



“The Right Side of History”

When I toured Israel back in 1992, one thing that stood out to me was how very small that country is. Only 260 miles in length and 60 miles at its widest, its total area in square miles is less than the surface area of Lake Michigan.

In spite of this fact, US Secretary of State John Kerry recently gave a 70-minute-long speech insisting that the only possible path to lasting peace in the Middle East is the “two-state solution.” Israel must relinquish a substantial amount of its land to the Palestinian authority to be a separate nation.

Kerry's speech followed a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel for violating international law by building housing developments in its own territory in the West Bank. Similar resolutions have been proposed in the past by nations hostile to Israel, but the US always used its veto power to block passage. However, this time President Obama instructed the US ambassador to the UN to simply abstain. The vote carried.

As an American, I am disturbed by these recent events. Israel is the only democratic republic in the Middle East. Since the Truman administration, the US has been Israel's constant ally. Secretary Kerry's demand that Israel return to its 1967 borders would make Israel only 9 miles wide in the middle, and almost indefensible against neighboring nations sworn to her destruction. Several countries that voted against Israel are sponsors of terrorism led by brutal totalitarian regimes and flagrant violators of the most basic human rights. The alignment of these nations against our ally Israel is troubling. The hypocrisy is glaring.

In 2005, in an effort to bring peace, Israel voluntarily withdrew from settlements in the Gaza strip. The result was terrorist rockets being launched from Gaza into Israeli neighborhoods, killing dozens and injuring hundreds. The Palestinian authority and its allies refuse acknowledge the right of

Israel to exist as a nation. They do not want some of Israel's land. They want it all. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu observed, "If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more war. If Israel put down her weapons, there would be no more Israel." The "two state solution" will not bring peace.

As a Christian, I am distressed by the new posture of the outgoing Obama administration. Israel holds a unique position in the program of God. God made a covenant with Abraham back in Genesis 12 that he would father a great nation, and this chosen race would possess a specific portion of land. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived in this land. It was occupied by their descendents when God brought them out of Egyptian bondage in the Exodus. Although Israel has been driven from her land several times throughout history, and the Jews scattered throughout the globe, the promise of God abides. In 1948 Israel was once again reconstituted. Several times since then they have been attacked by neighboring Muslim states determined to "push the Jews into the sea." But each time (with the support of the United States) Israel repelled the invaders and reclaimed more of its historic birthright.

I do not know the short term future for Israel, but lasting peace will come when the Lord Jesus Christ, the seed of David, and the Prince of Peace, returns and establishes His throne in Jerusalem. Israel will be preeminent in the world, and "all nations will flow into it" (Is. 2:2).

Until that time, the Bible still says, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee" (Gen. 12:3). During his tenure Mr. Obama repeatedly spoke of "being on the right side of history." The right side of history is the side of Israel. God warns that He will "make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it" (Zech. 12:3). While we should not blindly endorse every policy of the modern state of Israel, our country should be very careful to maintain a friendly alliance with this unique nation.