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# The Prophesied State of Palestine

By Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., 2001

Edited by David Sielaff, 2009, November 2023

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There is much talk going on in the world at present [2001]<sup>1</sup> calling for the creation of an independent “State of Palestine” in the present land of the Gaza Strip southwest of Israel on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It was thought to be improbable a mere twenty years ago that such a “State” could possibly ever develop. In fact, I published an article in 1974 stating that prophecy demanded such a State before the End-Time.<sup>2</sup> In this 21<sup>st</sup> century it is NOT **IF** a State of Palestine is possible, but **WHEN** and **WHERE** will that “State” be inaugurated? It is recognized that the region of Gaza will be in such a “State,” but other areas also will be attached. The Scriptures have prophetic teachings that can lead politicians in the Middle East to construct the “State of Palestine” along biblical lines.

There are definite indications in the Holy Scriptures and history that have profound teachings on this important matter. It would be profitable if both Prime Minister Sharon of Israel and Chairman Arafat of the Palestinian Authority were aware of these significant teachings found in the Word of God.<sup>3</sup> They should read this Report. When they (and you) read the research below, it will be seen that the Scriptures describe prophetic events in a clear and understandable manner. Indeed, the Word of God will lead the way for our modern politicians to find their paths in creating the prophesied State of Palestine that will exist in the End-Time in the area WHERE the Bible prophesies.

When one surveys the teachings of many prophetic interpreters today, it will be noticed that a dearth of information exists about the Philistines in a prophetic sense. This is strange because from the time of Abraham

<sup>1</sup> All information within [brackets] are my editorial additions or clarifications. DWS

<sup>2</sup> This article is not in our extensive archives of Dr. Martin’s writings as Director of the Foundation for Biblical Research. DWS

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Martin’s encouragements are addressed to whoever leads Israel and the various Palestinian groups at any future time.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel was removed from office by a brain embolism in 2006. He died in 2014. Chairman Yassar Arafat died in November 2004. DWS

(and throughout the Old Testament) there is an abundance of teaching (even End-Time prophecies) about the Philistines and their national area comprising five main cities situated on the eastern seaboard of the Mediterranean Sea. As a matter of interest, even our political and geographical term “Palestine” derives directly from historical references to these people of the area of Philistia who were known as the Philistines. Yet most preachers and prophetic teachers have little knowledge concerning the modern whereabouts of the Philistines or whether they are even existing today as a people.<sup>4</sup>

No wonder biblical interpreters are so mixed-up on important prophetic matters when theologians are not even aware where these and other biblical peoples are located at this End-Time period. In this Prophetic Report, I will show who and where the Philistines are today [2001]. This information is important for the understanding of prophecy. It will reveal that the Bible clearly prophesies the existence of a State of Palestine alongside Israel at the Time of the End.

This State of Philistia (or, in modern terms, *Palestine*) will no doubt occupy in its final development the very region in the Land of Canaan where their ancestors always lived from before the time of Abraham, long before the Israelites came into Canaan at the period of the Exodus under Joshua. The Philistines were also a nation and a political state in the time of Solomon, and throughout the entire Old Testament period.

Even in Roman times, the area of Philistia (with their five city states united under a common ethnic and political banner) was a viable and significant national entity. And so will it be in the End-Time just on the horizon to us. It is important that the world (as well as the Prime Minister of Israel, *Ariel Sharon* and the President of the Palestinian Authority, *Chairman Arafat*) recognize these prophetic teachings of the Bible, because these inspired accounts are as certain of occurrence as the rising of tomorrow’s sun.

### ***The End-Time Political Divisions of the Eastern Mediterranean***

The international borders of the present nations in the Middle East are soon to be redefined. Circumstances will develop to make the world at large enter the political arena in that volatile region and force the people to become ten national divisions (along with an eleventh division called “Assyria” which will arise out of the present rogue nation of Iraq when Iraq will no longer exist as a nation).<sup>5</sup>

As for the Middle East, the world will NOT allow Israel to assume political control over the present national areas called Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and those regions under the present Palestinian Authority. These territories, however, will be divided into smaller states. The world will allow Israel to be the dominate power in the region, and Israel will economically and influentially control the whole of the territory bordering the eastern Mediterranean.

When this political division and association of ten national states is realized (they will be ten small states such as Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg in Europe), a period of peace and prosperity will develop for the region that will make it the envy of the world. This will occur when those ten small political divisions unite together under an umbrella of economic and social cooperation that will be to the benefit of all people in the region. All this is shown in several prophecies of the Holy Scriptures, but it is pinpointed in detail in Psalm 83 — a Psalm describing a political confederacy of ten small nations around Israel on the eastern seaboard of the Mediterranean. When this new political arrangement becomes evident, peace and prosperity will come to the Middle East. It will last for a set period of time.

We need to look closely at what the prophecies actually say will happen. Most prophetic interpreters are at a loss to comprehend even the outlines of this new ten nation confederation (a combination of small states) that are prophesied to exist in the Middle East just before the second advent of Christ. It will profit us in the Western World if we recognize what will occur in that powder keg area of the world. Let us look at the history

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<sup>4</sup> In recent years, several prophetic teachers have written about Palestine and Psalm 83 being a pattern for the future 10 Kingdoms that will trade and prosper with Israel, and later betray Israel. Search the internet for “Psalm 83” to see such teaching. Did God open their minds to the truth, or did they first encounter that information from Dr. Martin’s writings?

<sup>5</sup> Babylon is not mentioned as one of the 10 nations. The Kurdish territory in the present day approximates ancient Assyria. While Assyria is mentioned, it is an adjunct 11<sup>th</sup> nation separate from the 10 nations. DWS

and prophecies about this important and highly significant region.

### ***The Philistines Will Return to Statehood in the Middle East***

We first need to recognize an essential point. The Philistines are mentioned prominently in prophetic contexts dealing with the Day of the Lord (a period yet future to us). Much is written about them in prophecies which have not yet taken place: Zephaniah 2:4–7; Zechariah 9:5–7; and Psalm 83. In Psalm 83, in particular, the Philistines are reckoned as one of ten nations conspiring to attack the people of Israel and stop it from being a nation. The prophecy in Psalm 83 has not yet occurred in history, and the Philistines will be very much involved in trying to fulfill it! That is right. There are prophesied to be ten nations in the Middle East that unite in an effort to destroy the nation of Israel.<sup>6</sup>

Besides Psalm 83, only two other sections of scripture speak of a ten nation confederacy of peoples that will be evident at the End of the Age before the second advent of Christ. This confederacy is mentioned in the Books of Daniel and Revelation. As I have stated for the past 27 years [before 2001], it is entirely possible that the ten nations of Psalm 83 are the same as those referred to in Daniel and Revelation. If so, we have essential information about the peoples who will comprise that End-Time confederacy. One of those ten nations is the nation of the Philistines (Psalm 83:7). It is important for prophetic interpreters to know

[1] who the Philistines are and

[2] where they are geographically located at present.

In this article I provide some of those answers.

### ***The Philistines in History***

A proper recognition of who the Philistines are today can be obtained if one reviews the historical foundations of the people. Indeed, this is necessary for the identification of all the peoples mentioned in the biblical prophecies. This is why understanding history is so essential. The reason so many prophecies are misunderstood today is the lack of proper discipline being exercised by prophetic interpreters. To provide a sound basis for the identification of the Philistines, a brief historical review is necessary.

The first reference we have to the Philistines is in the Table of Nations in Genesis chapter 10 (and repeated in 1 Chronicles chapter 1). It states that they had their origin from the ancestor of the early Egyptians (Mizraim). Genesis 10:13–14: “**And MIZRAIM begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim, And Pathrusim, and CASLUHIM (out of whom came PHILISTIM), and Caphtorim**”). Note that this verse also says they were an outgrowth of the people called Casluhim.

Since, however, Amos 9:7 and Jeremiah 47:4 both record that they came from the area of Caphtor, it seems the region of Caphtor is where they first settled after the Flood of Noah.

“**Are you not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel?’ Says YHWH.**

**‘Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?’**

• **Amos 9:7**

“**Because of the day that comes to spoil all the Philistines, and to cut off from Tyrus and Zidon every helper that remains: for YHWH will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of CAPHTOR.”**

• **Jeremiah 47:4**

These details have been placed in the Bible (in the Table of Nations of Genesis chapter 10) to help us understand where people living today first settled.

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<sup>6</sup> See my November 2016 article “[Conspiracy in Scripture.](#)” DWS

## Where Was Caphtor?

The interpretation of Jeremiah 47:4 is unclear to modern scholars. It certainly indicates a coastal region and may well mean an island area. There are Egyptian and Assyrian texts which suggest the term identifies an area bordering on a central Mediterranean locale.

**“Outside the Bible words similar to Caphtor occur in cuneiform texts of the second millennium BC. *Kaptara* is described as a land beyond the Upper (i.e., Mediterranean) Sea and within the knowledge of Sargon of Akkad. [A writing from] Mari mentions *Kaptara* and Ugaritic has *Kptr* but no location is given.**

**In Egyptian texts of the same date mention is made of *Keftiu*. The fact that this name disappears from Egyptian texts about the same time that Linear B replaces Linear A on Crete suggests that *Keftiu* was the Egyptian word for the island of Crete.”**

• *Zondervan’s Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, vol. I., p. 749*

This interpretation parallels that of Zephaniah about the Philistines being a nation of the Cherethites, which almost certainly refers to the island of Crete. That island was probably where the Philistines first settled after the Flood before going to Palestine.

**“Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of YHWH is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy you, that there shall be no inhabitant.”**

• *Zephaniah 2:5*

Yet it would be a mistake to limit the earliest area of Philistine influence simply to the area of Crete. They spread further afield. There is evidence that the southern coasts of Asia Minor, the island of Cyprus, North African coastal regions, and other Aegean islands were all touched by their cultural, religious, and political presence. Indeed, documentary evidence from Egypt says that in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century BC the Philistines participated in a combined land and sea invasion of Egypt involving other similar peoples from the Mediterranean coastal and island areas. The Egyptian records call them collectively the Sea Peoples.

Inscriptions of Pharaoh Merneptah show the Egyptians defeating the Sea Peoples. The number of non-combatants with their “wagon trains” indicate they intended to colonize the area. Some of them arrived from Libya in North Africa. At the same time, archaeological excavations of Philistine sites on the southwest coast of Palestine show that their pottery and other remains were similar to those discovered in Crete and other areas of the Aegean Sea. The majority of scholars have no doubt the Philistines were originally connected with various islands and coastlands around central Mediterranean areas, plus Cyprus.

Whatever the case, it is certain from the biblical point of view that the Philistines first settled the region of Caphtor — the island of Crete and its neighbor regions. But that does not end the story because the first biblical references of the Philistine people were not from Crete or the central Mediterranean coastlands. In the time of Abraham, they already established themselves at an eastern bridgehead of the Mediterranean coast in the Land of Canaan, particularly in the southwestern section of the Holy Land. They banded together into a confederacy of five cities, known later in Greek times as the Pentapolis of the Philistines.

## Philistine Society and Culture

It is not surprising that the early Philistines, being a people located in and around the central Mediterranean Sea, would be involved in maritime activities. Since such enterprises normally embrace commerce through shipping, it is sensible that they would want a site in Canaan for trade. It is well known the Phoenicians of Tyre and Sidon and those of Byblos (Geba) were all located north of the main Philistine influence, and they were all primarily engaged in trading endeavors. The Philistines of the central Mediterranean were no exception. There is evidence to suggest they may have been associated with (or part of) the early Pelasgians of Greek fame who first colonized and traded in the Aegean sphere of influence.

Be this as it may, it is reasonable to accept that a central Mediterranean maritime trading power would

want a geographical bridgehead in the Levant, the eastern Mediterranean coastlands. The region on the southwestern corner of Canaan was ideal for commerce and for strategic political purposes. Not only could trade be monitored between the great riverine civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia, but the overland route from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean (through the eastern arm of the upper Red Sea) was under the sway of those controlling the southwest corner of Canaan.

And who came to occupy this important economic and political region? It was the Philistine people! The Bible places them in that region of **Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron** even *before* the time of Abraham.<sup>7</sup>

It is important in a historical and prophetic sense to realize that these Philistine people occupied the region of southwest Canaan long before the Israelites came into the area in the time of Joshua in the period of the conquest by Israel. Indeed, the Israelites failed to drive them out of the land, and God told Israel that the people would be allowed to stay in that area of Canaan as their inheritance (Judges 2:3, 21–23; also 3:1–5).

The Philistines remained with a foothold in the Land of Canaan through the periods of David, Solomon and all the kings of Judah, and even through the period after the Babylonian Captivity as the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah attest.

There can be no doubt that remnants of them still remained in their foothold region of the Land of Canaan. The area of the Philistines throughout the whole of the biblical period was in territories attached to those five cities of the Philistines (the Pentapolis) south of the Wadi Sorek which empties into the Mediterranean Sea near Joppa [north of the 5 cities of Philistia]. That southwest region was one of the most prosperous in all of the Land of Canaan.

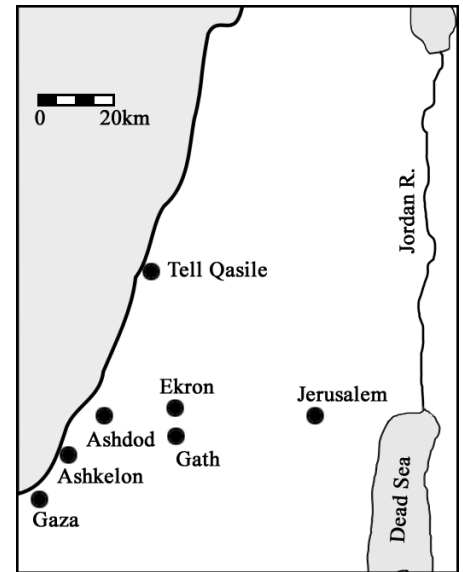
All the prime area around the cities of Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath and Gaza from the coast up to the foothills was (and *is*) the legitimate territory of the Philistines. It is significant that in all historical periods of the Bible, the Israelites NEVER occupied these areas around the five cities of the Philistines in any permanent way — and this even includes the powerful time of Solomon (who controlled the area economically, but NOT in an overt political sense).

There is no evidence that Jewish people (those of the tribe of Judah) ever occupied those regions of the five cities, even though the area was given to Judah and partly to the tribe of Dan by lot in the time of Joshua. However, because the early Israelites failed to drive out the inhabitants from those areas, God changed His mind and informed the Israelites that in later times those regions would still be legally inhabited by Philistines. This teaching provides the legal basis for Philistine occupation and its present right to statehood.

### ***The Early Israelites Rejected the Philistine Area for Conquest***

Though the northern part of the Philistine inheritance was at first designated for the tribe of Dan, the people of that tribe for some reason did not like the region. The tribe of Dan even left the area assigned to them in the southwest and went north to the base of Mount Hermon to establish their place of inheritance in the Land of Canaan. See Joshua 18:1–10.

So, this southwest region can be legitimately reckoned (from biblical teaching) as the Land of Palestine and should NOT be included in a greater Israel from the scriptural point of view. Israel either did not conquer the area (and Dan even moved from that region), or Israel allowed the Philistines to stay in the area in a permanent way, therefore God reckoned it as a legal area for the political existence of the Philistines (Judges



<sup>7</sup> The map is from an interesting article by Jeffrey P. Emanuel, “[Early Philistine Religion in Text and Archaeology](#),” in *Ancient Near East Today*, January 2017, Vol. 5, No. 1. DWS



2:21–23). Philistia was NOT part of Israel.

All these legal maneuvers are recorded in the Holy Scriptures, and they show what God sanctions as proper for the area. Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Sharon [and all leaders of Israel and Palestine] ought to realize these biblical teachings. It means that the State of Palestine (from a purely biblical point of view) should possess some kind of sovereignty over the southwest area of the Land of Canaan (from the coast to the foothills) from the Wadi Sorek and southward to the border of Egypt.

This is no doubt the area that will be assigned to the State of Palestine in the near future when the world finally forces its geographical decisions on those areas making up the eastern seaboard of the Mediterranean. This biblical description means that Chairman Arafat [or any Palestinian negotiators]

[1] should concentrate on inheriting the former southwest area of the five Philistine cities (a very prime and prosperous area of Canaan) and

[2] abandon Hebron and Nablus as being a part of the Palestinian State. Those areas were NEVER part of the Philistine hegemony throughout the biblical period.

Interestingly, Jerusalem was never part of Philistine sovereignty. In the time of Solomon, the king allowed his wives — who represented the families of kings around the world in league with Solomon (including the Philistines) — to have their own houses or what we call “embassies” in order to have a kind of governmental presence in the capital city of Jerusalem. It appears this principle of “family style government” again will be reinstated in the near future in regard to government matters in the Middle East.

In fact, as people get more oriented to accept the Bible (as prophecy shows they will), all nations will one day want a stake in the capital City of Jerusalem.<sup>8</sup> The period of Solomon will serve as an example of what will be done in the period just before the second advent of Christ — and certainly in the Millennium when Christ is ruling on earth.<sup>9</sup> The truth is, the Philistines could have a subsidiary capital (or presence) in Jerusalem, but it will not be the prime and only capital of “Palestine” if one went solely by the biblical revelation.

### *The History of the Philistines*

History and archaeology are revealing that the Philistines (as a people amidst the other Middle East civilizations) had a profound influence throughout all historical periods — unlike what historians of the last century thought the Philistines were like. Before the advent of archaeological study of Philistine remains, it was believed in most scholarly circles, that these people represented the epitome of an uncultured society. So ingrained was this concept that even the dictionary definition of a Philistine (or one like a Philistine) was one who was **“a crass or priggish individual guided by material rather than intellectual or artistic values.”**

With the deciphering of ancient Egyptian, Middle Eastern, and Aegean texts, as well as uncovering Philistine archaeological sites and analyzing the remains, scholars are now convinced the dictionary description of Philistines is far from the mark. In fact, the opposite is true.

One should read the newer information about ancient Philistine culture. It shows the antithesis of the common opinion. Prof. Trude Dothan (recognized as a top authority on the Philistines) in her authoritative book *The Philistines and Their Material Culture* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982), has shown how contrary to the truth the common conception has been. [In her work] Prof. Dothan has given an excellent survey of the present state of understanding regarding the Philistines.

The archaeological evidence shows the Philistines to be highly sophisticated in their civilization and their achievements rivaled any people of the Middle East and Mediterranean worlds. This was especially so in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries BC — the exact time the Bible says Philistines were the supreme controllers of the civilized arts in the Land of Canaan. This new understanding of the Philistines continues to emerge, and it is about time. In no way were they the “uncultured” and “backward” peoples as some have conceived. Just the

<sup>8</sup> The United States government transferred its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem without incident on May 2018.

<sup>9</sup> See Dr. Martin’s explanation of [“How Israel Will Conquer the Middle East.”](#) It will be done peacefully through trade with mutual benefit and prosperity for all. DWS

opposite. There is no doubt the descendants of these early Philistines, those who still remain in the region until modern times, should be able to become highly prosperous and influential in the area even before the second advent of Christ.

### *The Philistines in the Bible*

The original abode of the Philistines after the dispersal of the nations at the Tower of Babel was Caphtor, the island of Crete principally, and the mainland areas to the north and south of Crete. This geographic location necessitated their interest in maritime enterprises. Commerce was of vital importance. Their being positioned in the central Mediterranean gave them an advantage for trade throughout the entire Mediterranean basin — from the Levant to westward Spain. This is why a bridgehead on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean was essential. They picked one of the best places possible — the southwest coast of Canaan.

At the time of Abraham, the Philistines had established an enclave in the southwestern part of Canaan. Abimelech was the king of Gerar, and later he (or his son) was called **“king of the Philistines”** (Genesis 26:1, 8). They secured this colonial region in the Land of Canaan so powerfully that when the Israelites left Egypt at the Exodus, Israel decided not to encounter this strong Philistine territory (Exodus 13:17). God had Israel avoid the Philistines and had them journey toward the Red Sea and the Sinai peninsula.

After forty years, when Israel invaded the Land of Canaan, they found the Philistines still entrenched in the five major city states: Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath and Gaza. These constituted the primary areas of Philistine influence in the Land of Canaan. The Bible labels the kings in charge of these city areas as **“the lords of the Philistines”** (Joshua 13:3). This means that the Pentapolis of the Philistines should remain Philistine territory — even today!

It is true that the Philistine area was assigned by Joshua to the tribes of Judah and Dan. This was a part of the Land of Canaan they were to conquer, but Judah and Dan failed to do so. The Israelites did not subdue all the native peoples. A number of Canaanites were left in the land, and the Philistine cities were allowed to remain.

**“Now these are the nations which the Lord left, to prove [test] Israel by them ... five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon.”**

• **Judges 3:1–3**

The fact remains that God assigned the Philistine area to the descendants of Philistia. This reference shows that many Philistines and Canaanites remained in the land and still within their original areas of influence.

But this is not the end of the story. There are historical and traditional records of an extended exodus of Philistines and others, into areas of Egypt and also into North Africa. Only in the last seventy years have historians been able to put together an account of the traditional teachings of many North African races.

### *The Philistines in North Africa*

In a book published by the Jewish Publication Society, Nahum Slouschz’s *Travels in North Africa* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1927) many early Jewish and North African tribal traditions were first made public. It was a revelation! It was found that many peoples who first came to the areas of North Africa, from Libya to Morocco, once lived in the Land of Canaan. I can only give a summary of the information in the book in this article. Many references from the classical records can be found in Slouschz’s book.

Among other things, the traditions of the Berbers (who live from Libya to Morocco) relate that they are descendants of Philistines who once lived in Palestine. Indeed, there was once a monument located at Tangiers (on the Straits of Gibraltar) which said that Joshua, the son of Nun, pursued certain of the Canaanites up to that point. This was reported by more than one classical author — but notably by the 6<sup>th</sup> century historian Procopius. Even the celebrated church father, Augustine, related that many of the people around Carthage in North Africa were once from the Land of Canaan. Evidence shows that these people were not only native Canaanites, but Slouschz’s compilation of North African traditions indicates there were some Amalekites,

Moabites, and especially Philistines (Berbers).

Slouschz's summation of the traditional ethnology of the region has him saying: **“One might almost reconstruct in Africa a Greater Palestine”** (p. 109). This does not mean that all the North African nations are pure representatives of Palestinian peoples, but there are more people who came from Palestine in the area than some scholars have imagined. As a result of this immigration so long ago, most of these peoples in North Africa have lost their quest to return to their original homes in Palestine. Yet, it may be that these people of “Philistine” origin who moved to other parts of the world will want to join in some kind of communal cooperation with the original peoples who still live in the southwest areas of Palestine.

### *The Great Arab Invasion*

In the early 7<sup>th</sup> century AD, waves of tribes from Northwestern Arabia under the leadership of Muhammed and his generals came into Palestine, Egypt, Persia, and finally throughout North Africa, Spain, and in time they continued eastward into India, Malaysia, etc. They conquered most of the Middle East and North Africa, and in doing so they forced upon most of the people the religion of Islam. Since their holy book was the Koran, written in classical Arabic, that language quickly began to be used by many of the native populations that the Islamic invaders had conquered.

The Arabic language imposed upon these people gave all of them the name “Arab.” While this designation is acceptable in a linguistic sense, it is a big mistake to think that the nations of North Africa and the Middle East (with the exception of the Arabian areas themselves) should be reckoned as racially *Arab*. In no way is this true! This particularly applies to the Palestinians. They are “Arabs” in the sense they speak the Arabic language — but they are no more pure Arabs than some Japanese who speak English are Anglo-Saxons by race.

The fact is, most Palestinians are (as their very name suggests) descendants of the ancient Philistines. God recognizes that some of the people are of mixed ethnic characteristics (note Zechariah 9:6), but this biblical indication does not mean that the main people are disqualified from being “Philistines.” This is because that area of Canaan had been given to the Philistines since before the time of Abraham. It is really modern Israel that now lives in Philistine lands in Ashdod and Ashkelon.

As mentioned earlier, the biblical record shows there were Philistines in southwestern Canaan in the days of Abraham, in the time of Moses, and in the period of Kings Saul, David, and Solomon when they were prolific and prosperous. In the period of Saul and David the Philistines were at the height of their power and culture in the Middle East. They were not only strongly entrenched in their traditional enclave on the coast, but they extended their influence into all areas of Judah and Israel. This Philistine colonization of the hinterland was effectively curtailed by Saul and David — with most Philistines finally pushed back to their coastal cities.

But note this! After the Jews were taken out of the land by the Babylonians in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, Philistines from the coastal areas (and others) re-settled much of the inland parts of the Holy Land. From this time, most classical geographers began to call the whole region “Palestine” — after the Philistines who re-settled many inland areas. However, the bulk of the Philistines remained in their cities from Joppa to Gaza. There has never been any legitimate reason for Philistines to leave this prosperous and highly significant land. And since God gave it to them (when Israel refused it), it is legally (according to Scripture) Palestinian.

### *The Jewish-Roman Wars*

The Jewish war against the Romans from 66 to 73 AD (and more particularly the one from 132 to 135 AD) brought disaster to the political existence of a Jewish nation in the Land of Canaan. Indeed, by the end of the war in 135 AD, the Jewish population in their ancient homeland was so decimated and the remnant population forbidden by the Romans from entering certain parts of the Holy Land, that it could almost be said that the hill country of Judaea and Samaria was left destitute of Jews. This was the second period when many of the coastal peoples (not being Jews) re-entered the normally Jewish regions of Judaea and Samaria and settled there. Many must have been Philistines.



It was common custom for the Romans to call the whole region as “Palestine,” since some of the Philistines had once before established themselves over the interior lands as far back as the Babylonian Captivity period. This provided historical reasons to the Romans why these coastal peoples could once again re-establish themselves over land outside the original area of the Philistine Pentapolis.

This is why many Palestinians today want ALL of the Holy Land as a Palestinian state since their ancestors have occupied much of the territory from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. History, however, shows that the original land of the Philistines represented only the prime lands in the southwestern coastal region. This was the land they traditionally occupied in a political sense during all the period of Israel’s existence in the Holy Land. If one would apply biblical principles, the Palestinians should only have their Pentapolis area.

### **What Prophecy Shows**

What does all this mean? In Psalm 83 we have a graphic description of ten separate nations (peoples) surrounding the nation of Israel. The account in this Psalm has NEVER occurred in history. The end of the Psalm relates how the events described will lead up to YHWH being most high over all the earth. The time setting of Psalm 83 is shown by its position in the Book of Psalms.<sup>10</sup>

Psalm 83 describes a time just before the Kingdom of God is established over all the earth. Since this is true, we may have a prime prophecy revealing who the ten nations of Daniel and Revelation are, and the area from which the Beast of Revelation (the Antichrist) will arise. And importantly, one of those ten nations is called the people of the Philistines (verse 83:7). This reference in Psalm 83 is a significant key to End-Time events in the Middle East that all prophetic interpreters should recognize.

This biblical prophecy indicates that the Philistines (or today, *the Palestinians*) will obtain their national statehood. But in the biblical descriptions, the State of Palestine **will not include what we call the West Bank**. Yes, there is talk that the Palestinians ought to be given the West Bank (some of Judaea and Samaria) as well as the Gaza strip, but the Israelis have (up to now) rejected that demand. Why?

It is because the West Bank (Judaea and Samaria) is the heartland of ancient Israel, and it is patently obvious in the Bible and history that the Philistines NEVER inhabited these interior lands wholesale until after the Jews were dispersed by the Romans in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The West Bank has always been Israelite territory (in an original sense). And it was also the home of the Samaritans who colonized the area in the north called Samaria in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC.

The fact is, the Philistines coming into the West Bank was a late intrusion. The people of Nablus (who in the main are descendants of the early Samaritans) converted to Islam after the Arab Conquest. They are NOT Philistines! They are a separate people altogether though some westerners may not be aware of the differences. The West Bank, as stated before, is NOT the former Philistine land in the original sense. If the Israelis ever agree to portions of the West Bank to be a part of the State of Palestine, the approval would only be temporary.

There is only ONE AREA the Israelis should consider as a contender from the records of the Bible and history as a possible State of Palestine. Even that will be difficult for most Israelis to concede. That area is the Gaza strip, plus the other coastal cities (the Pentapolis region) of the ancient Philistine homeland. That land is some of the best territory in the former Land of Canaan. It includes some of the most prosperous cities: those of Ashdod and Ashkelon. It will be difficult for Israel to concede, but Ashdod and Ashkelon belong to Palestine.

What the world should be looking for is the creation of ten small states within the area now composed of Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Arabia, and the Gaza Strip. Iraq will become “Assyria.” This is what Psalm 83 states. Being small states will help to stabilize the area. They will be dependent on one another for economic prosperity and security. Remember, the details of that Psalm have never occurred in history. The events are to be fulfilled in our day.

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<sup>10</sup> In Appendix 1 of my book *Restoring the Original Bible*, “[Preliminary Suggestions for the Structure of Psalms](#)” note the prophetic reason why the Third Division of the Psalms (in which Psalm 83 belongs) refers to events associated with the End-Time. *ELM*

We need to realize the fact that the End-Time cannot begin until the world establishes the ten national states that Psalm 83 describes as being in operation and functioning. There are, indeed, quite a number of verses in Scripture that attest to the fact that these small nations will be created in the near future. Let us look at some of those Scriptures.

### ***Modern Geographical Prophecies for the Middle East***

There are key geographical prophecies that establish this fact. We have a reference in the Book of Daniel that when the Antichrist returns to the Land of Canaan and establishes his palace in the highest mountain of Jerusalem (on the Mount of Olives), people who live in the area at that time will witness that the lands of “Ammon, Moab, and Edom” will NOT be subject to the direct rule of the Antichrist. Daniel said:

**“He shall enter also into the glorious land [the Land of Canaan], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, Moab, and the chief of children of Ammon.”**

• *Daniel 11:41*

These national states must be in existence at the time of this conquest by the Antichrist. These three countries will escape that particular thrust of the Antichrist to finally conquer the world to his rule. It is interesting that even our Lord (Christ Jesus himself) told people who will live in Jerusalem and surrounding areas at that time to **“flee into the mountains”** (Matthew 24:16). He meant the mountainous land of Edom to the southeast of Jerusalem. The Land of Edom is where the city of Petra was once prominent. It is known in the Bible as a mountainous region where people could hide themselves from various oppressors. David said:

**“Who will bring me into the strong city? Who will lead me to Edom? Will not you O Elohim, which has cast us off? And you, O Elohim, which did not go out with our armies? Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly; for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.”**

• *Psalm 60:9–12; repeated in Psalm 108:10–13*

Those two Psalms speak of a time in the future (at the start of the Millennium when Christ begins to rule) when God will again measure out the Land of Canaan and give it to the people of Israel. In measuring out the Promised Land at that time, God states:

**“Moab is my washpot [to keep God “refreshed”]; over Edom will I cast my shoe [for judgment]; over Philistia [the State of Palestine] will I triumph.”**

• *Psalm 108:9*

This again shows that these nations will certainly be in existence at the beginning of the Millennium.

One should read all of Isaiah chapters 15 and 16 where the Scriptures show Moab as being a strong and prosperous state before Christ’s Second Advent. In Isaiah chapter 11, from verse 4, the apostle Paul quotes about the Man of Sin and the Son of Perdition. In 2 Thessalonians 2:8 we read that at the start of the Millennium when the people of Israel return to their inheritance in the Land of Canaan under Christ Jesus that:

**“They [Israelites] shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west [the Philistines live in the western part of Canaan];**

**they [Israel] shall spoil them of the east [those in Arabia] together [along with the Philistines];**

**they [Israel] shall lay their hand on upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them [Israel].”**

• *Isaiah 11:14*

These are major geographical and political references that assure us that these nations will certainly be in existence in their original lands in the Middle East. Indeed, the last major battle conducted by the armies of heaven as described in Revelation 19:11–21 will occur in the Land of Edom southeast of Jerusalem.

Also see the whole of Isaiah chapter 34 where the nation of Edom is described in the King James Version as “Idumea” — a variant spelling of “Edom.”

Indeed, you take a concordance and look up the word “Edom” or “Idumea” in its various contexts in the Scripture. You will discover prophecies of Edom (and Moab and Ammon) that have as their contexts the Day of the Lord that are yet future to us. The start of the Day of the Lord is just over the horizon.

As to the exact time schedule when these events will take place, we are told by our Lord himself that it is NOT given to us (even to those who have the Holy Spirit and have a great deal of knowledge of history and prophecy) to know precisely the chronological periods when God will perform these prophecies. Jesus said: **“But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only”** (Matthew 24:36).

Christ devoted the whole of Matthew 24:36–51, and all of chapter 25, to show that none of us (even those who live at that time) will understand the exact time periods when the prophetic affairs of the Time of the End will transpire and be fulfilled.

God certainly gives us hints, and He tells us in Daniel 12:4 and 9 that as the hour approaches for the prophetic events to be fulfilled that **“knowledge shall be increased.”** God meant the specific knowledge of Daniel’s End-Time prophecies will be increased. But God has not graced any of his people (including Ernest L. Martin) with exact chronological sequences that we can rely upon for a detailed description of those End-Time prophecies.<sup>11</sup>

As far as God is concerned, all we need to know is that Daniel’s prophecies will be fulfilled in the precise time periods that God the Father has determined before the foundation of the world (Acts 15:18). Not one person on earth knows those exact time periods selected by God for the occurrence of His divine prophetic events. Jesus told us to “watch.” This means we are to “watch” for the primary prophecies to be fulfilled, such that we could not mistake false prophecies as being real. This is what I have tried to do over the years.

One such prophecy is the creation of a new State of Palestine that will exist in the original homelands of the Philistines. It is in that very region that God geographically places them in some of His major prophecies. Other prophecies will be forerunners for the development of the major prophecies that introduce the End of the Age to all the world. These threshold prophecies are important to watch for.

### ***A Prophecy in Zechariah***

One such threshold prophecy is in Zechariah 9:1–7 that describes a great destruction of the eastern sea coast of the Mediterranean. As I have shown in other research articles, a natural disaster such as a *tsunami*, a huge and destructive ocean wave that strikes the land, is prophesied to engulf the eastern seaboard of the Mediterranean. It will destroy the areas in its path up to the interior foothills of Israel.

And note this: when that ocean wave strikes, we find that the Philistine cities in the southwest corner of the Land of Canaan are very much in existence to receive the brunt of its judgment. This again, shows that there will be a State of Palestine in existence before the End-Time events can occur.

[ See Dr. Martin’s prophecy articles: [“The Asteroid Destruction: It's Timing and Purpose](#) and [“The Damascus Phase in End-Time Prophecy.”](#) DWS ]

This event will mean there will be a few years left before the End-Time can begin. Though this is certainly the case, this is no time to sit back and bask in the pleasures of prosperity and security. There is much work for us who are Christians to do to instruct the people of the world about these End-Time events. God is giving us time to teach His Gospel to the world before the End begins (Matthew 24:14).

We need to be about our Father’s business by putting our contributions (and certainly any extra funds) into getting the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures to all in the world to whom God is sending the truth. We do not have long to do the job.

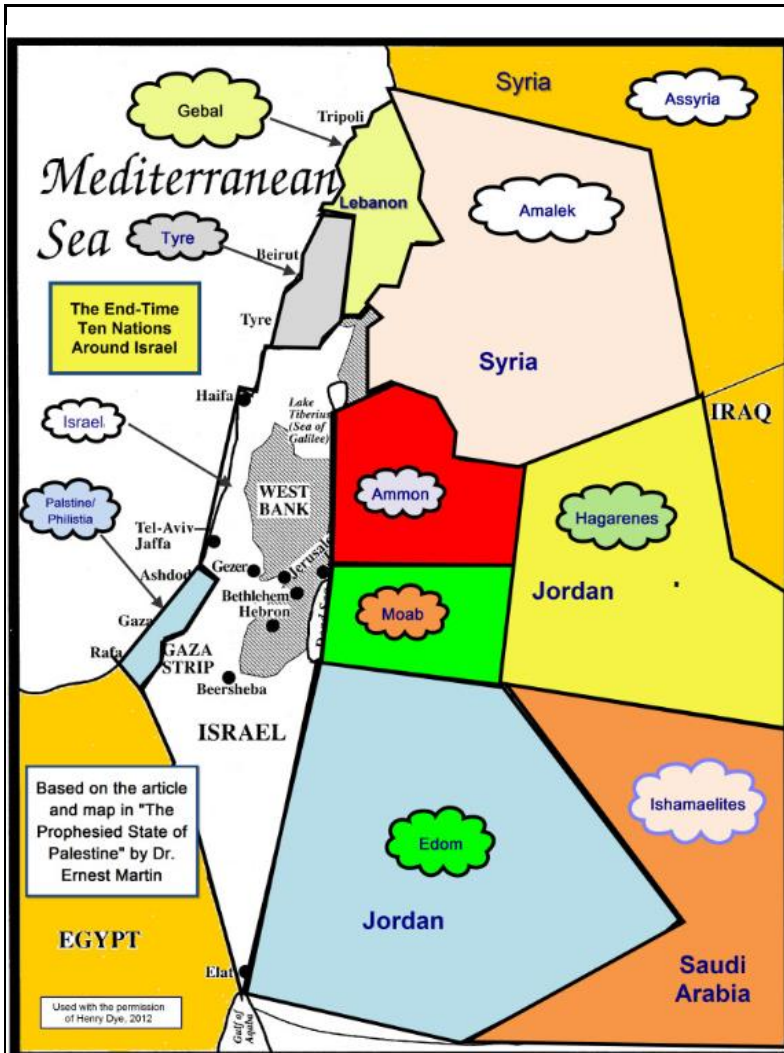
I believe the start of these preliminary prophecies will commence within our generation (in the Bible a

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<sup>11</sup> We can, with God’s blessing, know the sequence of prophetic events, but we cannot know the precise times when those events will occur. DWS

generation is shown to be 40 years).<sup>12</sup> I cannot pinpoint the exact dates these things will occur. But when we all begin to witness before our very eyes the official establishment of a State of Palestine, then you can know for certain that the Time of the End is on the threshold.

When that tsunami (and a few other prophetic events that I have catalogued in my various Prophetic Reports) happen before our eyes, then is the time to know that the End-Time is just over the horizon. This is what I have been saying over the years since I started my independent study of the Holy Scriptures back in 1974. I have been consistent in my teaching. Let us be assured of one thing, prophecy will take place just as Christ Jesus has stated (Matthew 24:33–35).



This map shows the general areas that will become the ten small nations in the Middle East. Note that the present Kingdom of Jordan will be divided into three new political areas: Edom, Moab, and Ammon.

To the east of these three nations will be the **Ishmaelites** who will comprise almost the whole of Saudi Arabia today, with the **Hagarenes** in the northern part around present-day Kuwait and including some of the Gulf states.

Syria will be divided, and it will become the nation of the **Amalekites** (the ancient and continual enemy of Israel — see Exodus 17:16).

A new nation of **Gebal** (the ancient Byblos) will be created on the north coast of the eastern seaboard.

Lebanon will become **Tyre**. **Philistia** will be the State of **Palestine** and will include the ancient five ancient cities of the Philistines (the Pentapolis).

**Israel** itself will be slightly reduced in size (it will lose Ashdod and Ashkelon) but remain in the same place as it is today.

The rogue nation of Iraq will be eliminated, and the world will accept the name "**Assyria**" for the new state, and its modern

capital will be at a renewed "Babylon."<sup>13</sup> This is the primary teaching of Psalm 83 in prophecy.

[ This redrawn map by Henry Dye has stylized boundaries separating countries. The country and people identifiers are more important than map realism. DWS ]

When we begin to see the preliminary prophecies take place, the fulfillment of all the prophecies will follow in the exact chronological time sequences that God has designed from the beginning. Get ready for some exciting times. It is my belief that we will not have long to wait until we witness the start of End-Time

<sup>12</sup> See the last article that Dr. Martin wrote before his death: "[The 'Great Generation' and Modern Prophecy](#)" indicates that the "Great Generation" is unique and is longer than 40 years. *ELM*

<sup>13</sup> See ASK articles: "[Will Babylon be Rebuilt?](#)" (1925 by F.E. Marsh) and "[The Rebirth of Babylon](#)" (1975 by Dr. Martin).



events. Be prepared, and be working hard to get the Gospel to the world. *ELM*

### *Addendum: Psalm 83 by David Sielaff*

The text of Psalm 83 begins with the first five verses asking God (“Elohim”) listen to the appeal for help and that He answer with action. The enemies of God’s people are opposing God Himself.

#### *Psalm 83:1–18 (Concordant Literal Version of the Old Testament)*

A Song, An Asaphic Psalm

- 1 O Elohim, let there not be stillness on Your part;  
Do not be silent, and do not be quiet, O El.
- 2 For behold, Your enemies, they are clamoring,  
And those hating You, they lift up their head.
- 3 Against Your people are they carrying on deliberation in craftiness,  
And they are intriguing against You secluded ones.
- 4 They say, **“Come, and let us suppress them as a nation,  
That the name of Israel not be remembered any more.”**
- 5 For they have intrigued [conspired] in heart together;  
Against You [YHWH] are they contracting a covenant [among themselves],

The first four verses of Psalm 83 are similar to David’s plea for help from YHWH in Psalm 2:

**“Why are the nations perturbed [raging], And the folk, they mumble empty phrases?**

**Standing by [ready] are the kings of the earth, And the chancellors, they are gathered together against YHWH and against His Anointed One [“Messiah”], saying,**

**‘Do let us pull away their bonds, And do let us fling off their ropes from us.’**

**The One sitting in the heavens, He shall ridicule; YHWH, He shall deride them.”**

**• Psalm 2:1–4, Concordant Literal Version**

#### *Which Nations Are Conspiring Against Israel? (Verses 6–18)*

- 6 The tents of **Edom**<sup>14</sup> and the **Ishmaelites, Moab** and the **Hagarites,**
- 7 **Gebal** and **Ammon** and **Amalek, PHILISTIA** with the dwellers of **Tyre;**
- 8 Even **Assyria** is allied with them;  
They have become an arm to the sons of Lot.  
Interlude [ *Selah*, or “Pause” in the Psalms ]
- 9 Do to them as You did to Midian, as to Sisera,  
As to Jabin at Wadi Kishon:

<sup>14</sup> The Edomites are very important in relation to God’s chosen people Israel. See “[The Most Significant Gentile Nation in the Bible](#)” and learn just how the Edomites have been important throughout Israel’s history, and how important they will be in Israel’s future from our time today. *DWS*



- 10 They were exterminated at Endor;  
They became manure for the ground.
- 11 As for their patrons, set them down like Oreb and like Zeeb,  
And all their overlords like Zebah and like Zalmunna,
- 12 Who said, **“Do let us tenant for ourselves  
The oases of Elohim.”**
- 13 O my Elohim, set them aside like tumbleweed,  
Like straw before the wind.
- 14 Like fire that consumes the wildwood,  
And like a blaze that sets the mountains aflame,
- 15 So You shall pursue them with Your tempest  
And fill them with panic with Your sweeping whirlwind.
- 16 Fill their faces with dishonor,  
So that men shall seek Your Name, O Yahweh.
- 17 May they be ashamed and filled with panic for the future,  
And may they be abashed and perish,
- 18 So that men may realize that You, You,  
Whose Name is Yahweh, Yours alone,  
are the Supreme over all the earth.

### The Ten Nations of Psalm 83

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Edom      | (Jordan)       |
| 2. Ishmael   | (Saudi Arabia) |
| 3. Moab      | (Jordan)       |
| 4. Hagar     | (Jordan)       |
| 5. Gebal     | (Lebanon)      |
| 6. Ammon     | (Jordan)       |
| 7. Amalek    | (Syria)        |
| 8. PHILISTIA | (Gaza)         |
| 9. Tyre      | (Lebanon)      |
| 10. Assyria  | (Iraq)         |

The destruction will be total, except for the countries of Ammon, Moab, and Edom. Special punishments are in store for them. Current warfare between Hamas in Gaza and the Israeli military, and other potential combatants can quickly lead to a wider war being fought. These countries do not exist yet as Psalm 83 says will happen. After this “war” there must be peace and cooperation between Israel and these 10 Gentile nations around Israel. Then there must be a period of agreement, trust, cooperation, trade, and prosperity to the benefit of all these nations.

**Only then**, will the stage be set for the events in Psalm 83 to take place. The Palestinian State will be only one of several national states to be created or rearranged.

How could this possibly happen? I have no idea how God will do it, but He will have the ten nations form up, come to an accommodation with Israel, and God will see to it that the people of those “territories” will be drawn from around the world to move there. Opportunity and prosperity will draw them. Some of these “nations” are quite small, but there are smaller nations all around the world. People will move to the territories where God wants them to be. Remember the phrase in the Lord’s prayer: **“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”** (Matthew 6:10, 26:42; Luke 11:2).<sup>15</sup>

### Other Resource Articles

[“The 'Great Generation' and Modern Prophecy”](#)

[“Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan”](#)

[“How Israel Will Conquer the Middle East”](#)

[“Gentile Nations and Israel”](#)

[“The Ten Nations and the Roman Empire”](#)

[“Iran in Prophecy”](#)

Ernest L. Martin, April 2001  
Edited by David Sielaff, 2023

<sup>15</sup> **“The heavens are not clean [pure] in God’s eyes”** (Job 15:15); **“He charges his angels with folly [mistakes]”** (Job 4:18). DWS