



Fire starting on Mt. Carmel

Israelnews, January 2011

“We have never known a tragedy of this scope”

Carmel forest fire disaster

Mt. Carmel (“God’s vineyard” or “Kerem El” in Hebrew) is a coastal mountain range in northern Israel, stretching from the Mediterranean Sea toward the southeast. In the morning of December 2, fire broke out and quickly spread in the dry Carmel forest and mountainsides.

Jewish communities Nir Etzion, Ein Hod, Ein Hawd and Yemin Orde were destroyed by the raging fire and thousands of Israelis suddenly became homeless with nowhere to go. Working tirelessly, firefighters and volunteers discovered bodies, mainly of the victims of the Prison Service bus that was incinerated in the fire.

“We have never known a tragedy of this scope,” said PM Benjamin Netanyahu after touring the northern communities. He immediately appealed for international help and soon other Mediterranean countries, Russia, the U.S. and European nations sent firefighters, helicopters and planes. By Sunday evening, December 5, the fires were under control—after claiming over 40 lives, destroying or seriously damaging several communities and burning down estimated 5,000,000 trees. Recovery from this disaster will take years. It is estimated that urgently needed temporary housing, rebuilding the communities and roads on Mt. Carmel area, will cost close to \$1.0 billion. In addition will be the costs of restoring the forest to its former glory.

As the news reported the loss of life on Mt. Carmel, our office sent a message of condolences to Benjamin Netanyahu on behalf of friends of Israel in the U.S. and Canada. On December 7, we received the following thanks:

“On behalf of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Government of Israel, we thank you for your condolences. Your warm words of support comfort us in these difficult times. Prime Minister’s Office, 3 Kaplan Street, Jerusalem.”

PA says *Helping Israel was disgrace*

More than half of the Palestinian Arabs in a survey done after the fires said that it was disgraceful that their “government” (the Palestinian Authority) helped Israel put out the devastating wildfires. The PA leader, Abbas, has won praise from the international media for sending PA firefighters to battle the blaze alongside Israelis and about 150 firefighters from other countries. The poll was a clear indicator of sentiments among average Palestinian Arabs. The poll highlights one of the main shortcomings of the Western-driven peace process. The international community is so determined to oversee a peace deal that they are ignoring the fact that the foundations for a true peaceful co-existence simply are not there.

Ministries committed to help

CFI-USA—together with CFI in Jerusalem—has established a relief fund to assist the victim families. Urgent appeals are coming in to help especially the families with temporary housing, household needs and other necessities. The Mt. Carmel families lost everything they had. Their disaster assistance will be an ongoing need for some time into the future. Please consider sending your gift today!



The burned bus where 40 prison guards lost their lives.

The invented Palestinian refugee issue

UN on Arab refugees

The outgoing director of the New York office of the UN Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA), a body established specifically to tend the needs and aspirations of the so-called “Palestinian refugees,” angered the Arab world in October by stating that those refugees will never be allowed to take up residence in Israel.

Speaking at the National Council for U.S.–Arab Relations, Andrew Whitney said that it was unreasonable to think that the peace process would end with Israel opening its gates to five million new Arab residents, and **“that the Palestinian refugees and their off-springs should be absorbed into the host nations.”** Whitney continued that if one doesn’t start discussions soon with the refugees about their own role in the societies where they are, rather than being left in a state of limbo where they are helpless but preserve the illusions about returning one day to their former locations in Israel, “we are storing up troubles for ourselves.”

Arab reactions

Neighboring Jordan, whose population is made up mostly of Palestinians, strongly condemned Whitney’s remarks. Saeb Erekat blasted the UNRWA official, insisting that “the Palestinian refugees” right to return to their [former] homes and land is one of the most important rights.”

For Israel, the so-called “right of return” is a non-starter, as it would mark the demographic destruction of the Jewish state. One of the reasons the PA leader Mahmoud Abbas so fervently refuses to recognize Israel as the Jewish state is because it would mean relinquishing the demand to flood the country with millions of Arabs, a demand for which Abbas is a chief advocate. Israel also argues that the “Palestinian refugee” issue has been politicized, misrepresented and grossly exaggerated as a mean of pressuring Israel to give in to its own demise.

While 700,000 Arabs were made refugees by the 1948 war, an equal number of Jews were expelled from the surrounding Arab nations and absorbed by Israel. It is unprecedented for the off-springs of refugees to be given equal refugee status as their parents. Only in the case of the Palestinians has a refugee population ballooned so much—thanks to refugee status being granted to children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren, over the course of 60 years.

Of course, that is likely because no refugee situation has ever lasted this long. Israel argues that population transfers

during times of war, and especially during the birth of a new state, are not unheard of, and in fact make sense when the different populations move into more natural ethnic settings.

World wars and refugees

In fact, more than 50 million people were displaced by wars and conflicts in the 20th century. Almost none returned to their original homes, yet the Palestinians are still living as refugees today. For instance, there were large population transfers between Greece and Turkey following World War I and India and Pakistan in 1947. In both cases the refugee populations were fully absorbed.

For decades, the Palestinians—a nationality only invented in the last century, who differ little, if at all in language, religion and culture from the Arabs of the surrounding nations—have been used as political leverage, deliberately left in refugee status in order to bring pressure on Israel. And the international community has been party to this crime. (*Adopted from Ryan Jones’ article UN official says Arab refugees will never get “right to return,” November 1, 2010.*)

PA war of aggression

Saeb Erekat, the chief PLO negotiator, has stated as fact that Israel “bears responsibility for the creation of the refugees” and puts the number of “Palestinian refugees” today at more than 7 million people worldwide. Comparing Palestinian “refugees” to Bosnian Muslim refugees, Erekat said that in both cases, “Bosnia and in Palestine, the return of refugees has been considered necessary for the stability of peace.”

Responding to Erekat, Israeli officials said that he conveniently omits the fact that the 1948 War of Independence, during which the refugees were displaced, was caused because the Arabs rejected the two-state solution being offered and **“embarked on a war of aggression to violently overturn the legitimate decision of the international community.”**

The U.S. Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, is set to begin a new phase in the diplomatic process during his December visit to Israel. The “refugee” issue is one of the core issues—along with border and security, settlements, Jerusalem and water. Mitchell is holding separate discussions with Israel and the PA. (*Based on The Jerusalem Post on-line issue on December 12, 2010.*)

The non-existence of the Jews

Inconvenient return of Jewish people

“I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; and each one will say, ‘The Lord is my God’” (Zechariah 13:9).

The Medes and Persians, the Assyrians and the Babylonians did their utmost to wipe out the Hebrew people. Then came the Romans and one of their Emperors, Hadrian, even renamed Jerusalem as *Aelia Capitolina* and Judea into *Palestina* to wipe out all memory of THE JEWS! Then came the church, insisting that she had taken the place of Israel in God’s purposes, because the Jews were cursed for *“killing Christ.”* When that did not work, the Inquisition was considered as an option, but that too, along with centuries of pogroms and persecutions, could not destroy them. Despite six million killed, the Jews still did not give up and found a reason to rejoice when they were offered a homeland, the Land of their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Alas! The Arabs considered that tiny strip of land, that was granted to the Jewish people by the British and deeded to them by international consent at the UN, more than they were willing to give up for the Jews, despite the historic reality that *so-called* Palestine was virtually empty of people and predominantly deserts and swamps. Since the days of Yasser Arafat and his formation of a Palestinian identity—the PLO—the world has stood in silence and watched the creation of an actual Palestinian history *ex nihilo* [from nothing]. The World has also stood by and accepted the progressive and utter de-legitimization of Israel as a sovereign nation and of the Jewish people as a spiritual entity with a valid claim to places like Hebron (Genesis 23:14-20), the Temple Mount (1 Chronicles 21:18-26) and a right to exist that is squarely based in the Bible. The (Christian) world is standing by, silently watching as the Waqf is removing Temple Mount treasures by the truckload, but denying any knowledge of doing so! How inconvenient for the world that the Jewish people refuse to go away!

Strategic praise and prayer points

- Please pray that **truth**, rather than the politics of sentiments, would become a major focus for the Christian world.
- Please pray that the nature of this silent *“war against Israel by other means”* would be exposed.
- Pray that the Christian world would find courage to stand by the Scriptures for defense of Israel.

Where is truth?

“Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and you be found a liar...” (Proverbs 30:5–6).

It is a terrible time when significant personalities of the Christian world abandon truth and promote lies and falsehoods—especially in connection with the Jewish people and the clear teaching of the Apostle Paul. The Apostle makes no bones about his position concerning his people, “I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not!” and again, “I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not!” (Romans 11:1a, 11a).

The Talmud says, “The world stands on three things: justice, truth and peace.” These three values are inseparable. Without truth there can be no justice, and without justice there can be no peace. The issue before us is that the whole world is seeking justice for the Palestinian people at the expense of the Jewish people by abandoning truth—yet hopes that peace will somehow eventuate when Israel has yielded to every demand by the Arab world: namely having committed national suicide. The reality is that Israel is under siege—not the Palestinians. **Never again Masada!**

Strategic praise and prayer points

- Please pray that God would open the eyes of Christians that they will be able to discern truth and error in the rampant emotional blackmail of the churches, through a distortion of facts on the ground.
- Pray that God will raise up many steadfast groups who will stand up for Israel in defense of truth.
- Please pray for the Palestinian people to recognize the lie that has been forced on them by the Arab world and other Jew-hating people. (*Frank Selch*)



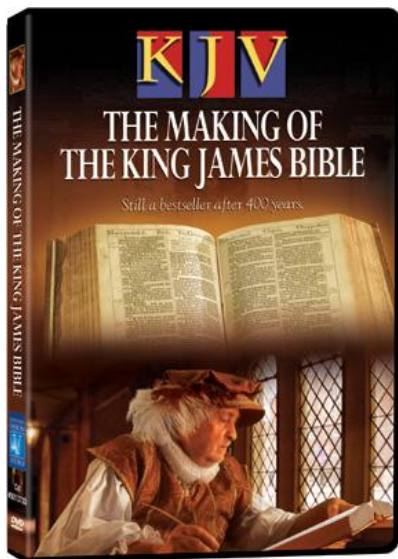
Masada mountain top where about 900 Jews committed suicide while under siege of the Roman Legion X in 72-73 A.D.

The 400th Anniversary of the KJV

King James' love for beautiful things

The year 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the creation of the King James Bible, arguably the greatest piece of English Literature ever produced. King James had an uncanny love of beautiful things, including language to stir the soul. With several inferior English translations in use across the kingdom, the Puritan leader John Reynolds took his opportunity to suggest that a new, more accurate translation was needed for the people. With the king's blessing, a committee of 47 professors began the daunting task of creating a translation that was accurate, acceptable to all, and beautiful enough for the king! While Shakespeare's rich language lit up the stage, this committee penned a beautiful translation that would eventually bring new life to the churches. The year was 1611 when the new Bible was published.

The Making of the King James Bible film is both highly accurate to its history as well as a moving experience to view. This film draws the viewer into appreciation of both the scholarly accuracy of the King James Bible as well as the richness of language that made the King James Bible such a four hundred year hallmark of Bible translations.



The movie begins with images of a 1611 First Edition King James Bible from their archives. Views of England's magnificent cathedrals, universities, palaces, countryside and people draw you to the seventeenth century, where Royal politics and conflicts of religious views of faith and church set the stage for the translation of the King James Bible.

This presentation takes viewers right into the heart of the translation process and gives a renewed appreciation for the sacred scriptures and their place in our home and churches. Intended for England's churches, the King James Bible has taken over the hearts of millions of believers around the world to the present and for years yet to come. Order now your copy of this DVD for \$ 19.00 at www.cfi-usa.org.

Lance Lambert's ministry

Middle East Update recording for 2011

The renewal forms have been mailed, therefore, we ask you to complete the form and mail it back to us with a check for \$28.00. Lance's *October-November 2010 Update* was mailed to subscribers on December 10th. If you are a subscriber and have not received it, please contact us and we will send you the CD immediately.

Lance's 80th Birthday on February 5

We are receiving donations for Lance's birthday gift. If you would like to include yours in this gift, please send a check to us as soon as possible. Thank you.



Lance's neighborhood, Yemin Moshe.

CFI's Distribution Center

The Center in Jerusalem has been temporary closed and CFI is looking for another, even more centrally situated facility, to relocate the projects. Please wait for the move to take place before sending packages to Israel.



This Moriah St Distribution Center served well since the height of the Russian Jewish immigration in 1990's.