

ISRAEL NEWS FROM **CALVARY CHAPEL** **JERUSALEM**

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH REJECTS ISRAEL & CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

Leaders of the largest Christian Presbyterian denomination have officially equated Israel with apartheid-era South Africa and voted to divest from Israel. The decision by the Presbyterian Church was approved 431 to 62 in a vote at the 216th annual General Assembly of the church, which has a membership of 3 million and a foundation and pension fund of \$7 billion.

The Protestant group is the largest organization or institution to join the divestment campaign against Israel. They are also the first Christian denomination to join the divestment campaign being waged on campuses and elsewhere against the Jewish State. The Presbyterian Assembly also voted overwhelming to condemn Israel's construction of the security fence and to officially disavow Christian Zionism as a legitimate theological stance.

<http://www.forward.com/main/article.php?refgreenberg200407141104>

Note from pastor Kevin: These actions by the Presbyterian Church are not surprising. For decades many of the leaders of this denomination have taught the heresy that the church has replaced Israel. They teach that God was angered that the Jews killed Jesus and as a result voided all of His promises to them as a special people. The scriptures teach otherwise:

Jer 31:35 Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): 36 "If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever." 37 Thus says the LORD: "If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the LORD. (NKJ)

BUSH MOVES TO LIMIT JEWISH EXPANSION U.S.

President George W. Bush is establishing a team of experts that will

conduct negotiations with Israel concerning the boundaries of construction in Judea and Samaria, with the purpose of limiting settlement expansion. The team will begin its work in a few weeks after Israel gathers all relevant data, according to an agreement reached between senior American and Israeli officials.

Bush wants to see land reserves kept for the future 'Palestinian' state. He has therefore demanded that Israel vacate outposts and freeze construction in older settlements. Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has pledged that construction will continue only within areas that are already built up, and therefore there will be no expansion of settlements. The establishment of the team shows that the Bush administration has decided to deal seriously and in detail with the issue of construction in the settlements, and to manage talks on the issue from Washington.

The limitation on building in the settlements will have a powerful impact on the agenda Judea and Samaria, because the discussions with Bush will determine the future borders of that region. Israel wants to focus first on the isolated settlements and to postpone discussion on the larger settlement blocs, which it sees as slated for annexation in a later agreement. (ENS)

Note from Pastor Kevin: President Bush is acting in accordance with his own understanding rather than trusting in the plan of God. Nothing good ever comes from doing things "man's way."

MOTHER AND CHILDREN SAVED FROM ROCKET IN THEIR BED

A rocket fired towards the western Negev this morning exploded through the roof of a house and landed on a bed in which were sleeping a mother and two children - and no one was hurt. "It's simply a miracle," said the local police commander. "There's no explanation how four people escape such a thing without a scratch."

The father later told the story to Ynet: "I was sleeping upstairs with two children, and my wife was sleeping downstairs with our 10-year-old son at her side, a one-month-old baby in her arms and another child in another bed in the same room. At 5:50 I heard a tremendous boom, and the entire house shook. I ran down, and when I entered the room, I couldn't understand what was going on. There was a burnt smell. My wife came out right away with the baby, and I went into the smoke and took out the other two. We were all in shock at first. The 10-year-old had pieces of plaster fall on him. My wife was burnt in her hand from the Kassam, because it penetrated the roof and got stuck in the middle of the bed - in the empty space between her and my son lying next to her. When she woke up from the blast, she put out her hand to my son - but she touched the Kassam instead and was lightly burned. She is a real heroine. I thank G-d for saving my family." (Arutz 7)

QUOTE TO NOTE

"I thank you for bringing the message of God to a world that did not know Him, and for continuing to carry that message in the face of thousands of years of persecution, suffering and death. As a Christian, I thank you for my faith that is rooted in yours. And as a Christian, I deeply, deeply apologize for the pain and bloodshed and deafness to suffering that we have hoisted upon you and your ancestors. May this never, ever happen again!"

So said U.S. Senator Sam Brownback (R, Kansas) in the Knesset on Monday, addressing Knesset Members by invitation of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus.

JERUSALEM TO BECOME WORLD'S FIRST WI-FI CITY

"Jerusalem rebuilt as a city that brings about connectivity" is a very rough translation of Psalm 122,3 - but it could be coming true, as modern-day city fathers prepare Jerusalem to become the first city in the world to enable full wireless connectivity to the internet.

The Municipality of Jerusalem, together with Intel and Compumat Computers, has embarked on a project to make Israel's capital the world's first wireless fidelity-enabled (WiFi) city, according to a Globes report. The organizers expect that within two years, users in most areas of the city will be able to surf the internet wirelessly. The WiFi connection will be free of charge throughout at least the first year. The WiFi transmitters installed throughout the city will enable an internet connection of up to 54 megabits per second (Mbps) at a distance of 1000-1600 feet, Globes reports.

WHY DOES THE WORLD HATE ISRAEL? (By Herbert London)

Israel is a tiny nation, roughly half the size of Lake Michigan. Its population is roughly half the size of the New York metropolitan area. Despite being a Jewish state, more than twenty percent of its residents are Arab and most Jews in Israel describe themselves as secular rather than religious.

Yet if one were to read world press accounts or daily condemnations from the United Nations or the recent decision of the ICJ criticizing the construction of the fence, you might conclude that Israel is a world power intent on destabilizing Middle East affairs.

Why, it might well be postulated, does the world resent this speck of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean?

Although my comments are speculative, I suspect they could be borne out empirically if historical accounts were fair and objective.

Israel is a thorn in the side of the Arab world because it is a remarkable technological phantasmagoria. Almost every Israeli is engaged in a software scheme. The Jews in this arid nation have made the deserts bloom; they have converted brain power into technical marvels and consequent wealth.

By contrast every nearby Arab nation is dysfunctional. Their governments are tyrannical; the people are poor and uneducated and local officials have been unwilling to convert oil revenue into social benefits.

Resentment is the natural result of this contrast. After all, Israel has all of the geographic disadvantages of its neighbors and it doesn't have any oil fields. Yet it prospers, while others falter.

Second, it should be hastily noted that Israel is a proxy for anti-American sentiment. The misguided belief that the U.S. is an imperial power eager to put its stamp on the Middle East is demonstrated by the aid and support given to Israel. Rarely, is it noted by U.S. detractors that American assistance to Egypt is equal to aid for Israel. Moreover, American involvement in Iraq was neither precipitated by Israel (Does the tail wag the dog?) nor has this engagement influenced Israel's relations with her neighbors in any new directions.

Third, the Palestinian question has awakened emotions on the European left and in many Arab states. Yet remarkably the critique of Israel is generally quite banal. Arafat, as putative Palestinian leader, was granted 97 percent of the West Bank and some control over holy sites in the negotiation at Wye Plantation. Yet he turned down these generous Israeli terms.

In fact, there aren't any terms that serve the ambitions of Arabs eager to destroy the state of Israel, unless, of course, national suicide is a reasonable negotiating point.

Fourth, the fence has the metaphorical power of the Berlin Wall. It is used for propaganda purposes to argue that Israel is intent on "taking Arab land" and isolating itself from Palestinians.

What should be noted is that the Berlin Wall was created to keep East Germans bound to the chains of communism, while the Israeli fence is designed to prevent suicide bombers from continuing wreaking bloodshed among Israelis.

Intifada II has resulted in at least a thousand dead Israeli citizens since 2000 and others maimed as well. It is incumbent on any leader of any nation to offer his people a modicum of security against those bent on bloodshed. If the fence reduces threats and increases security, Prime Minister Sharon should embrace it. His duty to protect his own people transcends any

obligation imposed on him from multilateral organizations.

Fifth, the Palestinians have made their case to the international court of public opinion more effectively than the Israeli government. They have positioned themselves as underdogs against a mighty military force from tiny Israel. They have persuaded many of their supporters that the land Israel acquired after the '67 war is "occupied" rather than "disputed" territory. Hence, their sanguinic tactics are ignored by opinion markers normally opposed to terrorist activity.

Sixth, the Palestinians manage their news media. There isn't an opposition voice in the Palestinian territory and if an unpredictable comment is made, it is often squelched with force. Reporters Without Borders has reported numerous occasions where journalists were beaten when they challenged Hamas or Hezbollah positions in print.

Israel, as an open and free society, entertains every point of view, including anti Israel arguments. As a consequence, criticism of Israel is widespread and criticism of Palestinian activity muted.

Seventh, the United Nations is now systematically organized to criticize the United States and Israel. It is instructive that in a statement emanating from the Secretariat's office condemning the construction of the fence, not a word was mentioned about suicide bombers who precipitated the construction.

As I see there is very little that can be done at the moment to change international opinion. Israel has an obligation to its own people to remain resolute against usually unfair and hateful allegations. For the Middle East this is the Dark Ages. But if the Arab world wishes to enter the 21st century – a far from clear conclusion – it will have to adopt and perhaps emulate much of Israeli life. On that slim reed, hope shall continue to exist.

(Herbert London is president of Hudson Institute and the John M. Olin Professor of Humanities at New York University. He is publisher of American Outlook magazine and author of the recently published book, Decade of Denial)

Note from Pastor Kevin: The most important reason the world hates Israel is because they ARE the chosen people of God. The Bible promises that in the last days they will be restored to their land (Ezekiel 36-37 and many other scriptures). The Bible also says the Messiah will return when the Jews are living in Israel and Jerusalem. The Bible teaches that the whole world is under the sway of Satan (1 John 5:19). If Satan can destroy Israel, then God will have been shown to be a liar who is unable to keep His prophetic Word. The reasons given by Herbert London above are symptoms of the real

problem. The real issue is that there is a spiritual battle going on and the Bible makes it clear who wins. I pray that you (the reader) are on God's side in this issue. If not, you are supporting the mother of all losers.

NEWS REPORT FROM JERUSALEM

This is a FREE publication, however, your financial contributions help us to continue sharing the "Good News" here in Israel while helping support the urgent needs of "Olim" (Jewish immigrants returning home from the Diaspora).

See For Zion's Sake's Olim Outreach at: <http://www.forzion.com>

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