

Hamis smuggles weapons through tunnel network under cities in Gaza. Their strategy is all about sneaking underground, past IDF defenses—and the world's understanding of what is truth and fiction.

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THE BACKDOOR TO YOUR FAITH

By **Shani Sorko-Ram Ferguson**

There's a reason why thieves go for the backdoor of a home. They know the front door is reinforced and designed to keep out unwanted people. But it's the backdoor that makes us vulnerable.

The same goes for our beliefs. There are things we hold solidly in our hearts. God is good. He is Holy. He is the Beginning and the End. The God of the Covenant who always keeps His promises. He never fails and He never changes.

If there is no doubt about God keeping His promises to every one of His followers, why

is there such confusion when it comes to God keeping His promises to Israel?

Simply put, the backdoor.

There are many common statements we've grown up with that weaken our core beliefs like, "When God says Israel, He doesn't actually mean Israel." Meaning, when God says something, He could mean something else entirely as His Word is an ever-shifting mystery. This logic, by the way, would never fly in a court of law. And while the initial effect is the psychological distancing of God from

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His people Israel, the real damage is done to God's character as a capable and reliable Father.

So, when the moment of Biblical truth comes and we are challenged, some believers find they are not as solid as they thought. As much as we want believers to support Israel, we want them to do it from a place of strength and understanding.

This Hamas war against Israel is a physical, psychological, and spiritual war. Thankfully, most of the physical battle is taking place in a limited area right now. So, we've compiled five tactics

being used against people watching the war from the outside.

You may have noticed these things yourself. You may have felt something was off but couldn't quite explain it. Hopefully, though, you will now notice these anti-Biblical tactics even more. We've also compiled a few (there are just soooo many!) scriptures to strengthen your faith in the God of Israel. So, having done all to stand—stand with us and see the victory of our God.

THE PHYSICAL WAR IS AGAINST ISRAEL.
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR IS AGAINST THE ENTIRE WORLD.

5 TACTICS TO WATCH OUT FOR

1 YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

Sharing emotional stories of pain while avoiding facts. This allows the a perpetrator to cause harm and then manipulate the painful story to point everyone's wrath at someone else.

2 IT NEVER HAPPENED

Denying the atrocities took place despite firsthand testimonies and extensive footage documenting it. This allows people to hold on to their sense of righteousness and justice while supporting a side that clearly doesn't live up to their standard.

3 INNOCENT CIVILIANS

Manipulating terminology. The western mindset allows for the term 'innocent civilian' so long as they are not an official part of an organization or dressed in uniforms. This means, people who store missiles in their homes, doctors who harbor terrorists, teachers who inspire students to murder Jews, ambulance drivers who transport weapons and mothers who raise their children to be martyrs are all innocent civilians. In Israel, on the other hand, most all Israelis go to the army at some point, and their very presence is viewed as an occupation. Therefore, there aren't really any innocent Israeli civilians.

4 YOU DID IT TO ME

Falsely accusing Israel of war crimes while committing those exact acts. This reduces the shock factor and creates a numbing effect on the issue. And when Israel presents actual evidence of the atrocity, the situation devolves into a he-said-she-said situation.

5 THEY AREN'T THEM

Challenging the legitimacy of the ancient Jewish people to separate them from anyone who would support them for being Jewish. All while attacking them for being Jewish.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL

One of the theological questions that have been raised among Christians is whether the Israel of today is the Israel of the Bible. Despite the long list of warnings in the Bible, **NOWHERE** in Scripture does it ever warn of a pseudo-Israel rebirthing the Hebrew language and inhabiting the land of Israel.

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins." ...for God's free gifts and his calling are irrevocable.

Romans 11:25-27, 29

Then I'll turn the land into a desolate ruin and her arrogant strength will come to an abrupt end. The mountains of Israel will become so desolate that no one will be able to travel over them." "Then they'll learn that I am the Lord, when I've turned their land into a desolate wasteland because of all of the loathsome deeds that they've committed."

Ezekiel 33:28-29

"Therefore this is what the Lord God has to say: 'I'm going to restore the resources of Jacob and show mercy to the entire house of Israel. I'll be zealous for my own reputation and for my holiness. They'll forget their shame and all of their unfaithfulness by which they behaved so unfaithfully toward me. They will live on their land in confidence, not in fear. When I bring them back from the nations and gather them together from the lands that belong to their enemies, I will demonstrate my holiness through them right in front of the eyes of the world, and they will learn that I am the Lord their God, who sent them into exile and who gathered them back to their land...I'll no longer hide my presence from them again when I pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel,' declares the Lord God."

Ezekiel 39:25-29

This is what the Lord says, who gives the sun for light by day, the laws that govern the moon and stars for light by night, and who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar. The Lord of the Heavenly Armies is his name: "If these laws cease to function in my presence," declares the Lord, "then the descendants of Israel will cease to be a nation in my presence for all time!" This is what the Lord says: "If the heavens could be measured above, or the foundations of the earth be searched out below, then I also would reject all the descendants of Israel because of everything they have done," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:35-37

I will surely restore my people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them. They will plant vineyards and drink the wine from them. They will plant gardens and eat the fruit from them. I will plant the people of Israel in their own land, never again to be torn out of their land that I gave them," says the Lord your God.

Amos 9:14-15

PALESTINIAN JEWS

AND OTHER HISTORICAL FACTS
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD ABOUT

By Ron Cantor
Introduction by Shani Sorko-Ram Ferguson

When people hit the streets to chant, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" we like to respond along the lines of, "Don't let the facts get in the way of your opinion."

Free from who? Free to do what? Please describe a time in which Palestine was free so we know what we're aiming for. Below are just 15 of many small facts about Israel and our region. Because we believe if people put as much passion into studying the topic they protest, they may actually find themselves on the right side of the fence.

1 PALESTINE WAS NOT AN ARAB NATION IN 1948 WHEN ISRAEL WAS CREATED. THE JEWISH PEOPLE DID NOT TAKE OVER SOMEONE ELSE'S COUNTRY.

- Great Britain, in fact, controlled that region of the Middle East until she grew tired of governing the volatile area and asked the United Nations to decide what to do with it.
- Before Great Britain was tasked with administering the region after WWI, the Turks had controlled it since the early 1500s. Turks are not Arabs.
- In fact, Palestine has never been the name of any country!

2 WHERE DID THE NAME "PALESTINE" COME FROM?

- The Romans!
- In an effort to rid Judea of its Jewishness, the Romans renamed the area Filistia (Palestine) in the mid-130s CE. They were tired of pesky Jewish uprisings (70 CE, 132 CE) and so decided to deport the Jews and change the name. The name came from the ancient Philistines, who have no connection to present-day Arabs. The Philistines were wiped out in 600 BCE by the Babylonians.
- It was a region and never a nation. There has never been a president of the State of Palestine or a government. It could be compared to New England, which is a region in America and has no government.
- Furthermore, the region of Palestine never had any connection with an Arab ethnicity.

3 THE UN PARTITION VOTE (NOV. 29, 1947) DID NOT MERELY GIVE ISRAEL AUTHORITY TO CREATE A STATE, BUT GRANTED ARABS LIVING ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE JORDAN RIVER ALSO TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT ARAB COUNTRY NEXT TO ISRAEL.

- Arabs rejected "Partition." They could have had their own nation in 1948, but they said no.
- Jews accepted "Partition," and on May 14, 1948, Israel was re-birthing.
- Arabs in the West Bank became part of Jordan, and in Gaza, they became part of Egypt.
- Arabs declared war on Israel the day after the UN vote. Five Arab nations, plus the local population, attacked the new Jewish state and lost.
- Again, they could have had peace and their own Arab nation but chose war.

4 WHEN THE PLO WAS CREATED, JORDAN CONTROLLED THE WEST BANK.

- The goal of the Palestine Liberation Organization was to liberate Palestine. However, the West Bank was already in Arab hands. Jordan controlled it. And Egypt controlled Gaza.
- The "Palestine" they wanted to liberate was Israel proper.
- In other words, if their goal was to create an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, then they would've been fighting Jordan and Egypt, not Israel!
- Of course, their goal was Israel's complete demise. Its original charter called for the liberation of all Palestine. Their maps make no mention of Israel.

NOTE: That does not mean that they are bad people. Each one of them was made in the image of God. We're not talking here about their value, which is great before God, but history.



19th century map, engraved and printed in England in 1845, depicting ancient Palestine

5

BEFORE ISRAEL WAS RE-BIRTHED IN 1948, ANY PERSON WHO LIVED IN THAT REGION WAS CONSIDERED PALESTINIAN: ARAB OR JEW. THE JEWISH-OWNED NEWSPAPER WAS CALLED THE PALESTINE POST.

Questions:

1. Why would any Jew name his newspaper after another people group?
2. Why would any Jew name his paper after an Arab country?

Of course, he would not. The word “*Palestinian*” never referred to an Arab ethnic group; remember, it came from the Romans. It was an invented narrative. That is why former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich referred to the Palestinians as an “*invented people*.”



6

JERUSALEM WAS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL UNDER KING DAVID. IT HAS NEVER BEEN THE CAPITAL OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY—INCLUDING PALESTINE. IT HAS NEVER (UNTIL ISRAEL CONTROLLED IT) BEEN SIGNIFICANT TO ARABS.

- In other words, you will not find these words in the Quran but in the Hebrew Bible: *If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.* (Ps. 137: 5-6)
- The Ottoman Empire ruled over Jerusalem for 400 years. It meant nothing to them, even though they were Muslims.
- It only became important to the Arab and Islamic world, after the Jewish people began to return and redeem the land.
- It should be noted that the Jews purchased the land and did not steal it. How could they? They were under Turkish rule. They started the Jewish National Fund and lawfully purchased land in Palestine.



Christine Kohler/Getty

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WHEN ISRAEL CAPTURED JERUSALEM IN 1967, IT WAS NOT FROM PALESTINIANS BUT FROM JORDAN.

Questions:

- Why didn't Palestinians demand Jerusalem when Jordan controlled it (1948-1967)?
- Why didn't the Jordanians create an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank in 1948? It was certainly within its power.
- The reason is simple. Jordanians made no distinction between Arabs who lived east of the Jordan and those who lived west of the Jordan.

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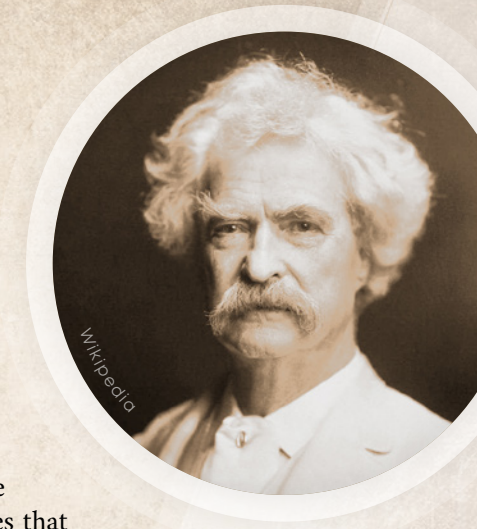
ISRAEL HAD NO PLANS TO ATTACK JORDAN DURING THE SIX-DAY WAR.

Jordan's King Hussein believed the false reports from Egyptian President Nasser of Egypt that they were winning the war against Israel. King Hussein, in hopes of getting more land, attacked Israel, and his troops were driven back over the Jordan River in a matter of days. That is how Israel ended up with Jerusalem in 1967. Taking Jerusalem was not one of the military objectives of the Six-Day War. It was a gift from Jordan.

Israel sent word to the king of Jordan through the United Nations that Israel would not attack their forces if they did not enter the war. Had they heeded that advice, Jerusalem would still be part of Jordan.



May 17, 1968—Israel celebrated its first year of a united Jerusalem and 20 years of Independence with a big military parade through the streets of Jerusalem.



Mark Twain

9

THERE IS NO LANGUAGE KNOWN AS PALESTINIAN.

Palestinian Arabs speak Arabic, just like Jordanians, Syrians and Egyptians.

10

THERE IS NO RICH PALESTINIAN HISTORY.

While Arab history in the Middle East is vast, you will not find history books that detail Palestinian culture going back centuries.

11

MOST OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE RELATIVELY NEW.

- Jordan was created in 1922 by Great Britain. They took 80% of ancient Palestine and created Transjordan. It achieved independence in 1946.
- The Syrians were under French control until 1946 when it became a nation.
- Lebanon achieved independence from France in 1943.
- Iraq became an independent nation in 1958.

These were nations created after World War I from within the Turkish Ottoman Empire. None of them existed before the San Remo Conference in 1920. The purpose of this conference was to decide which Allied nations would take responsibility for the different regions of the now-defeated Ottoman Empire.

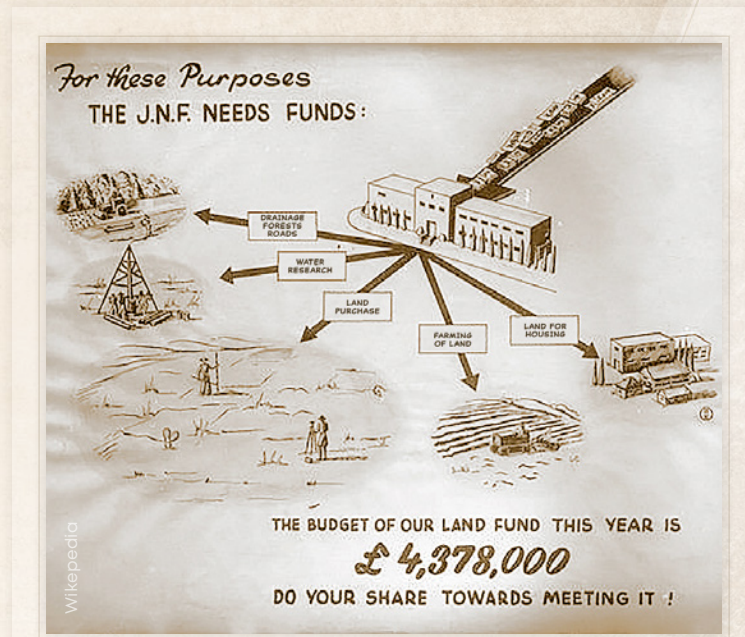
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THE TOTAL LAND MASS OF ARAB STATES (NOT EVEN INCLUDING NON-ARAB STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST LIKE IRAN AND TURKEY) IS 98.4% COMPARED TO ISRAEL'S 1.6%.

13

WHEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE BEGAN THEIR RETURN TO 'PALESTINE' IN THE LATE 1800s:

- The Turks, not the Arabs, controlled it.
- Every bit of land was paid for by the returning Jews—nothing was stolen!
- Even in 1948, when Israel declared independence, Arabs were invited to join the new state. Many did, becoming the most liberated Arabs in the Middle East, enjoying freedoms never known in Syria, Egypt or Saudi Arabia. (I regularly see Arab women taking driving lessons!) Israeli Arabs are the only Middle Eastern Arabs with full civil liberties, like freedom of speech and religion.
- However, roughly 800,000 Arabs fled Israel, assuming that the five Arab nations would crush the new Jewish state. The gamble didn't pay off, and they became refugees.
- The Arab nations did nothing to help integrate the refugees into their society but kept them in refugee camps until today.



Jewish National Fund campaign founded in 1901 for purchasing land during Ottoman and later British rule

14

ISRAEL WAS A SWAMP-INFESTED WASTELAND THAT NO ONE, INCLUDING THE ARABS, REALLY CARED ABOUT.

Until the Jews returned, the land suffered neglect for centuries. It was only after Jews came back and made the land prosperous and fruitful again that Arab interest in the area increased and the Palestinian narrative was invented.

15

RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM

The word Jerusalem or Zion (the mountain on which Jerusalem was built) appears nearly 1,000 times in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, whereas it never appears in the Quran.

This is a historical point, not an argument for superiority or racism against Arabs. God loves Arabs and made them to love Him. In the same way, He also loves the Jewish people and will not ignore the covenant he made with Abraham and confirmed with Isaac and Jacob. ■



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Ron Cantor is President and CEO of Shelanu TV.



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Dear Defender of Israel,

In Hebrew when the news talks about the war, there is always reference to the frontlines—referring to our military activities and the “rear”—referring to our citizens.

The Israeli Defense Force is tasked with defending our borders. However, should a terrorist sneak past the army into towns and cities near the border, a local security squad—first responder civilian volunteers with combat military background—will be dispatched to defend the town until the IDF arrives with larger forces.

This war changed everything. When thousands of terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7th, they spread out to dozens of villages simultaneously. The threat of infiltration was no longer just to border towns, but to cities all over Israel.

Every village, town and city is now putting together emergency squads. However, being

Getting gear! Civilian security squad men train in an empty local school as their village is under threat by Hezbollah.



Flash 90/ David Cohen

ISRAEL AT WAR

WHAT MAOZ IS DOING

Building a school! Mayor of Ra'anana city together with the head of Ra'anana Foundation show our team the construction site where Maoz is partnering to build a school for evacuated children.



Care for Kids! Maoz partners brought kindergarten and after-school supplies to Nazareth, where an entire school was evacuated from a village near the Lebanon border.



Every family is unique! So, Maoz provided gift card vouchers for families evacuated from villages near Gaza to purchase their own basic needs.

run by civilians, none of this is funded by the government. Which is why, once again, Maoz has been asked to help equip these dads, moms and granddads with gear to protect them so they can protect their families and neighbors.

Despite its ancient roots, Israel is a modern country and culture. The shift into a war zone has been very startling and demanding. But this shaking has also opened many doors for believers to engage in national needs where in the past we were shunned as a cult and traitors to our ancient Jewish roots.

This shift is happening for us because Maoz supporters have given us the ability to help significantly. Your voice is being heard loud and clear: Christians and Messianic Jews love and support Israel.

Working together to defend Israel,

Kobi and Shani Ferguson

Kobi & Shani Ferguson



REQUEST YOUR REWARDS NECKLACE

These necklaces are being worn by Israelis and people all over the world as a reminder to pray for the release of the hostages.

We wanted our partners to have one of their own! For a gift of \$50 or more for the war effort we will send you one of these made and printed in Israel.



ISRAELNEEDSME.COM

These children are refugees in their own country. Hamas has stolen their homes for now. But we can still protect their future.

Maoz is working with families who have fled their homes near Gaza and the Lebanon border. Together with our partners we have provided school and kindergarten supplies for hundreds of children.

ISRAEL NEEDS YOU. ISRAEL NEEDS ME.