

all for good  
the story of Joseph in Genesis



Genesis 47

---

# Introduction

---

- Joseph presents his family before Pharaoh as shepherds.
- Pharaoh tells them they can live in Goshen in the best part of the land.
- Joseph presents his father, Jacob, before Pharaoh, and Jacob blesses Pharaoh.
- Joseph gives enough food for Jacob's whole family and settles them in Goshen.
- The famine continues to be severe. Meanwhile, the Israelites settle in Goshen, acquire property, and are fruitful and increase in number.

# Genesis 47

---

# God always provides for His people

---

- Although it wasn't along the main part of the Nile where the rest of Egypt was centered, Goshen was an ideal place for pasturing flocks.
- Its location away from Egyptian culture was good for the Israelites.
- The text mentions twice that they were not only provided for, they were given the best part of the land (verses 6, 11).
- God didn't just provide for them. He provided the best. An abundance.
- "Far more abundantly than all we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

---

# God always provides for His people

---

- Trusting in God to provide for us doesn't mean we just quit our jobs and wait for God to rain down manna from heaven.
- We still do the responsible things to provide for ourselves.
- It does mean that when life becomes uncertain, we trust that God has a plan.
- He is working in all of it, and it will work out for our good.
- We give all of our worries, anxieties, fears and concerns up to God in prayer.

---

# Our lives are only a sojourning

---

- Jacob describes his life as a life of sojourning.
- Genesis uses the same word for Abraham's life as well (17:8). It didn't mean that they were nomadic people, moving from place to place.
- What it meant was that they had lived in land that didn't actually belong to them (15:13). Though Canaan was promised to Abraham, it didn't really become their land until the time of Joshua.
- They were just sojourners in the land of Canaan. Just as they would now be sojourners in the land of Egypt (15:13).

---

# Our lives are only a sojourning

---

- The New Testament describes our lives this way on a theological level.
- We do not belong on this earth, we are just sojourners here.
- We are really citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- When we become born again, we become citizens of God's kingdom, even though we are still living in the kingdoms of this earth.
- So, we, today, are sojourners. We live here, but we do not belong here.

---

# God uses His people to bless the world

---

- Jacob “blesses” Pharaoh both on his way into the room and on his way out – as a greeting and a farewell.
- This was a typical way to greet a king, a formal greeting, as Daniel did when he greeted Darius “O king, may you live forever” (Daniel 6:21). So it wasn’t the same kind of blessing as Jacob spoke over his sons.
- In this context, it speaks to the theological truth that God will bless the whole world through Israel. Genesis is making reference to the covenant, the promise that God made to Abraham.

---

# God puts His people in power to help others

---

- Slowly, Joseph made all of the Egyptians into servants of Pharaoh.
- Yet, at the end of this passage, instead of complaining that he was a tyrant, they praised him as their savior (verse 25).
- The Egyptians considered themselves lucky to be alive.
- Joseph's methods actually saved the people, and even gave them the ability to produce food for themselves.
- They thanked Joseph for saving them and willingly committed themselves to serving Pharaoh.

---

# God puts His people in power to help others

---

- Joseph also didn't keep any of this money for himself, he brought it all to Pharaoh's palace (verse 14).
- He only asked the people for a fifth of their produce as payment to Pharaoh, which means they got to keep four-fifths for themselves (verse 24).
- Twenty percent was not an unusual amount of taxation in the ancient world.
- An unfair or harsh taskmaster man would have demanded much more.

---

# God puts His people in power to help others

---

- Because Joseph was the one in authority over them at the time, the Egyptians were treated with justice and righteousness.
- If it had been a harsher leader, who knows what kind of deal he would have struck?
- Joseph came up with a solution that both saved the lives of the Egyptians and pleased Pharaoh.
- Because God had put a man such as Joseph in that position of leadership, all of Egypt prospered, not just the rich and powerful.

---

# God keeps His promises to His people

---

- Joseph developed this plan for his family, to settle in Goshen, and remain relatively independent of the rest of Egypt.
- They settled in Goshen, the best of the land, which had plenty of space and pasture for their flocks to graze.
- Their flocks were fruitful (verse 27), whereas the Egyptians had to sell off their livestock for grain (verses 16-17).
- While the Egyptians feared they would die out soon (verses 15, 19), the Israelites increased in number (verse 27).

---

# God's people trust in His promises

---

- When he first came to Egypt, Jacob was talking as if he were going to die any day (45:28).
- Jacob lived even longer in Egypt than anyone expected: 17 more years.
- This was almost as long as the amount of time Joseph was away from him, so he was able to somewhat make up for some of the time that was lost in his relationship with Joseph.
- Though he had said when he came to Egypt that his days had been few and evil (47:9), these last 17 years had been sweet and prosperous.

---

# God's people trust in His promises

---

- Genesis 47 hints to us that the story doesn't end there.
- This may be the sweet happy ending for Jacob, but the story of God and His people will go on from here, through hundreds and hundreds of years.
- Jacob asked Joseph to bury him in Canaan, the land of his fathers.
- This request also had theological significance.
- Genesis 47 is pointing us forward to the future of Israel that lies in Canaan.

The promises in Genesis  
and Modern Israel

---

# Three Promises in Genesis 12

---

- The Promise of a Nation

“I will make you a great nation.”

- The Promise of Special Blessings

“I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing”

- The Promise of Divine Protection

“I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you”

---

# Three Predictions

---

- “The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away” (Deut. 28).

Babylonian destruction by Nebuchadnezzar at end of the 7th century B.C.

- “Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations” (Deuteronomy 28).

Titus and the Roman Tenth Legion destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

- “He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it” (Deuteronomy 30).

Prediction of the return of the Jews to the land of Israel.

---

# Napoleon

---

- While on his Palestinian campaign, he asked his generals if they had proof the Bible is the Word of God.
- They replied that through centuries of dispersion, the Jews remained a distinct people, waiting for His promised return to the land of their fathers.

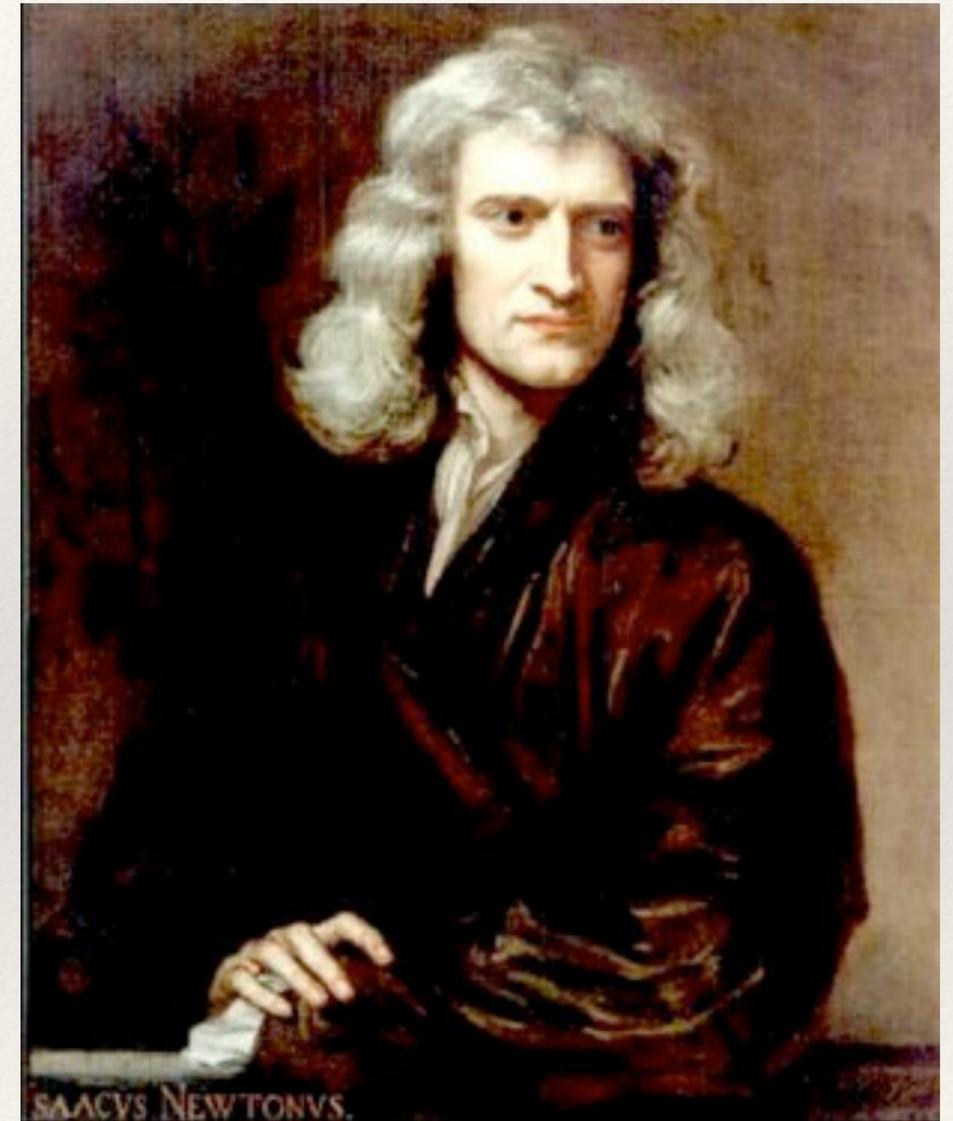


---

# Newton

---

- Sir Isaac Newton was also a student of prophecy.
- He studied the Bible in a literal way.
- “After the time of the End, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist on their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition.”



---

# England and Prophecy

---

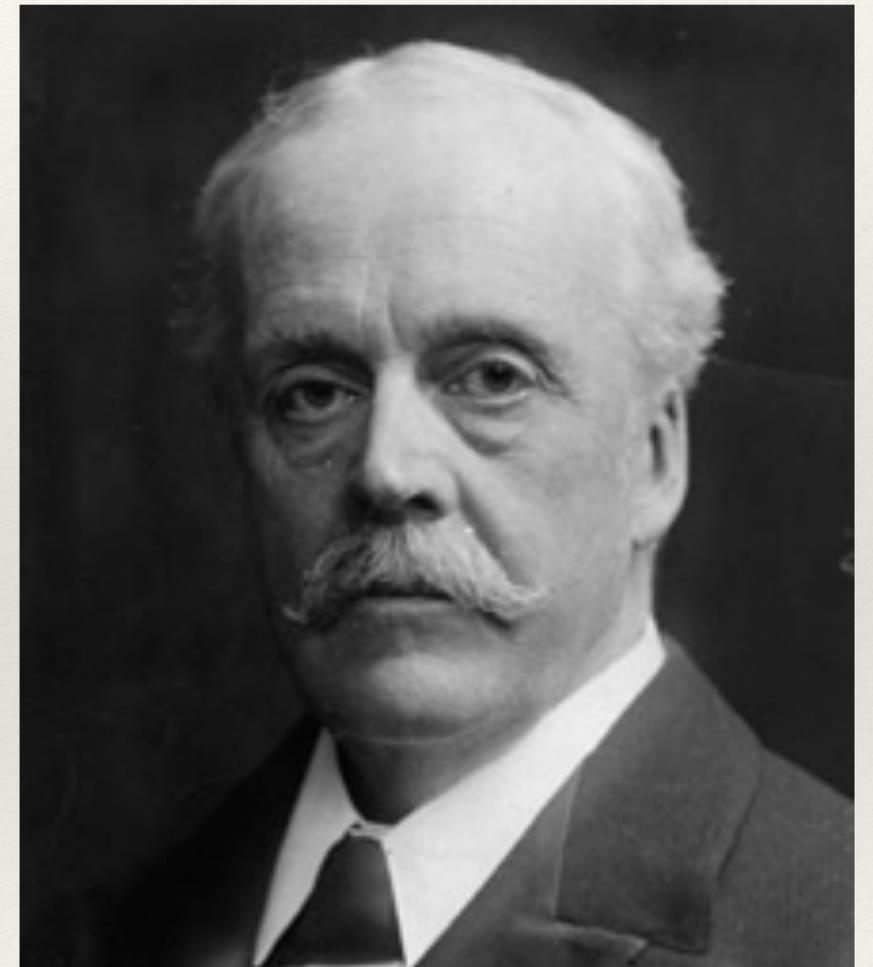
- England had long has a fascination with the Holy Land.
- Puritans used a literal interpretation of the Bible - saw Jews in a new light.
- Jews had been banned from England in the 17th century, but some wanted to bring them back to England before sending them to the Holy Land.
- Oliver Cromwell exhorted the Parliament to aid in the restoration of Jewish state.
- The Jewish hope: “Next year in Jerusalem.”

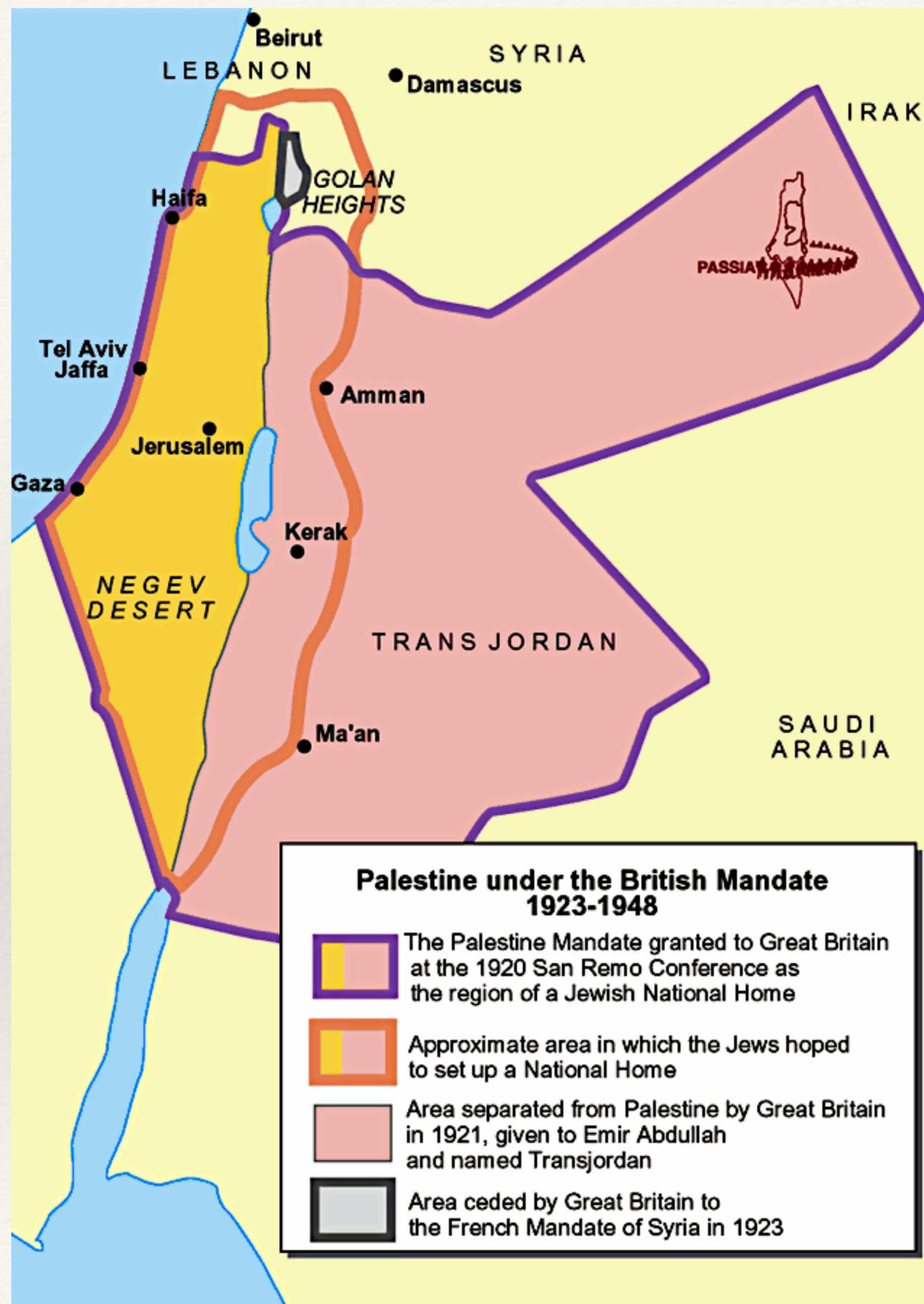
---

# Balfour

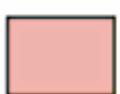
---

- Lord Balfour served as England's foreign minister and signed the famous Balfour Declaration.
- He believed that religion and civilization in general, owed Judaism "an immeasurable debt, shamefully ill repaid."
- "A people for a land, for a land without a people."





**Palestine under the British Mandate  
1923-1948**

-  The Palestine Mandate granted to Great Britain at the 1920 San Remo Conference as the region of a Jewish National Home
-  Approximate area in which the Jews hoped to set up a National Home
-  Area separated from Palestine by Great Britain in 1921, given to Emir Abdullah and named Transjordan
-  Area ceded by Great Britain to the French Mandate of Syria in 1923



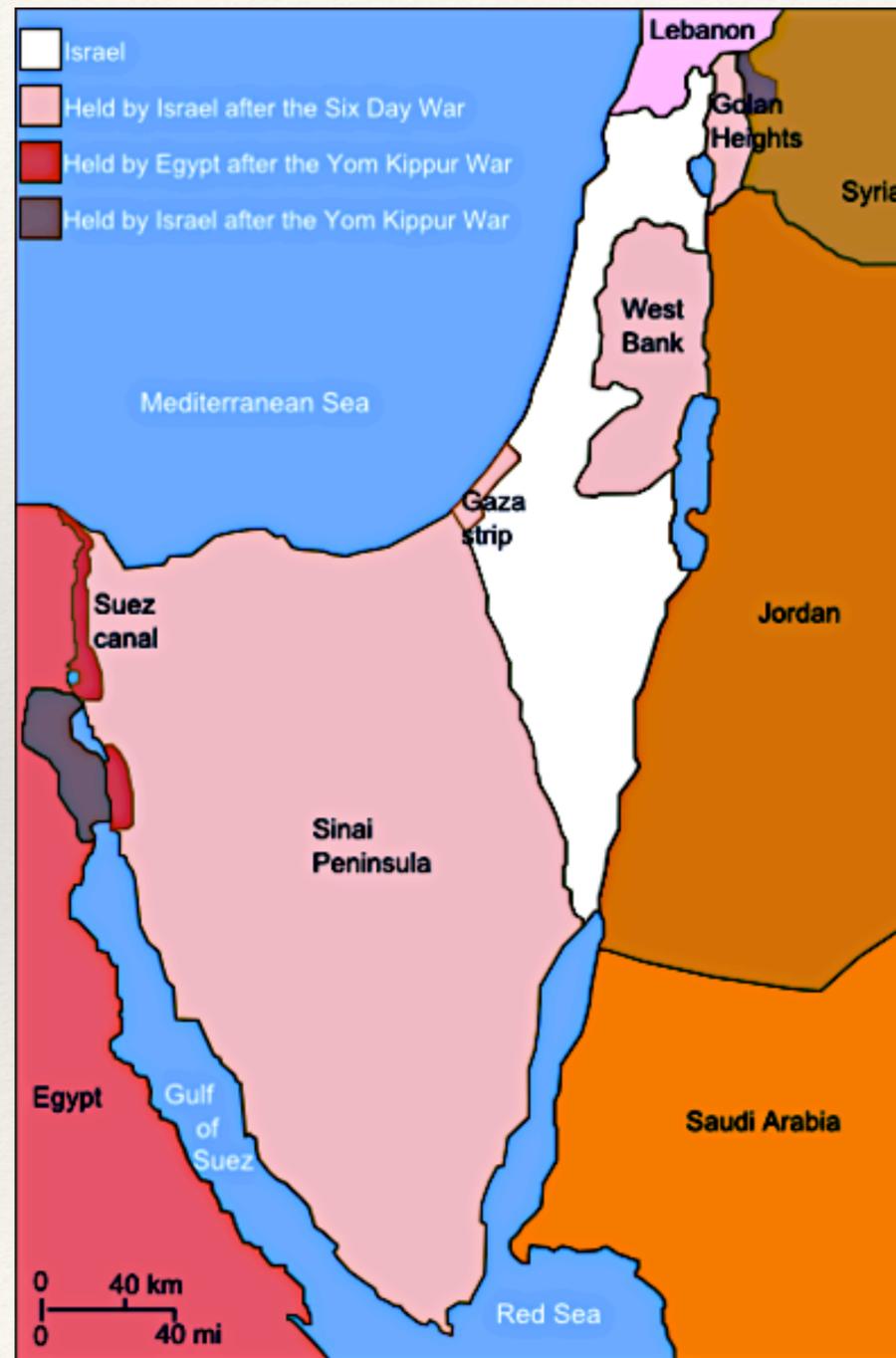
---

# Six Day War

---

- Prior to June 1967, tensions between Israel and its neighbors heightened.
- Israel stated its position that the closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping would be a cause for war.
- Egyptian President Nasser announced that the straits would be closed to Israeli vessels and put Egyptian forces along its border with Israel.
- On June 5, Israel launched a series of preemptive airstrikes against Egyptian airfields.

# Six Day War



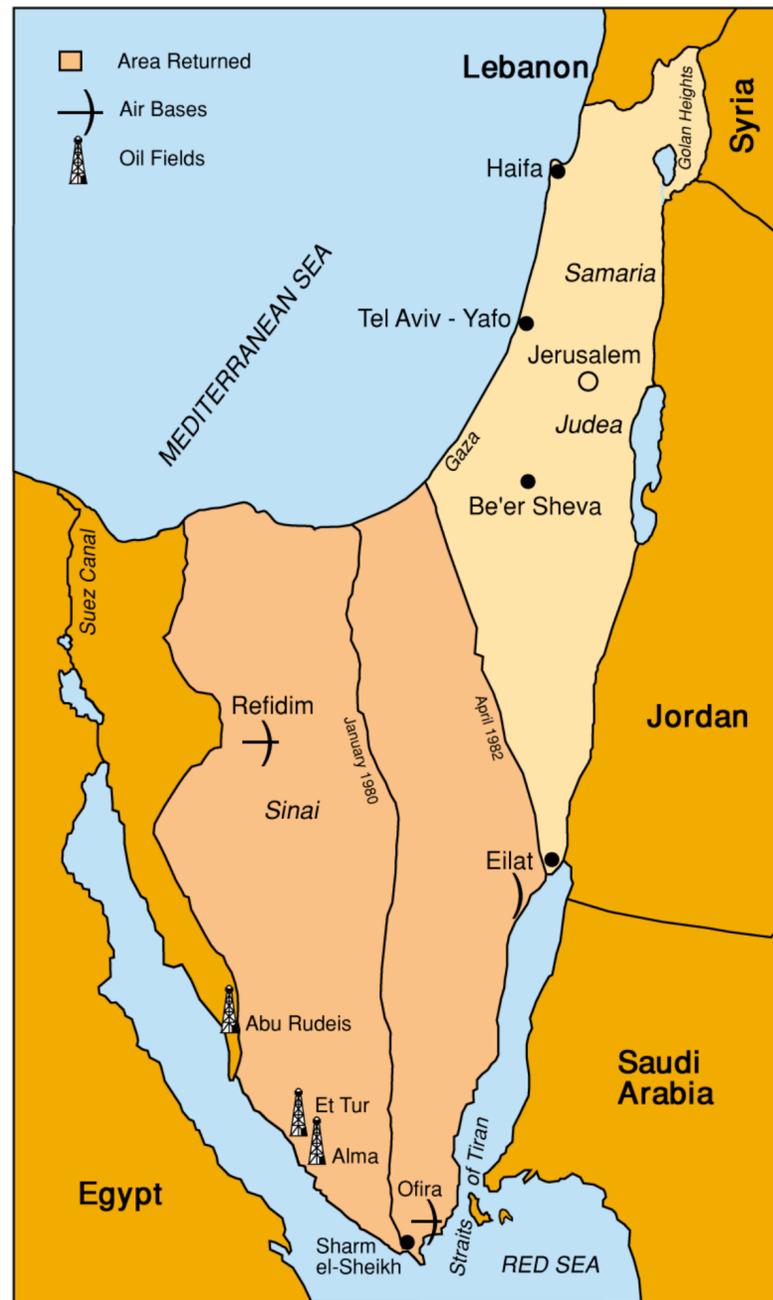
---

# Yom Kippur War

---

- The 1973 Arab–Israeli War was fought from October 6 to 25, 1973.
- A coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria came against Israel.
- The battle took place in Sinai and the Golan (occupied by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War).
- Israel recognized that there was no guarantee that they would always dominate the Arab states militarily.
- This recognition paved the way for the subsequent peace process.

# Camp David Accords



Withdrawal from Sinai Following the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty





## Israel

Size: 8,000 sq miles

Narrow point: 9 miles

Population: 7.7 million

GDP: \$350 billion

---

# Gaza Strip

---

- Prime Minister Ariel Sharon proposed disengagement in 2003.
- It was approved by the Knesset in February 2005.
- Israeli citizens who refused to accept government compensation packages and voluntarily vacate their homes prior to the August 15, 2005 deadline, were evicted by Israeli security forces.
- The Gaza Strip is currently under the rule of Hamas (a Sunni Muslim group that is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood).

---

# Gaza Rocket Attacks

---



# Golan Heights

- Since the 1967 Six-Day War, most of the Golan Heights has been occupied and administered by Israel.
- The eastern third remains under control of the Syria.
- President Donald Trump proclaimed in March: “the United States recognizes that the Golan Heights are part of the State of Israel.”



---

# Moving the US Embassy

---

- The Jerusalem Embassy Act was passed by Congress in 1995 and provided the funds to relocate the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Every president since then promised to move the embassy, but failed to do so because of concerns from the State Department about possible repercussions.
- On December 6, 2017, President Donald Trump announced the United States recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
- On May 14, 2018, the US embassy moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

EMBASSY  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL



DONALD J. TRUMP  
PRESIDENT

MICHAEL R. PENCE  
VICE PRESIDENT

DEDICATED BY  
DAVID M. FRIEDMAN  
AMBASSADOR TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

MAY 14, 2018



# West Bank

- The West Bank (Judea and Samaria in our Bibles) is to the west of the Jordan River and currently ruled by Israel and the Palestinian Authority
- The administrative districts were created in 1993 by the Oslo Accords, signed by Israel and the PLO.
- On November 18, 2019, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the US would no longer hold the position that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are “inconsistent with international law.”



---

# West Bank

---

- Before the announcement, the Trump administration took a year to consult experts in international law.
- Mike Pompeo argued that the settlements are not “inherently illegal.”
- He argued that West Bank’s fate should be determined through negotiations and attacking the settlements “hasn’t advanced the cause of peace.”
- It is difficult to say that Israel “occupies” Palestinian territories because the nation of Palestine never existed. Jordan has no legal right to claims the land and has refused the land offers.

# Genesis 15



---

# Resources

---

