way, and to fast as well, all the better! May the Lord bless you abundantly this new week.

**IMMINENT PALESTINIAN STATE:  
A RECIPE FOR JUDGMENT?**

Anyone speaking of looming divine judgment is bound to meet fierce resistance, as the ancient Hebrew prophets discovered. That is actually a very positive thing. Any word of warning that claims to come from the very Creator of the Universe must be severely tested before it is even tentatively accepted. The Bible tells us that the ultimate proof is whether or not the word comes true. False prophets seemed to outnumber real ones in ancient days, and that is undoubtedly still the case today. In fact, many Christians and Jews do not even believe that divine utterances are given to humanity any longer.

However one views contemporary "prophecy," those ancient Jewish seers that were long ago accepted into the biblical canon still speak to us today. We can fully rely on their authenticity. They clearly spelled out the general criteria for God's judgments throughout history, not only for their own time. Sin, in its various

personal and national manifestations, is what brings on God's divine retribution.

As recorded throughout the Bible, God's beloved chosen people, the Jews, were the main targets of His sovereign judgments. This merely confirms God's primary role as Heavenly Father, as well as ultimate Judge and Guide. The sentences He pronounced through His prophets were usually not designed to destroy or annihilate, but to bring repentance, correction and reproof.

### **WHY NATIONS ARE JUDGED**

The Gentile nations—also much beloved by God—were similarly subject to divine judgment, and will be again in a special way at the end of time. Among the non-Israeli national sins listed as provoking God's righteous rebuke is the forced division of His Promised Land, as recorded in Joel 3:2, and also in Ezekiel 36 and elsewhere. We are told in Ezekiel and many other scriptures that the heart of the land is the hilly spine that runs from Mount Gilboa and Shechem (today's Nablus) in Samaria, south to Hebron in Judea. Of course, at the center of that unique piece of real estate—and indeed of the entire world—is the city of Jerusalem (Ezek. 5:5), from where I am writing this missive today.

The prophecy delivered by the mouth of Joel is particularly poignant. It clearly refers to an end-time judgment that falls upon all nations. They are actually drawn into "the valley of Jehoshaphat" (Hebrew for the "valley of Y-h-w-h judges") for this event, scheduled to take place at the final climax of history.

The seer reveals that the nations will be judged for two specific things, both of them concerning His covenant Jewish people: They have scattered the rightful residents of the Promised Land among the nations, and they have divided up His land. The scattering obviously occurred in ancient times, especially after the Assyrian, Babylonian and Roman conquests of the land. However, it is not inconceivable that another dispersion still lies ahead (a partial one is prophesied for Jerusalem in Zechariah 14), although I believe the scriptures make clear that the restored Jewish people are basically here to stay.

### **HAPPENING TODAY**

As I detailed in the first chapter of my latest book, *Israel in Crisis*, the Lord revealed via His ancient Jewish prophets that He would regather His primary covenant people in the "last days" from "the four corners of the earth" (Is. 11:11-12). That is obviously happening in our time (I do regular immigration reports as a journalist); with nearly half the Jews on earth now back home in their Promised Land. Those scholars and teachers who maintain that the Bible did not foretell the current ingathering appear increasingly ridiculous as the literal return from all over the globe continues apace.

The British, who drove the occupying Turks out of the holy land during World War I, promised the Jewish people a "national home" within their ancestral borders, including the hilly regions of Samaria and Judea. That promise was later sanctioned by the League of Nations. The state was finally created in 1948 after an affirmative vote by the United Nations. However, the UN also insisted that the land be divided into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem—like a misplaced island—left as a separate UN-run zone. Israeli leaders reluctantly accepted the proposed partition since, in the holocaust's horrendous wake, a small state was better than no state at all. Driven by Islamic theology, the Arabs rejected the partition plan and quickly declared a jihad war to destroy the nascent Jewish state.

The hilly region of Judea and Samaria, and the eastern half of Jerusalem, was

captured and administered by Jordan until the entire area came under Israeli control during the 1967 Six Day war. Secular Israeli leaders immediately offered to withdraw from their ancestral heartland in exchange for a final peace accord. The Arabs rejected the offer, and went back to war in 1973.

The nations have been working hard to implement the UN partition plan ever since, and thus to force Israel out of “occupied” Judea, Samaria and at least part of Jerusalem. The Kremlin tried to accomplish this by armed might, supporting Egypt and Syria in the 1973 war. The powerful Soviet Union, created in 1917, fell to pieces a mere 18 years later—a stark warning, I believe, to all who touch the apple of God’s eye.

### **AMERICA ON FIRST**

The main country spearheading the expulsion efforts in recent years, but in a more peaceful way, is the United States of America, supported by the European Union and post-Soviet Russia. The efforts went into full gear after the 1991 Gulf War, when President George Bush prodded a very reluctant Israeli PM Yitzhak Shamir to attend an international peace conference in Madrid. It led two years later to the preliminary Oslo peace accord. As part of the Oslo pact, the PLO agreed to end its “armed struggle” against Israel in exchange for increasing chunks of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The contours of a Palestinian state, and the status of Jerusalem, was to be decided in “final status” talks to be completed by 1998, under US tutelage.

Despite the fact that terror attacks against Israelis actually increased three-fold as the gradual land handover was taking place, various Israeli governments kept the Oslo commitment to cede large portions of Judaism’s heartland to Yasser Arafat. The Oslo-skeptic Binyamin Netanyahu even withdrew IDF forces from most of Hebron in early 1997. The main reason the land handovers continued, although at a slower pace, was because of heavy and consistent pressure from the Clinton administration. This came despite intensifying terror attacks, and other Palestinian violations of the peace accords like regular incitements to violence on PA television, and occasionally from Arafat himself. The Palestinians set up most of the infrastructure of their pending state during this time, establishing a large armed paramilitary “police force,” communication networks, air and sea ports, etc.

When Oslo’s delayed “final status” talks reached their climax at Camp David in July 2000, Israeli PM Ehud Barak agreed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on some 95% of the land captured in 1967, including most of the Old City and surrounding areas of eastern Jerusalem. Ignoring support from Bill Clinton, Arafat rejected the offer and reverted to violence. His deadly “Al Aksa” conflict has claimed over 2,000 Palestinian lives since late September of that year, a majority of them active combatants. Meanwhile over 750 Israelis have been slaughtered, most of them non-combatant civilians, including whole families wiped out in some of the most atrocious terror attacks in recorded history.

### **IMMINENT PALESTINIAN STATE**

Punishment for the ongoing terrorist violence is seemingly going to be the imminent establishment of a Palestinian state! Over two and a half years into the conflict, the United States is apparently about to launch a major war in nearby Iraq; one of the sponsors of Arafat’s uprising. On the eve of battle, the son of the Madrid peace conference sponsor, George W. Bush, has vowed once more to establish a Palestinian state in the Jewish heartland soon after the dust of battle subsides.

In a speech delivered on February 26th, the President restated longstanding US

government policy that Israel must “stop all settlement building in the occupied territories.” His main ally, the United Kingdom, agrees with that call, insisting that the establishment of a Palestinian state will be the top government priority after Saddam is taken care of. Analysts say both big powers seem to be attempting to placate riled Muslim world opinion, which fiercely opposes an attack upon Iraq and demands that Israel instead be the focus of UN sanctions and ultimate military action.

To his credit, President Bush also repeated that he will not insist that Israel accept a potentially dangerous Palestinian state until Arafat or his successor enact real political and financial reforms, and end terror attack upon Israeli civilians. However, the other Quartet partners are far less concerned about this precondition. This means the US may end up modifying its view, or at least not really enforcing it, as has occurred before. In other words, a reluctant Ariel Sharon may be strong-armed to accept a Palestinian state in the near future that does not meet all of his strict conditions—which will threaten his rule and his people’s security.

In light of current world realities, US and UK backing for the imminent creation of a Palestinian state seems quite logical. Indeed, even a majority of Israelis, led by Sharon, are not opposed to such a state, but ONLY if it truly abandons published Arab goals of destroying the small Jewish state and ends all terrorism. Knowing many Palestinians myself, and empathizing with their difficult plight, this is the way I feel as well. However as of today, there is precious little evidence that Yasser Arafat, or any other Palestinian leader, is either willing or able to meet those reasonable conditions.

Under the circumstances, Israeli leaders would be inviting the Ultimate Suicide Attack upon themselves if they gave in to intense Western—and especially American—pressure to allow such a state to arise in the coming months, just a stones throw from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Yet, George Bush and Tony Blair—facing worldwide Muslim opposition to their controversial Iraqi policy—repeatedly insist it will be so. In doing so, they are inviting at least some degree of divine retribution, in my considered opinion. Being an American citizen myself, and quite privileged to be so, I am very sad that they seemingly intend to win back Islamic support at the expense of tiny Israel.

## **MY COUNTRY**

I have watched and reported on the Oslo “land for peace” process very closely since its inception. I was told in the mid-90’s by an Israeli negotiator that then PM Yitzhak Rabin only agreed to go along with the risky Oslo process after UN leaders came to him privately to warn that economic sanctions—supported by the US and the EU—would be enacted if he did not start withdrawing from the disputed territories during his term in office. Despite having little faith in Arafat, Rabin then signed on the dotted line. This controversial act nearly provoked civil war in his land, and led to his tragic assassination.

Although many of my fellow Americans don’t seem to realize it, historical facts show that it is our country that has done the most to force surrounded Israel out of her ancient and modern heartland. Now, with another major war pending in the explosive Middle East, US leaders are again declaring their intention to push most Jewish “settlers” out of their biblical heartland (and by implication the holiest part of their capital city). Put more bluntly, they are planning to formally re-divide the land.

It is certainly true that the expanding European Union, Russia and others are also pushing hard for a land division. But no other power even comes close to the

United States in the influence it exerts—for good or ill—over the miraculously re-born Jewish state of Israel. This is due to many factors, including the generous financial aid that Washington sends Jerusalem each year. But that welcome aid comes with substantial strings attached. If Uncle Sam speaks, Israelis governments must listen. They can, and often do, ignore the Europeans and Russians, but rarely the Americans.

### **INVITING JUDGMENT**

To me, taking on the evil Butcher of Baghdad, which will further antagonize the already seething Muslim world, is extremely dangerous under these circumstances. Neither America nor Britain has fought a major war since the deadly Oslo process was fobbed upon a wary Israel in 1993. I sense in prayer that the pending conflict in the territory of ancient Babylon might offer an opportunity for at least some measure of divine retribution from the One who warned that He would render judgment over this issue. I sincerely hope I am wrong about that, and do know that prayer changes things. I am also gladdened that some prominent Christians, like Gary Bauer, have alerted President Bush about the dangers inherent in dealing wrongly with the Lord's special land.

I realize that it is hard to read these difficult words (it is not easy to write them), and that some will accuse me of despising my beloved homeland and its current leaders. The reality is that I write this now because I love my birth-land very much (and am rather fond of the UK as well) and care deeply for its welfare. In light renewed calls from George Bush and Tony Blair for a Palestinian state to arise soon in Judea and Samaria, I believe that I would be remiss if I did not point out the land division warning found in Joel 3 at this crucial juncture in history.

Of course, Israel herself may also come under some degree of additional judgment (I see the current violence and economic stagnation as at least partially that) for having bowed to well meaning, but misguided international pressure in exchange for temporary financial gain. I think some degree of judgment could be on the horizon for my beloved adopted homeland, especially if war breaks out with Syria.

### **STILL ON STAGE**

Despite living in Israel since 1980, and loving life here very much, I am neither Jewish nor an Israeli citizen. I have been a Gentile American from birth, and will undoubtedly die that way (or at least pay US taxes until then!). America is a great and unique nation that is NOT about to disappear from the map, in my opinion.

I believe that unlike some other countries, any judgment that America or Britain incur in these last days is primarily designed to be remedial. God sees the many good things—including support for Israel—that comes out of these lands, as well as the bad. His judgments are just and fair.

I suspect that the extremely powerful USA may end up in the coming months or years like the Soviet Union—falling rapidly from its lofty superpower status and ending up a shell of its former glory, but still a significant player (as Russia is) on the world stage. The prophet Daniel foretold that the center of gravity would be located in the Old World in the last days, and especially in the area where the ancient Roman Empire was headquartered. But after a short period of time, it will shift further east, to Jerusalem. The Lord will ultimately return to Zion, and rule from the midst of Jerusalem, not Rome or Berlin.

Obviously, the Sovereign Lord may chose NOT to levy any judgment upon the USA at this time, for the land division or for any other reason (like its leading role in

worldwide pornography distribution and harrowing abortion totals). However, I strongly suspect that the September 11 attacks—which God at least allowed to take place, and to “succeed” beyond Osama Bin Laden’s professed expectations—was a stark warning of more upheaval ahead, probably connected to the Middle East.

Having said that, it must be recalled that Israel’s Eternal King takes into account heartfelt repentance, and delights in answering prayers for mercy.

For their own good, I pray that America’s leaders, and those of Great Britain and elsewhere, will lay off of struggling Israel at this time, or at least allow her to fully deal with her demonized enemies before insisting on the imminent creation of a high risk Palestinian state. There are some indications that this is exactly what President Bush has in mind, if not the other Quartet members. But while I pray, I must also point out that sacred Scripture warns that “dividing up My land” is one of the main reasons God said (not me) that judgment would come on the nations at the end of time.

As a Jerusalem-based Christian journalist, I will also never fail to note that the signs of the times, especially dramatic events here in Israel, are now shouting to the heavens that the end of this age—and therefore Messiah’s glorious return—is drawing very near. While preparing my sealed anti-chemical room like I did in 1991, but this time with an awesome view of the Mount of Olives out of my front window, I conclude with a loud AMEN to that!

“Sing for joy and be glad, oh daughter of Zion. For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord.” (Zech. 2:10)

## DAVID DOLAN Jerusalem

David Dolan is a Jerusalem-based author and journalist. A freshly updated edition of his best-selling first book, *Holy War For The Promised Land*, is now in its second printing. It is an overview of the history of the holy land, and bitter Arab/Israeli conflict that rages there. It especially looks at the role that militant Islam plays in the middle east conflict.

A new edition of his book, *Israel In Crisis: What Lies Ahead?* which examines the political and biblical prospects for a regional attack upon Israel and related topics is continuing to sell very well after being published in late 2000 by Baker/Revell.

You may order these books at a special discount price, along with a newly updated edition of his end time novel, *The End Of Days*, by visiting his web site at [www.ddolan.com](http://www.ddolan.com), or by phoning 888-890-6938 in North America, or by e mail at: [resources@yourisraelconnection.org](mailto:resources@yourisraelconnection.org)

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