

Israel News Desk

With David Hoyle

January 2014

Since I last wrote prior to Christmas the news has been dominated by the "Peace Process", the latest attempt, a determined one to impose on Israel something that would almost certainly be to their disadvantage. Speaking in Arabic Mr Abbas the Palestinian leader has repeated that any treaty which gives the Palestinians most of the West Bank will only be a stepping stone to their possession of the whole land of Israel. He further stated on another occasion he would never agree to the existence of a Jewish state, something which Mr Netanyahu has said is not negotiable.

Nor have the Palestinians withdrawn their demand for Israel to return to the pre 1967 borders and vacate East Jerusalem.

Mr John Kerry is reported to view the demands that Israel should be recognised as a Jewish state and is now the major stumbling block to an agreement and the US Secretary of State is said to be frustrated!

Mr Kerry is currently in Jordan and later will visit Saudi Arabia seeking support for possible Palestinian concessions.

Meantime the Palestinians are continuing their campaign of inciting hatred of Israel and are rejecting a suggestion from Avigdor Lieberman, Israel's Foreign Minister that they agree to allow Israel to retain their main settlement areas in Beit El, Hebron, East Jerusalem, Ma'ale Adumin, Ezion Bloc and other major settlements in any sacrifice of land. Mr Lieberman was a prominent hawk and is now somewhat changing his position. It may be however that he knows the Arabs will never settle for this! From a demographical point of view the above suggestion would help Israel by transferring prominently Arab areas to a Palestinian State. Mr Kerry has set both sides a target date of April to reach an agreement.

The whole question of territory is rooted in God's Word. In Genesis 15 God covenanted the land to Israel via Abraham and confirmed this through his son Isaac, Genesis 21v12. This land was minutely detailed later and allocated to the 12 tribes in the book of Joshua chapters 13 – 22. We know that peace will never come until the Messiah Yeshua returns to the Mount of Olives to establish His thousand year rule, any peace in the meantime will be a false peace that will not last, although one can hardly blame Israel for seeking peace for its people. Tragically they seek it in the wrong place.

Ariel Sharon The death of Ariel Sharon after 8 years in an induced coma has resulted in yet further suggestions that Israel should exchange land for peace, how totally misguided. It was of course Mr Sharon who gave up Gaza and evacuated all the Jewish settlements there, thinking that this would bring peace. The result was the reverse, thousands of rockets on Southern Israel.

Mr Sharon was following the example of Mr Begin who gave up Sinai and did secure a peace which lasts until today. However the evacuation of Gaza was a tragic mistake and to use Mr Sharon's desire for peace (a genuine one, if misguided) as a reason to further seek peace by leaving the West Bank, albeit partially, beggars belief when you consider what is still happening in Gaza.

Joe Biden, American Vice President who attended Mr Sharon's funeral suggested Israel could make concessions and brave decisions for peace as Mr Sharon had. Is he blind to what happened to Israel through this departure from Gaza!? Certainly Mr Sharon made a bad mistake in withdrawing Israel from Gaza but it should not detract from the fact that on more than one occasion his brilliance on the battlefield was used by God to save Israel from defeat – even annihilation. The Yom Kippur war was a case in point where his outstanding military know how and bravery turned round a war which was going badly against Israel and resulted in an outstanding victory when Israel might have taken both Cairo and Damascus if Russia had not intervened to halt Israel's advance.

UK Anti-Semitism is tragically rife in the UK.

St James' Church in Piccadilly erected a mock version of a wall that is part of Israel's security barrier and which has succeeded in ending suicide bombings by infiltrators. This has been described as a high minded, inarticulate event lacking compassion for the Jewish people. No reference was made to the Christians who live in the West Bank and are attacked, persecuted and expelled by their Muslim neighbours, an outrage the St. James' hierarchy they failed to address.

This church has previously hosted events where Israel's opponents sing versions of carols which decry the Jewish State.

The man behind the St. James' wall was none other than the arch enemy of Israel, Stephen Sizer, a founder of Sabeel (Arabic for 'path') who pursues supersessionism; the church is Israel and replacement theology. Sizer is obsessed by his hatred of Israel and despite serious complaints to the Anglican hierarchy they are unwilling to deal with him. Anti-Semitism is alive and well in the Anglican Church and Mr Sizer proclaiming himself an Evangelical!!

Melanie Philips wrote an open letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, quoting his Christmas day sermon *"The Christian meaning of Christmas is unconditional love received, love overflowing into a frequently love lost world"*.

She asked him how he reconciled this with St. James' Church Piccadilly who chose Christmas to turn itself into a church of hate. The church spent 8 months preparing its stunt. She went on, *"The inevitable effect of this wholly mendacious and malevolent travesty will be to incite hatred against Israel and all who support its defence against the war of extermination being perpetrated against it"*.

Facts about the wall:-

1. It does not surround Bethlehem
2. It is mostly a fence
3. It was constructed to prevent Israelis being murdered by the Arabs not to oppress Palestinians.

Richard Millett stated *"Israel is the victim of a mind bending campaign at demonisation and deligitimisation based on falsehood, libels, and gross distortions. Your Church Archbishop has become part of this sinister and wicked attempt to exterminate a country by reversing truth and lies in the minds of decent people."*

Melanie Philips closed her letter, *"to stay silent is to make the rest of the Church an accessory to this obscenity"*. Thank God for Melanie Philips who stands up for Israel and for Christians suffering world wide at the hands of Muslims.

William Hague has nothing good to say about Israel, has nothing to say about Christians persecuted worldwide and is now suggesting more arms for the rebels in Syria! The rebels are fighting each other and to arm them further when Christians are being slaughtered suggests there is an agenda!?

The BBC staged an Israeli *"land grab"*. Actors dressed as workmen informed business close to Israel's Embassy that they were seizing their property to extend the Embassy and had a God given right to do so!

One man amused by the claims made by the *"workmen"* was told your smile is a bit anti Semitic and you should wipe it off your face. How sick, but the BBC is sick.

Jeremy Bowen could only rake up all the bad news about Ariel Sharon in his report on Mr Sharon's death. Par for the course. Where is the BBC's Balen Report on anti Semitism on the BBC, never published and almost a million pounds spent preventing its publication?

Iran The negotiations to limit Iran's nuclear capability in Geneva admits they are not designed to stop an Iranian bomb. America admits that the best case scenario is that the time to produce one will be lengthened. The White House states, *"Israel is right to be sceptical"*.

Philippines Four residents of the Philippines have had their sight restored by an Israeli Medical team who are helping the victims of Typhoon Haigon. They said *"it's a miracle"*. Isaiah 42v6-7.

Bible Knowledge Quiz A Bible quiz in Israel had 1,000 participants and youths queuing in line to take part. How many churches could raise interest at all in a Bible quiz? Israel's Education Minister said, *"The Bible needs to be the road map of every leader, family and business manager"*. Michael Gove take note!

Tour of Israel 2015 Bob Waughman and I are thinking of a Spring 2015 tour of Israel. The itinerary will be published shortly. If you are interested please contact either Bob: 01243 771802 or David 01423 881803.