

Pastor Nigel A Woodley
For the Protection of Zion
P O Box 15058
Flaxmere, Hastings 4154
November, 2015

Mark Mitchell
Chairperson
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Select Committee Office
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Dear Mr Mitchell and Committee members,

My name is Nigel Woodley, a Church minister who has been serving in Hastings since 1982. I am a graduate of two Bible Colleges. I have a Diploma in Theology from one and a Bachelors Degree in Theology and Biblical Studies from the other. Most of my adult life has been given over to the study of the Holy Bible. I have also acquainted myself with the conflict between Israel and the Arab nations. Although not claiming to be an expert in Middle East Affairs, my acquaintance with this topic gives me the boldness to write with confidence those things herein. My father was a Police Sergeant who served the NZ Police most of his working life. My uncle was killed in Italy in World War Two while serving in the NZ Army. Other uncles returned safely. I am from a pretty normal down to earth kiwi family. I add this information at the beginning of my submission as I believe it is fair that politicians have a right to know something of the one addressing them.

I would like to submit the following for consideration as to why 11,685 people and I thought it necessary to petition and *urge the New Zealand Government to cease from pressuring the State of Israel to give up its rightful and God-given Land and support Israel's right to have sovereignty over the entire Land of Israel, including Judea and Samaria (West Bank) and all of Jerusalem.*

What prompted this petition?

With the realisation that the New Zealand Government had in recent years voted in favour of Palestinian sponsored resolutions at the UN which could hurt the State of Israel, and conscious of the likelihood that a NZ seat on the Security Council could be either beneficial or detrimental for a solution in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, I thought it was the time to express the opinion of at least 11,686 New Zealanders (myself included).

Firstly, there is historical injustice regarding Land distribution to the Jewish People:

The Jewish People were given the famous Balfour Declaration promise of Nov. 2nd 1917 in which the British Government publicly endorsed the right of the Jewish People to rebuild its "National Home" in "Palestine". The Balfour Declaration text was as follows:

Foreign Office November 2nd, 1917
Dear Lord Rothschild,
I have much pleasure in conveying to you on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.
His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.
I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.
Yours,
Arthur James Balfour

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/balfour.html>

This declaration, by the British, was issued after careful consideration and consultation with other World Powers, including the President of the United States. They were aware that such a document would become a famous and binding document. The general perception at the time was that the National Home for the Jews would cover all the Land of Historic Palestine—i.e. both sides of the Jordan River. Later the British would try to backtrack on the promise by saying that the intention was for a national home for the Jewish People somewhere “in Palestine”, but this was not what was conveyed to the Jewish People of the day. It was understood that the spirit and intent of Lord Balfour’s letter covered all of Palestine. I quote from the speech of Israel’s first Prime Minister—David Ben Gurion—just prior to Israeli Statehood, at the United Nations on the 4th July 1947:

““The field in which the Jewish National Home was to be established was understood at the time of the Balfour Declaration to be the whole of historic Palestine,” stated the Royal Commission for Palestine of 1937. That is to say it included Transjordan...”

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/7735B7DC144807B985256E8B006F4A71>
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wqtuqIn34s8fn2t/UNGA%20-%204%20July%201947.pdf?dl=0>

The British had also made a promise to the Arab peoples of the region that in exchange for their help in defeating the Ottoman Turks in the First World War they also would get independence. That promise made in 1915 resulted in what would become the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Given independence in 1921 it became fully independent by 1946.

The British were not so quick or keen in implementing the League of Nations Palestine Mandate of 1922 (based on the Balfour Declaration promise) which stated that the Mandatory (Great Britain):

‘...should be responsible for putting into effect the declaration originally made on November 2nd, 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty, and adopted by the said Powers, in favor of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people...’

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/palmanda.asp

Article 2 of the Palestine Mandate stated:

‘The Mandatory shall be responsible for placing the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home, as laid down in the preamble, and the development of self-governing institutions, and also for safeguarding the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine, irrespective of race and religion.’

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/palmanda.asp

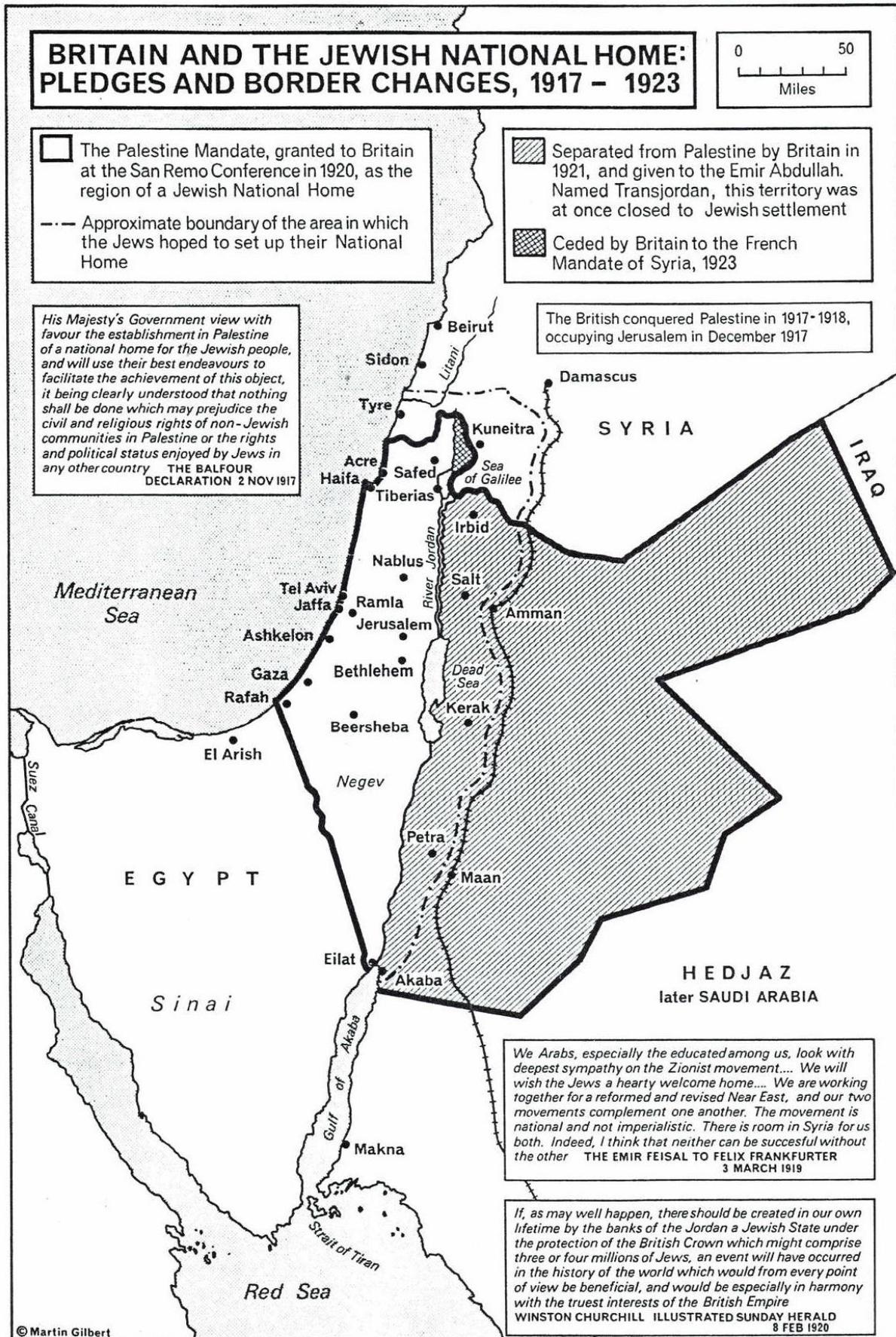
When it came to withholding any part of historic Palestine from the Jews the League of Nations Mandate made it quite clear in Article 25:

‘In the territories lying between the Jordan and the eastern boundary of Palestine as ultimately determined, the Mandatory shall be entitled, with the consent of the Council of the League of Nations, to postpone or withhold application of such provisions of this mandate...’

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/palmanda.asp

In other words, whereas the perception may have been a Jewish National Home on both sides of the Jordan River, the only guaranteed allotment for the Jews from 1922 on would have to be everything west of the Jordan River, including everything right up to the River itself—which includes of course the entire West Bank. The Jews had hoped for a National Home on both sides of the Jordan River, now they would have to settle for the Land on the west side of the Jordan. Article 25 made it quite clear that the only part of historic Palestine that may be withheld from the Jews would be that land to the east of the Jordan.

This is illustrated in the following map created by the prestigious British historian, Sir Martin Gilbert, official biographer of Winston Churchill:



The aspirations of Jewish statehood on both sides of the Jordan River can be seen in the following map, similar to the one which the Zionist Organisation submitted to the Paris Peace Conference for consideration in 1919:



Part of the text from the Statement of the Zionist Organization to the Paris Peace Conference—3rd Feb. 1919:

In the East a line close to and West of the Hedjaz Railway terminating in the Gulf of Akaba.

Boundaries:

The boundaries above outlined are what we consider essential for the necessary economic foundation of the country. Palestine must have its natural outlets to the seas and the control of its rivers and their headwaters. The boundaries are sketched with the general economic needs and historic traditions of the country in mind, factors which necessarily must also be considered by the Special Commission in fixing the definite boundary lines...

The fertile plains east of the Jordan, since the earliest Biblical times, have been linked economically and politically with the land west of the Jordan. The country which is now very sparsely populated, in Roman times supported a great population.

<http://www.mideastweb.org/zionistborders.htm>

The Jewish Leadership had already come to terms with this. Despite the submission of such a map to the World Powers of the day, they were well aware that they would have to live in peace with their Arab neighbours and had already been talking with the most influential of Arab leaders. Just prior to the Peace Conference an agreement had been made between the Arab and Jewish leaders. The agreement that the Emir Feisal (representing the Arab interests) and Dr. Chaim Weizmann (representing the Jewish interests) made just prior to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 was recalled by David Ben Gurion at the United Nations:

“This was the underlying idea in the agreement between the Emir Feisal and Dr. Weizmann. It contemplated an Arab State on one side and a Jewish Palestine on the other. While it was stipulated that measures should be taken to protect and assist the Arab peasant in Palestine it was understood that Palestine should be a Jewish State.”

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/7735B7DC144807B985256E8B006F4A71>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wqtuqln34s8fn2t/UNGA%20-%204%20July%201947.pdf?dl=0>

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/faisaltext.html>

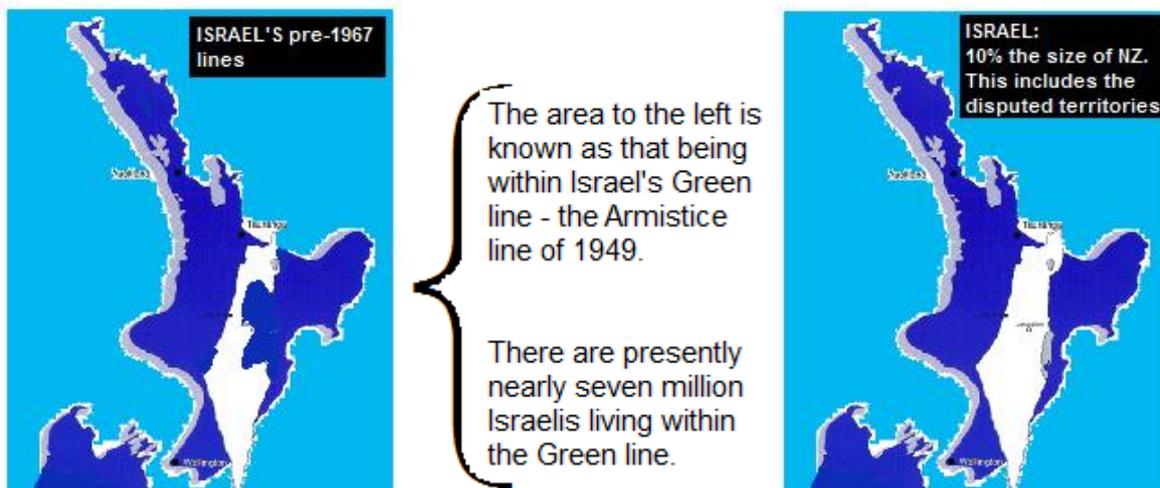
It was made very clear back in the day that Palestine would be a Jewish State and that the Arab population in Palestine would be under such sovereignty. Arab demands for independence would be met all over the Middle East not just with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan but also in the other Sovereign Arab States which now exist. This Palestinian flag from a 1939 French dictionary should drive the point home that Palestine (which by this time covered everything on the west side of the Jordan River) was to be a Jewish State, and it was never intended to be partitioned into two states:



<http://www.factualisrael.com/1939-palestinian-flag-look-like-surprised/>

<http://jewtube.tv/israel-conflict/flag-palestine-1948-will-shut-every-muslim-world/>

The fact is that Israel doesn't have the room to be divided into two states. The current Land area occupied by Israel (including the disputed territories) is less than 28,000 km². The current size of New Zealand is 268,000 km²—nearly ten times the land area of Israel (and this includes the disputed territories):



We believe it is unfair that the International Community, including our Government, pressures Israel to divide its small allotment of Land when our nations possess much greater portions. And especially so as this is what was promised the Jewish People in the Balfour Declaration and subsequently in the Palestine Mandate by the League of Nations. Added to this is the fact that the promises for independence made by the British to the Arab peoples of the region were fulfilled soon after those promises were given.

Another fact that should be taken into account is that the Arab peoples control some 99.8% of Middle Eastern & North African territory, while within Israel's Green line she possesses less than two-tenths of one percent:



We therefore disagree with New Zealand's current foreign policy which claims that its handling of the issue is "*even-handed, balanced and constructive*".

There is nothing even handed about this: promises made to the Arab peoples are fulfilled in Land grabs but those made to the Jews are quite different. Israel's share of the cake has been cut and divided, and then cut and divided, and that does not seem fair at all to us. Nor do we think that New Zealand's criticism of Israel's right to defend itself is warranted. Too often we see duplicity—while condemning murderous terrorist acts against Israel New Zealand then has to add that they expect Israel to show restraint. Did the New Zealand Government voice that to the United States after 9/11? Are they saying that now to the French after the Paris massacres?

And as far as being constructive is concerned, we do not believe that voting in favour of Palestinian resolutions at the United Nations, while Israel is crying foul, is going to encourage the Palestinians back to the negotiating table. All it will do in our opinion is give strength to the arm of the Palestinian leadership to continue ignoring their peace partner. As long as countries like New Zealand continue to support Palestinian resolutions without respect or reference to Israel then we are creating big problems for the future.

A modern presumption has been created by propaganda and ignorance, and that wrong presumption is that Palestine belongs to the Arab Palestinians while the Jewish people are illegal occupiers of their land. This is wrong. The Jewish People are simply returning to Land which it is their ancestral and historical right to possess. And the claims of the Jewish people for the Land exceed the claims of the Arab peoples. We must take into consideration that the Land promised the Jewish people (at least everything west of the Jordan River) in the Balfour Declaration was then given international sanction by the League of Nations in their Palestine Mandate. This point seems to have been completely ignored by the United Nations when it came to the UN partition plan in Resolution 181 of November 1947.

Another presumption is that Resolution 242 of November 1967 (resulting from the 1967 Six Day War) calls for Israel to withdraw from all the territories and return to the 1949 armistice lines. But this is not so. Resolution 242 calls on Israel to withdraw **'from territories occupied'**. The words **'all'** and **'the'** were deliberately omitted from the text because adjustments to the armistice lines of 1949 would have to be made so that Israel's borders became **'secure and recognised boundaries'**.

<http://www.mythsandfacts.org/conflict/10/resolution-242.pdf>

An important reason for Israel's need to make major adjustments to the Armistice lines of 1949 is simply because of security. Israel needs a reasonable buffer between her and any nation State living alongside her. The modern history of Israel has proven this time and time again. Unfortunately it seems that New Zealand Foreign Affairs makes the same presumption mentioned above and we respectfully suggest that they take another look at the text of UN Resolution 242.

Having said all this, we acknowledge that the Palestinian people are human beings who deserve to live in peace and prosperity like any other human beings. But we do not believe that a corrupt leadership like the Palestinian Authority (which is in partnership with the terrorist organisation Hamas) can bring this to their own people. Some Palestinians would prefer Israeli Sovereignty because they trust the Israelis to deliver them the goods more than the Arab leaders:

Ishmael Khaldi, an Arab citizen of Israel and the nation's first high-ranking Muslim in the Israeli foreign service, said,

"I am a proud Israeli— along with many other non-Jewish Israelis...who live in one of the most culturally diversified societies and the only true democracy in the Middle East. Like America, Israeli society is far from perfect, but let us deal honestly. By any yardstick you choose...Israel's minorities fare far better than any other country in the Middle East."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_citizens_of_Israel

The Israeli Arab Journalist Khaled Abu Toameh wrote,

"Israel is a wonderful place to live and we are happy to be there. Israel is a free and open country. If I were given the choice, I would rather live in Israel as a second class citizen than as a first class citizen in Cairo, Gaza, Amman or Ramallah."

([Islam Today](#), by Khaled Abu Toameh, 18 May 2009)

Jordanian Palestinian political and human rights activist Mohammed Btaibet says,

"Look at the Israeli Arabs and how they live in luxury. That should answer the question of whether Israel is an apartheid state or not. All of this Israel is an apartheid state thing is promoted by the king's regime in Jordan to separate and segregate Jordanians in the name of hating Israel....I could only wish that I was an Arab in Israel with an Israeli passport.... Even Jordan would be better off under Israeli rule. All the Palestinians who work in Israel wish that they had Israeli citizenship and this is what the Palestinians themselves say."

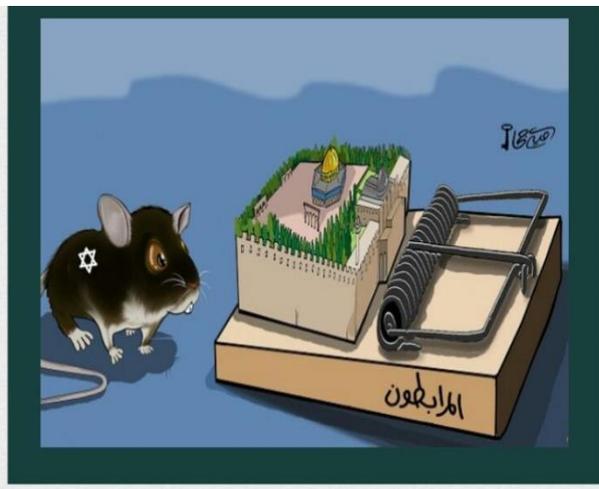
<http://www.jerusalemonline.com/news/middle-east/israel-and-the-middle-east/jordanian-refugee-i-would-rather-sit-in-an-israeli-prison-than-live-under-the-king-14757>

Many of the Palestinians are simply being incited by their leaders to rise up and spill Jewish blood as depicted in the Palestinian Social Media:



“They (Israelis) have no right to desecrate the Al-Aqsa Mosque with their filthy feet.”
“We welcome every drop of blood spilled in Jerusalem...”
President Mahmoud Abbas

(Official Palestinian Authority TV Channel, September 16, 2015)



WATCH:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1p_bbbeBDg

Our petition is not an attempt to deny the Palestinian people any of their human rights or dignity. Our petition is not about human rights. It is about Sovereign Land rights. And we believe that Israel should have Sovereignty over the entire land west of the Jordan River which includes Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and all of Jerusalem. We believe that the Palestinians living in these areas would have a far better chance at life under Israeli administration and governance. Israel after all is the only true democracy in the Region. However, the Israelis may not want a large Arab population from the West Bank under their jurisdiction and may well favour a political solution with the Palestinians. But this decision should be left up to them without international interference.

I spoke recently with a senior member of the New Zealand Government well versed in international Law (whom I shall not name). I spoke with him about my petition. He said to me words along these lines: *'the Palestinians already have their State—the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, but I can't say that out loud because that's not PC'*. These are our sentiments entirely. Let's be fair and reasonable to the Jewish people and allow them their fair portion of land. The Arab need for independence and sovereignty has already been met by far.

In the end, if Israel is to return to the negotiating table and come to a deal with the Palestinians then it should be by their own doing and by that of the Palestinians—without the bias, persuasion nor interference of the International Community. It should not be in New Zealand's business to meddle in this conflict by agreeing with one-sided resolutions that favour the Palestinians at the expense of Israel. This does not create reconciliation. If Israel were to placate the Palestinians in giving up any Land then it should be at their prerogative and not by anyone else's.

Secondly, there is a Biblical warning regarding Israel's current portion of Land:

As a Church minister I would now like to touch on what the Bible has to say about this conflict. I humbly ask my readers to be patient as I set out the Word of God regarding this important subject. My aim is not to bring a Bible study to Parliament, or to try and 'Bible-bash' politicians. Rather, it is to give a brief of what the Holy Scriptures have to say. I do not want to leave out what I believe is the most important piece of this puzzle.

Not everyone believes that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of Almighty God but a significant number of us do. According to statistics there are some 2.2 Billion Christians worldwide, whose faith is anchored on the fact that the Bible is true. Nearly a third of humanity believes in the same faith I am professing. Not all however will believe exactly as I do, but with my limited resources I have managed to find 11,685 New Zealanders who do.

The Land under dispute at the current time is what the Bible calls 'the land of Israel':

The Holy Bible: Ezek. 11: 17, Ezek. 20: 42, Ezek. 37: 12—14, Matt. 2: 20—21

Please note that at no time in history has there ever been an independent state other than an independent Jewish State in the area under dispute. The Modern State of Israel happens to be the third Jewish Commonwealth to have had sovereignty over the same piece of Land. But there has never been any other independent political entity in the area. Empires and kingdoms have certainly ruled over it, but only the Jewish People can claim a political historical State with Jerusalem as its capital within what the Bible calls the Land of Israel.

This is because in the Bible God gave it to the Jewish People through their great forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

The Holy Bible: Gen. 17: 8 = to Abraham, Gen. 26: 3 = to Isaac, Gen. 48: 3—4 = to Jacob

As God said to Jacob (Israel) in Genesis 48: 4,

I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.'

Almighty God in His foreknowledge, knowing the times and dates set out for each successive generation and nation, set the lines for the borders of Israel before He set the boundaries for each successive generation and nation to come. The Bible puts it this way in Deuteronomy 32: 8:

When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.

In other words, when the Most High apportioned each generation and nation their Land allotment, He did it only after He was sure He had set aside enough Land for His covenant People—the people of Israel—the Jewish People. The Land He set aside for them covers at least that which Israel currently occupies—and this includes the disputed areas of the West bank. The area known as Judea and Samaria (the West bank) is actually the heartland and guts of Biblical Israel. Biblical Israel also covers all of Jerusalem. Although the Palestinians claim Jerusalem and the Temple Mount as their own, the fact is the Jewish People have had claim on Jerusalem and the Holy Temple site for well over 3,000 years.

The reason the Jewish People have been returning to their Bible-given Land in the last 135 years, and are now rebuilding a nation state for themselves is because of a greater resolution than UN Resolution 181 of 1947. It was always God’s resolution to restore the Jewish People to their original homeland, even after spending many centuries away from it in exile. The prophets of Israel in the Bible spoke clearly about this. An example of this is found in Jeremiah 31: 10—11:

“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’

For the LORD will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.”

It was another prophet of Israel—Amos—who declared that the people of Israel would return to the land and forever remain in it:

Am 9:14 I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

Am 9:15 I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.

It is regarding this final great re-gathering of the Jewish People to their God-given homeland that the prophet Joel brings a grave warning to the International Community:

Joel 3:1 “In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

Joel 3:2 I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.

We are concerned that a “Two-State Solution” is in effect a division of the Bible Land of Israel. Whereas we voice our respect for the right of the Palestinian people to live in peace, prosperity and dignity alongside the people of Israel, we do not believe this will be afforded them by a corrupt Palestinian Authority, nor by the misguided goodwill of the United Nations. As I mentioned previously, this is not about denying the Palestinians any of their human rights, but this is about the right of Land Sovereignty. And the Bible is quite clear—the Land under dispute is God-given land to the Jewish People, and the nations who wish to ignore this will ultimately face the judging hand of Almighty God. We do not want New Zealand to come under such judgement. Judgement in our view could mean anything from Natural disasters to manmade disasters, economic disasters and perhaps much more. When God Almighty lifts His hand of protection off a nation because that nation displeases Him, then the consequences can be fatal—as taught by the lessons of the nation of Israel itself in the Bible. New Zealand is one of the most tranquil and free nations on earth, but we must be careful we don’t take that for granted.

I believe the fact that we sing as our National anthem “God defend New Zealand” has a lot to do with our tranquillity. I note also that at the beginning of the Parliamentary day a prayer for the well-being of New Zealand is offered up in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that these factors help in the preservation of our safety and peace. But, if we were to go down the road of becoming insensitive to the wishes of the Israelis, and in the United Nations become hostile to their security needs, then we fear that God’s blessing on and over our Nation may be withdrawn. Then, as far as

we are concerned, no matter how many times we sing “God defend New Zealand”, it will not do us an ounce of good. God protects them who please Him and do His will. But without God’s protection over our nation we are open to all sorts of un-be-known threats and attacks.

We read in Psalm 121:

Ps 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from?
Ps 121:2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
Ps 121:3 He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;
Ps 121:4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Almighty God, the “God of Nations” to whom we sing in our National anthem, promises great help and protection to those who put their trust in Him. But, if we forsake Him, ignoring what He has to say—in this case about Israel—then He warns us in places like 2 Chronicles 15: 2:

The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.

Please do not class us as a bunch of religious fanatics and lunatics. We are not! We love our nation and pray often for her protection and well being. We pray regularly for our Government in power no matter what political party is ruling. We pray for a true and lasting peace in the Middle East. But we are so concerned with our Nation’s current stance toward Israel that we are motivated to say something. We believe in the goodness and love of God, but we also know that we must respect and fear and reverence Him because the bottom line is that our lives are upheld by His gracious Hand and not by our own.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the mercies of God, we humbly ask our Governing authorities to relook carefully at this issue regarding Israel and the “Two State Solution” and to show favour to what the Lord has shown us in His Holy Scriptures. For the sake of the good, protection and prosperity of New Zealand we ask that we as a nation show respect to the revealed interests of the Lord in this matter. Our God is just and He is fair. He has set aside a portion of Land for the Jewish People because He knows that the other nations have their fair portions too.

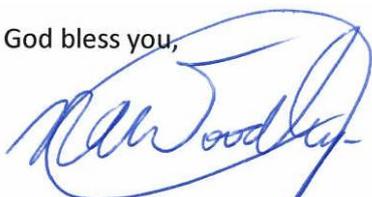
There is a great promise of blessing to be given to our nation if we choose to follow the Bible way and back Israel’s fair security interests at this time. The Lord promises that He will bless those who bless the Jewish People, but He will curse those who curse them. [The Holy Bible: Gen. 12: 3](#)

We pray that our Nation will choose to be a blessing to the Jewish people and not a curse. We pray that our Government will *cease from pressuring the State of Israel to give up its rightful and God-given Land and support Israel’s right to have sovereignty over the entire Land of Israel, including Judea and Samaria (West Bank) and all of Jerusalem.*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our concerns and beliefs to the Select Committee. I would be happy to come down to Wellington to talk in person about our concerns and/or to answer any questions the Committee may have.

It is appropriate at this time of year to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

God bless you,



Pastor Nigel A Woodley

On behalf of 11,685 other concerned NZ citizens.