

# The Untold Story of Israel's Return

*A Complete 2-part Discussion*

*with*

*Laura Green*

*Jewish Advocate for the State of Israel*

Part 1: The Untold Story of Israel's Return  
Session 1. Vision of a Jewish Homeland

Dr. Anne Davis



## Preface

### **Heartbeat of Israel: A Study of how Israel became a State**

This study is part of our “Heartbeat of Israel” project. Our desire to connect Americans with the Israeli people, their lives, their struggles and their triumphs, began in the spring of 2014 when ugly anti-Semitic activity broke out at the University of New Mexico, which is close to our BibleInteract studio. American students were marching together with recent immigrants from Arab countries dressed in their traditional garb. These activists carried placards with messages of hate against Israel and the Jews, and they shouted ugly anti-Israel and anti-Semitic slogans. A black swastika was painted on the storefront of a Jewish deli. “What was happening,” we agonized.

This event opened our eyes to a widespread up-swelling in universities across the United States that was fomenting similar hateful activities. The catalyst was a message of the “poor Palestinians,” who were ostensibly denied a state by the ugly Israelis, and the idea that peace would come to the Near East if only Israel would give land to the Palestinians.

After much study and consideration as to what role we might play to combat this growing anti-Semitism, we developed the Mission Statement below. Note, in particular, the first objective of “keeping the truth alive through an understanding of the formation of Israel as a state”, which is the goal of this particular study. In our research, we learned the startling fact that Americans aged 50 and younger were simply unaware, except in a very surface way, of World War II and the Holocaust, the struggle of Jews to find a place where they would be safe from intense persecution, and the legal formation of the state of Israel.

The name of our new endeavor is “The Heartbeat of Israel”. Our goal is to combat dangerous and growing anti-Semitism, and an outright condemnation of Israel that employs half-truths and blatant lies. We intend to accomplish this goal by promoting a positive understanding of Israel and its people by:

- 1. Keeping the truth alive through an understanding of the formation of Israel as a state.*
- 2. Connecting with the people of Israel by learning what it is like to live in Israel today.*
- 3. Offering evidence, and encouraging others to draw their own informed conclusions.*

Our initiative to open American eyes to the “Untold Story of Israel’s Return” led to our inviting Laura Green, who is very knowledgeable about Israel and the rising anti-Semitism in the United States. Laura serves on the National Council of AIPAC in Washington (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), and is active in the Jewish Women’s organization of Hadassah as a region representative of IZAIA (Israel, Zionist and International Affairs). Laura travels extensively to inform groups about current events in Israel.

The goal of this particular study, “The Untold Story of Israel’s Return”, is for you to identify with Jews who were desperately trying to escape vicious anti-Semitism in the countries in which they were living, and to participate with them in the story of the struggle for a Jewish homeland.

The workbook is designed for small group discussion and will engage the participants in the material that is first presented in the video interview sessions. There may be more activities in the workbook than the group has the time or interest to handle. Therefore, the group leader should select what is appropriate for the group, and may also add other questions for discussion.

## Sample Schedule

There are nine sessions, and we recommend you allocate two hours for each session. You may decide to spend more time if you wish, but two hours per session is the norm.

If your group meets one hour each week, we suggest you show the video in the first half hour followed by the second half hour of discussion. You will then need another hour in the following week to complete the work for that session. Of course, if your group meets for more than one hour each week, you will likely complete one session each week.

As an alternative, you may wish to have members watch the video at home before coming together for the group discussion. This approach allows participants to watch the video more than once and to grant them more time for discussion. Taking notes in the outline and reading the supplemental material can also be completed at home. However, the remaining sections of the Workbook, Projects, Discussion, and Life Application, are best accomplished through group discussion.

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Session	Dates	Topic
1	Weeks 1 & 2	Vision of a Jewish Homeland
2	Weeks 3 & 4	Aliyah to Israel and Preparation for War
3	Weeks 5 & 6	The War of independence
4	Weeks 7 & 8	A Struggling New Nation
5	Weeks 9 & 10	Israel's Neighbors and Expanding Borders
6	Weeks 11 & 12	Israeli Government and the Oslo Accords
7	Weeks 13 & 14	Peace Talks and Settlements
8	Weeks 15 & 16	Unique Israeli Economy
9	Weeks 17 & 18	Challenges in Israel Today

## Support from BibleInteract

Order additional workbooks or DVDs, contact BibleInteract.

BibleInteract, Inc., 5600 McLeod Street NE, Suite N, Albuquerque, NM 87109

<http://bibleinteract.tv>

---

Part One

## The Untold Story of Israel's Return

---

Session 1

### Vision of a Jewish Homeland

#### Summary

Anne Davis of BibleInteract and Laura Green, an advocate for Israel and a member of AIPAC (American-Israel Political Affairs Committee), speak with passion about the historical background of how Israel became a state in 1949.

#### Outline of the Lecture

Below is an outline of Session 1. We suggest that you take brief notes in the space provided as you watch the video discussion. The purpose of the outline is to promote retention and encourage organization of thought.

- I. Introduction – desire for a Jewish homeland
  
- II. The Zionish Movement
  - A. Theodor Herzl
  
  - B. The Dreyfus Affair
  
- III. World War I (1914-1918)
  - A. Balfour Declaration, 1917
  
  - B. League of Nations

- C. Ottoman Empire Divided
  - D. British Mandate of Palestine, 1922
- IV. Israel becomes a legal state that is a Jewish homeland
- A. United Nations Vote, November 1947
  - B. Declaration of Independence, May 1949
  - C. Israel's War of Independence

## The Dreyfus Affair

Alfred Dreyfus (1859-1935) was a Jewish artillery officer who was serving in the French army. He was falsely accused of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island for supposedly passing military secrets to Germany. His arrest and trial led to a virulent outbreak of anti-Semitic activity in France. However, a subsequent investigation instigated by the head of counter-intelligence proved that Dreyfus was innocent. What followed was an attempt by the army to cover up the new evidence, and the press responded with malicious anti-Semitic reporting. The scandal lasted for five years before Dreyfus was finally released.

## Theodor Herzl, 1860-1904



Theodor Herzl  
(Wikipedia)

Herzl was born in Hungary in 1866 to a German-speaking family of assimilated Jews, but spent most of his life in Vienna. After a brief career as a university professor he dedicated his life to journalism and literature. He was deeply affected by the virulent anti-Semitism in France at the time of the Dreyfus affair

that became a turning point in his life. He began to direct his writing efforts to promote Zionism, which is the belief that Jews have a right to return to their homeland of Israel. In 1897 he sponsored a Zionist Conference in Switzerland, which stimulated growing interest in the concept of a Jewish homeland. He is the father of the Zionist movement, founder of the World Zionist Organization, and he promoted Jewish migration to Palestine.

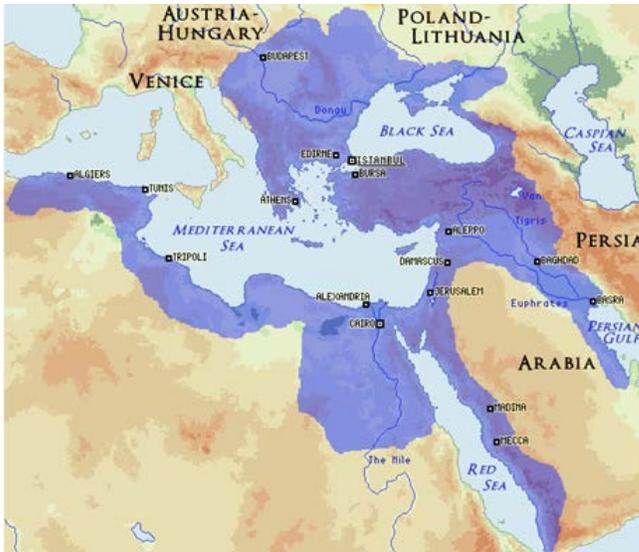
*The Jews who will it shall  
achieve their State. We shall  
live at last as free men on our  
own soil, and in our own home  
peacefully die. The world will  
be liberated by our freedom,  
enriched by our wealth,  
magnified by our greatness.  
And Whatever we attempt there  
for our own benefit will  
redound mighty and  
beneficially to the good of all  
mankind. Theodor Herzl*

## Projects

### Project 1

At the time of World War I (1914-1918), the Ottoman Empire ruled over a large area that we know today as the Middle East. World War I (WWI) was initiated by Germany whose goal was expansion of territory in Europe. Since the Ottoman Empire controlled land in the part of Europe known as the Balkans, it entered the war on the side of Germany. The victors in WWI were known as the Allies –

Great Britain (later to become England), France, and the United States, which did not join the Allies until 1917 but whose presence tipped the scales to an Allied victory. Figure 1 identifies the borders of the Ottoman Empire.



**Figure 1. The Ottoman Empire**

### *The Ottoman Empire*

The Ottoman Empire was founded in 1299 by fierce Turkish tribes from central Asia. They conquered the Seljuk Turks who had immigrated earlier to Asia Minor and controlled much of what is today central and eastern Turkey. The Ottoman Turks also overwhelmed the Greek Byzantine Empire with its capital at Constantinople, whose name they

changed to Istanbul. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Ottomans had expanded and conquered Southeast Europe, Western Asia including Israel, and North Africa. They were governed by a sultan whose authoritarian rule was supported by a military establishment. The religion of the Ottoman Empire was Islam, which had first been introduced to the Seljuk Turks shortly after the time of Muhammed. During the First World War (1914-1918) the Ottoman Empire became an ally of Germany, which ultimately lost the war to the Allied forces of France, Britain, the United States, and other European countries. The Allies divided the Ottoman Empire among themselves as spoils of war.

The map in Figure 2 is of the Middle East today. Fill in the names of the countries that were carved out of the Ottoman Empire by Great Britain and France. This map does not include the Balkans, which were also ruled by the Ottoman Empire (see Figure 3).



**Figure 2. The Middle East Today**

On the map in figure 3, identify the Balkan countries today that were part of the Ottoman Empire until the end of WWI.

### ***Balfour Declaration***

The Balfour Declaration was a letter dated November 2, 1917 from England’s Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, to Baron Walter Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community, for transmission to the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. It stated, “His Majesty’s government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use its best efforts to facilitate the achievement of this object,” However, Great Britain would later renege on this promise.



**Figure 3. The Balkan Areas Today**

the first international organization whose principal mission was to maintain world peace. One of its first responsibilities was to take over the administration of the Ottoman Empire that had collapsed at the end of WWI. With the outbreak of WWII, the League of Nations ended, but was replaced after the end of WWII by the United Nations.

### ***British Mandate of Palestine***

When the League of Nations divided the Ottoman Empire among the Allies, it carved out an area for Great Britain in 1922 called the Mandate of Palestine. The largest portion of the mandate to the east was known as Transjordan, which later became a protectorate of Britain with an element of self-rule. The smaller portion to the west was called Palestine. The word “mandate” meant that the League of Nations was supposed to retain ultimate control but, in reality, Britain treated Palestine like a colony under its own absolute authority. The map shows the original territory of the British Mandate that was later divided into Transjordan and Palestine.



### ***League of Nations***

The League of Nations was founded in January 1920 by the Paris Peace Conference that ended the First World War. It was

## Project 2

Israel's national anthem is *Ha Tikvah*, which means "the hope" and conveys the fervent desire of Jews for a Jewish homeland. Listen to Israel's national anthem on You Tube. We suggest [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_9N1ldPtQ8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_9N1ldPtQ8)

Then try to memorize the Hebrew words so you can sing this song that conveys the passionate Jewish love of Israel and their hope for a Jewish homeland.

<p>As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart,</p> <p>With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,</p> <p>Then our hope - the two-thousand-year-old hope - will not be lost:</p> <p>To be a free people in our land,</p> <p>The land of Zion and Jerusalem.</p>	<p>Kol ode balevav P'nimah –</p> <p>Nefesh Yehudi homiyah</p> <p>Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah.</p> <p>Ode lo avdah tikvatenu Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim:</p> <p>L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu - Eretz Tzion v'Yerushalayim</p>	
---	--	--

## Project 3

There is a provocative correlation between the restoration of Israel and events in Christendom. Consider these relationships below, and then fill in additional correlations that you have observed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Year	Restoration of Israel	Events in Christendom
1882	Pioneers from Russia came to Israel to farm but left.	Demos Shakarian was in Armenia when the Holy Spirit fell on the Day of Pentecost but it did not spread.
1905	The Zionist movement and the first Aliyah to Israel. These were the first pioneers including David Ben Gurion.	Beginning of the Pentecostal Movement worldwide. Google Azuza Street to learn more.
1930's	Intense persecution against the Jews in Germany.	Revivals in many places. Learn about Aimee Semple McPherson and Billy Sunday.

Year	Restoration of Israel	Events in Christendom
1948-53	Population mushrooms in Israel as Immigrants arrive.	Oral Roberts and Billy Graham bring the Gospel to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> world.
1956	War: Israel takes Sinai but gives it back.	David DuPlusie is called Mr. Pentecost.
1967	6-day war: Jerusalem taken but not the Temple Mount.	Catholic prayer movement. Jesus Movement (hippies coming to the Lord), Charismatic Movement.
1982	Israel cleaned out the PLO from Lebanon. Precipitated church interest in spiritual warfare.	The Church was praying for Jews in the USSR. 1989-USSR collapsed. 900,000 Jews released.
1990's	"More Jews brought into the Kingdom of God in this decade than the previous 1900 years" (C. Peter Wagner).	Christendom waking up to Hebraic roots of the Christian faith.

**Project Discussion:** If all this happened in Israel, what can we expect to happen in the Church?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



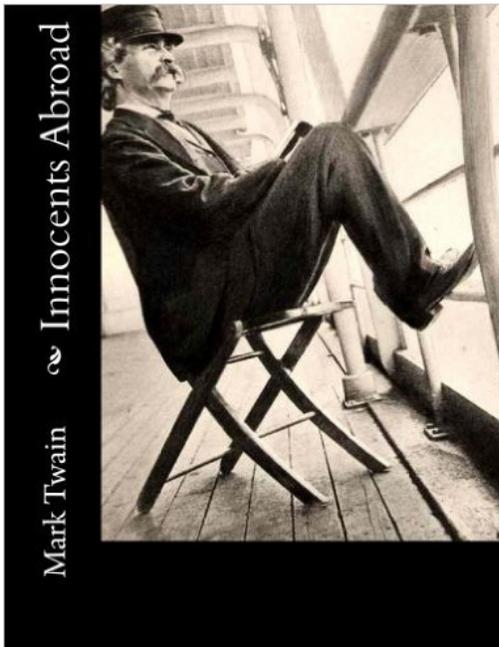
---







## Mark Twain's Description of the Holy Land



Mark Twain visited the Holy Land in 1887 when it was still part of the Ottoman Empire. He was on a trip around the world that ultimately resulted in his book, *Innocents Abroad*. He found the Holy Land to be quite desolate, with only a sparse population that was living in abject poverty. It was not until the time of the British Mandate, when jobs became available, that the population began to increase because of Arab immigration from surrounding areas. Twain described Israel's Jezreel Valley in *Innocents Abroad* as follows: "There is not a solitary village throughout its whole extent - not for thirty miles in either direction. There are two or three small clusters of Bedouin tents, but not a single permanent habitation. One may ride ten miles hereabouts and not see ten human beings."

## United Nations vote, 1949

After WWII ended in 1945, the League of Nations, which had dissolved during WWII, was replaced by the United Nations. At the time, Jews who had survived the holocaust and had been released from German concentration camps were desperately trying to reach the land of Israel that was then the Palestinian Mandate of Great Britain. The British refused their entry because of the hostility by the Arab population. The British were stopping ships that were steaming toward Palestine, and would place the Jewish passengers on the island of Cyprus in conditions that were not much better than the German concentration camps. Pressure began building in the United Nations to convert the British Mandate of Palestine to two independent states, one for the Arabs and the other for the Jews. Arab lobbying against this plan was intense since the Arabs believed that all of the British Mandate should be given to them. On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly passed the partition resolution with a very close vote. The British Mandate of Palestine ended on May 14, 1948, and on that same day David Ben-Gurion, Executive Director of the World Zionist Organization, formally proclaimed the Declaration of the State of Israel. What followed was an attack by the surrounding Arab states of Egypt, Transjordan, Iraq and Syria that led to a desperate attempt by the Jews to hold the land that had been given to them. Against overwhelming odds, Israel's War of Independence ended with a victory for the Jews with a larger area than had been given to them by the United Nations partition plan. The map on the following page identifies the UN Partition, and the map on the right is the land that became Israel after the War of Independence in 1949.

