

Jerusalem IS Key

Commentary for May 15, 2009 — The King of Jordan Believes It Is

I have been criticized in the past, and so has Dr. Martin, for putting too much emphasis on Jerusalem and the true site of the Temple Mount. Some have said "What is the big deal? Who cares about a ruined Temple?" True, people have been fighting over Jerusalem since the time of King David, and they are fighting over it today. Jerusalem even has the distinction in military history of likely being the city most fought over in history.¹

The King of Jordan in a May 11, 2009 interview titled "[King Abdullah: 'This is not a two-state solution, it is a 57-state solution'](#)" stated that Jerusalem is the key to peace with Israel and to peace in the Middle East. King Abdullah II gave his interview to the *Times of London* while Pope Benedict XVI was still visiting in Jordan (The Pope will later go to Israel and Jerusalem), and before King Abdullah's trip to Washington D.C. to meet with President Barak Obama to discuss Middle East peace. All this shuttle diplomacy by major political and religious players indicates that something major is brewing as yet another attempt is made to bring about peace in Jerusalem, Israel-Palestine, and the region.

King Abdullah was asked about role of the city of Jerusalem to a potential peace solution:

"How about Jerusalem?"

It [Jerusalem] is not an international problem, it is an international solution. Jerusalem unfortunately has been a symbol of conflict for so many centuries. From the start of this new century what we desperately need is for Jerusalem to become a symbol of hope. How do you encourage the three monotheistic religions to make Jerusalem into a pillar for the future of this century? I am sensing a lot more maturity and understanding in these troubled times of cultural and religious suspicions that Jerusalem could be a binder that we need."

King Abdullah is speaking truth more than he knows. As an actor on the world stage, and as the leader of a country bordering Israel, sharing the difficulty of containing a large impoverished Palestinian population along with Israel, King Abdullah is also the "protector" of the Haram esh-Sharif, the wrongly identified site of the Jerusalem Temples.²

"I said to His Holiness that this is the right time. You're coming here on a spiritual pilgrimage with a message of peace — as a signal of hope for what we're planning to do on the political aspect. It is all part of one major effort. This is a critical crossroads that we need to take advantage of."

What "**one major effort**" is King Abdullah talking about? The effort is to come to a settlement to establish a Palestinian state, work out details as to living, work, and security arrangements, taking into consideration all the cultural, racial, and religious aspects and conflicts of the past

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1. Many major battles took place at Jerusalem beginning with King David's conquest in 2 Samuel 5:6–9. The Wikipedia article "[Siege of Jerusalem](#)" which lists several battles, but not all.
 2. One quarter of Jordan's 6 million people are Palestinian refugees. See CIA, The World Factbook listing for "[Jordan](#)." Of the estimated 6,300,000+ population of Jordan, 1,800,000 are Palestinian. That is a tremendous burden for such a small country to deal with in today's economic climate. King Abdullah's role as protector of the Haram entails financial support of the administration of the Haram, financial assistance for maintenance and upkeep of the buildings and facilities, and some religious input and endorsement as to the Muslim religious administration.

and present, and coming to a resolution that will satisfy all parties sufficiently so they will stop attacking and killing each other. And all of this has to be done while killing continues. It has long been thought by all parties that a comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian situation, the Jerusalem situation, and the Temple Mount situation can be the best way to resolve the conflicts and create a mythical "lasting peace" in the region.

Yesterday, May 14, in an Associated Press article "[Jordan King: Israel Must Accept Palestinian State](#)," King Abdullah reiterated that pressure is building on Israel's leadership to accept

"Abdullah said there 'is consensus in the international community that there is no alternative to the two-state solution.'

Netanyahu will likely hear a similar message when he meets President Barack Obama in Washington on Monday.

Pope Benedict XVI, on his first visit to the Holy Land, has also delivered a powerful plea for an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. He will meet the Israeli leader later Thursday in the biblical town of Nazareth."

The two state solution would directly involve Jerusalem. Although the various proposals vary, the general outline of the proposal are that the United Nations would have some type of control over Jerusalem and that the holy places would be divided up to various controlling groups. The Palestinians would have more or less sovereignty over East Jerusalem and the Israelis would have control over West Jerusalem.

The reality is that Israel is giving up sovereignty of sacred religious ground. This will not set well with conservative religious and secular Jews. It appears that more and more pressure will be put on Israel to accept such a proposal. The article continued:

"Abdullah pressed Netanyahu in their meeting Thursday to 'immediately declare his commitment to a two-state solution, acceptance of the Arab peace initiative and to take necessary steps to move forward toward a solution,' according to a royal palace statement. It did not give Netanyahu's response, and a spokesman for the Israeli leader was not immediately available for comment.

The Arab peace initiative would offer Israel relations with the 23 Arab League members in exchange for its withdrawal from land it occupied in the 1967 war, a just solution for Palestinian refugees and the establishment of a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital."

Tremendous pressure soon will be put on Israel from everyone to accept some form of a two-state solution. Claims will be made that such a solution will ease the tension between Israel and Iran. Of course, it will do nothing of the kind. Iran will continue to develop nuclear weapons. The lure to Israel is that the economic benefits of normal trade and relations with Arab and Islamic countries from Morocco to Indonesia will far outweigh any loss to Israel.

Major pressure on Israel to an agreement will come from the United States which will threaten to diminish or halt the \$10 billion in aid that makes up 6% of Israel's gross domestic product.³ Even so, today's economic climate makes a reduction of U.S. aid a near certainty even if Israel agrees to any proposed peace plans. Events are moving toward major changes in Israel and Jerusalem. Step by step, day by day, the 10 nations around Israel are beginning to take form as mentioned in Dr. Martin's article "[The Prophesied State of Palestine](#)."

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3. See my Commentary of August 17, 2006, "[The Bible and War in Lebanon](#)" where I document the amount of aid to Israel from the United States. As I wrote then, **"Israel must learn to trust God rather than relying on their own power or the power of the United States. ... Israel would be in severe economic straits if the United States withdrew aid."**